



BCLA Board Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2025, 9:30 am-noon

Present: Ann Johannes, Anton Dounts, Emily Gow (joined at 9:37 am), Hilary Bloom, Ignacio Albarracin, Jane Jun, Mar González Palacios, Mari Paz Vera, Sarah Tarcea, Susie Wilson, Suzanne Rackover (President/Chair)

Minutes: Rina Hadziev

1. Call to Order (President)

2. Establishment of quorum (President)

3. Territory Acknowledgment and Welcoming Remarks (President)

Suzanne shared her territory acknowledgement at this meeting.

4. Adoption of the Regular Agenda (President)

Moved: Ignacio Albarracin

Seconded: Ann Johannes

Result: Passed

5. Confidentiality Acknowledgement (President)

6. Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement (President)

7. Consent Agenda

Moved: Emily Gow

Seconded: Anton Dounts

Result: Passed

a) Executive Director's Report

b) Minutes from the previous Board meeting of April 25, 2025

c) Recent Email Resolutions

- i. Passed: That the BCLA Intellectual Freedom Committee Terms of Reference be revised as written to allow the board members on the Committee who have ended their board terms to continue and to allow the addition of another current board member.
- ii. Passed: That BCLA sign the Open Letter: The Safety Net Is Tearing — Funders Must Act Now, which is calling for changes to the way BC nonprofits are funded.

d) Correspondence



- i. Ministry of Health Email Response re Letter on Closing of CPSBC Library
- e) BCLA Climate Action Committee Annual Report 2025

8. Regular Agenda Items

- a) For information: CFLA Background and Update from BCLA President in role as BC representative (President)

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA-FCAB) is the united, national voice of Canada's library community. As the national voice of Canada's library communities, CFLA-FCAB will work to:

- Advance library excellence in Canada
- Champion library values and the value of libraries
- Influence national and international public policy impacting libraries and their communities

BCLA is a founding member of CFLA. It is BCLA's practice to nominate the President to sit on the CFLA board.

This year CFLA has been focused on ensure that the organization is sustainable and that the work being done by CFLA and its members aligns with the mission and mandate set out when it was founded in 2015.

Spring 2025 key initiatives:

- CFLA contracted Margaret Law to conduct an organizational review to determine whether the structures that CFLA has in place, a decade after its founding, still reflected the needs of the association and the Canadian library environment.
- To execute on the recommendations in the review, Dr. Law was hired on a further contract to serve as [interim executive director of CFLA](#). Some of the recommendations include: a review of the committee structure and their activities, improving record keeping practices, and reviewing the board structure.
- CFLA has also refreshed their brand identity, a new [logo and website](#) were launch in Spring 2025.

- b) For information: Update from Anti-racism Committee (Committee Co-chair Ignacio Albarracin)
 - Committee created last year to help us become intentionally anti-racist organization, purposely including non-board voices
 - We were dealing with a bit of inertia because there is so much to do, and we want to do all of it. We decided to re-group the recommendations into categories to give us a new view.
 - Based on the results of that work, each group of recommendations was assessed in terms of overall feasibility. The Committee then looked at three things at the same time:



- How big an impact each project would have on the wider BCLA community (not just individuals).
- How much effort, time, and resources would each project take (because we have limited volunteer hours and budgets).
- How realistic it is to actually accomplish each project in the next 12–24 months given the economic and political climate we're operating in.
- Using this view, the groups were assigned to one of four categories:
 - Category 1: Ideal Projects to Prioritise
Projects that are:
 - Lower Effort
 - High Impact
 - Highly Realistic
 - Category 2: Strategic Investments
Projects that are:
 - Higher Effort
 - High Impact
 - Moderately High or High Realism
 - Category 3: Longer-Term/Incremental Projects
Projects that are:
 - High Effort
 - High Impact
 - Moderate Realism
 - Category 4: Deprioritise or Defer
Projects that are:
 - Very High Effort
 - Lower Community Impact overall (for BCLA's whole membership)
 - Low Realism due to economics
- The Committee took a break in July and August, but will begin meeting again in September, with a focus on identifying what success looks like for the recommendations in groups 1 & 2. Based on that work, it is expected that recommendations will come to the Board for governance decisions, board work (i.e. policy review), and/or budget support for projects or initiatives.

c) For information: Update from Intellectual Freedom Committee (Committee Co-chair Suzanne Rackover)



Committee Mandate

The BCLA Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) will carry out the review of the BCLA Intellectual Freedom Statement and make recommendations to the BCLA Board, guided by the Association's constitution, bylaws, mission, vision, and values.

The ultimate approval of and responsibility for the BCLA Intellectual Freedom Statement resides with the BCLA Board.

Committee Objectives

1. Review the current BCLA Intellectual Freedom Statement and make recommendations for revisions
2. Provide opportunities for BCLA members to provide input and/or feedback as part of the Statement review

Current state of the IF statement review process:

In our last meeting before the summer the committee put together a list of principles to be considered for inclusion in the IF statement.

This list will be brought to the Board for review and discussion. The Board will have a special meeting in October where with the support of our committee facilitators, Camille Dumond and Aslam Bulbulia, we will select the final principles to be included in the statement. Those principles will go back to the committee to be edited and rewritten into a harmonized "voice".

The Board has also approved a change to the Terms of Reference which will allow two former board members to continue on the committee, Sarah Felkar and Tracey Therrien, and add the Incoming President as an additional board member on the committee.

- d) For information: **Overview of BCLA Board Email Resolution Process**
- e) For receipt: Quarterly Update for BCLA Financials at end of Q2 2025 (Treasurer)
Motion: That the Board receive the financial update for up to the end of Q2 2025.
Moved: Mari Paz Vera
Seconded: Susie Wilson
Result: Passed
- f) For discussion: Board committee membership 2025-26
- g) For decision: BCLA Accessibility Interest Group Terms of Reference
Motion: That the Board approve the Accessibility Interest Group Terms of Reference as written.
Moved: Hilary Bloom
Seconded: Mari Paz Vera
Result: Passed



- Discussion that the terms as written are appropriate but also recognizing that the Board would like to do some work around language that should be included in terms of reference that recognizes the value and importance of lived experience and supports BCLA's commitment to anti-racism and values of diversity and inclusion.
- Executive Director to provide encouragement to Chair to explicitly invite people with lived experience to participate in meetings and acknowledge the value of lived experience.

h) For decision: BCLA Membership Review

Motion: *That the Board ratifies the approval of all memberships made from April 18, 2025 to September 11, 2025.*

Moved: Ann Johannes

Seconded: Mari Paz Vera

Result: Passed

9. Closing Remarks (President)

A reminder that all agenda items and discussions are confidential. Board can decide if any items are not confidential.

10. Adjournment (President)

Moved: Emily Gow

Seconded: Ignacio Albarracin

Result: Passed