



BCLA Board Meeting Minutes February 6, 2026 from 9 am-noon

Present: Ann Johannes, Anton Dounts, Emily Gow, Hilary Bloom, Ignacio Albarracin, Jane Jun, Mari Paz Vera, Sarah Tarcea, Susie Wilson, Suzanne Rackover (President/Chair)

Regrets: Mar González Palacios

Minutes: Rina Hadziev

1. Call to Order (President)

2. Establishment of quorum (President)

3. Territory Acknowledgment and Welcoming Remarks (President)

Ann shared her territory acknowledgement at this meeting.

4. Adoption of the Regular Agenda (President)

Moved: Mari Paz Vera

Seconded: Ann Johannes

Result: Passed

5. Confidentiality Acknowledgement (President)

6. Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement (President)

7. Consent Agenda

Moved: Emily Gow

Seconded: Hilary Bloom

Result: Passed

a) Executive Director's Report

b) Minutes from previous Board meetings:

i. November 28, 2025

ii. January 23, 2026

c) Recent Email motion: That the Board approve the sending of letters to relevant politicians and staff, advocating against the proposed sections of federal Bill C-15 that would eliminate the current reduced rate of postage for library materials and free postage for literature for people who are blind/partially sighted



The motion, along with background information, was sent to the Board on December 8, 2025, and was passed by a majority affirmative vote by December 10, 2025. Letters were sent December 12, and communication about the action taken was shared via the BCLA forum and website, and via direct email to BCLA members and various sectoral partners.

d) Correspondence:

- i. Response from Office of the Prime Minister Cabinet du premier ministre re Bill C-15
- ii. Response from Canada Post re Bill C-15

8. Regular Agenda Items

a) For information: CFLA Update from BCLA President in role as BC representative (President)
THE CFLA-FCAB annual general meeting will take place on February 25, new board members will be elected at that time. Suzanne will retain her position on the board for another year.

CFLA announced that [Dick Ellis and Toni Samek have been chosen as the recipients of the CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Award](#). The CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Award is the successor to the Canadian Library Association's Advancement of Intellectual Freedom Award which was awarded annually between 1988 and 2016. It recognizes outstanding contributions to intellectual freedom in Canada.

CFLA has been working with partners across the country to advocate for the continued protection of the Library Postal Rate for ILL and free material delivery for the visually impaired.

b) For information: Update from Anti-racism Committee (Executive Director)

The Committee has 2 new members, replacing members who have left the province/the library sector. We were gratified to receive multiple excellent expressions of interest. After review of the expressions of interest and careful consideration of factors including lived experience, balance of representation on the committee, and geographic location, the two new committee members are Sierra Cook and Maki Cairns. The announcement of their appointments, along with brief bios for each of them, will be shared in the coming weeks.

The Committee met in January after a break in December. They continued the work they began in November, identifying the desired outcome(s) of each recommendation and signals of change that will allow us to identify that the outcome is being achieved. This will enable us to identify what specific actions and projects are needed to achieve the desired outcomes. In some cases, this will likely require support/decisions/additional funding, which will be brought as recommendations to the Board.



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

The Board met on January 20 to review the draft, and the final discussion and vote on the motion will happen at today's meeting. The IF committee will be meeting for a final time on February 17 to view the final statement and debrief on the process. A town hall to share the statement, with facilitated discussion, is expected in March.

- d) For information: Board Roles at Conference

- e) For information: ED and Board Evaluation Processes

- f) For receipt: Report on 2025 BCLA Operational Plan

Moved: Sarah Tarcea

Seconded: Susie Wilson

Result: Passed

Motion: *That the Board receive the report on the 2025 operational plan.*

- Appreciation was expressed for the amount and variety of work that BCLA accomplished in 2025.

- g) For decision: BCCATS Request for BCLA Endorsement of a National RDA Training Task Force

Moved: Anton Dounts

Seconded: Ann Johannes

Result: Passed

Motion: *That the Board direct the BC CFLA Representative to request that CFLA create a CFLA RDA Training Task Force to establish a coordinated national response to persistent gaps in access to practical training for the Official RDA Toolkit and create a sustainable, scalable framework for developing RDA expertise across Canada.*

- h) For decision: Budget for Exploring Alternatives to Traditional Strategic Planning

Moved: Anton Dounts

Seconded: Hilary Bloom

Result: Passed

Motion: *That the Board approve the allocation of \$8,000 from Reserves (2500-10 Unallocated Funds) to explore alternatives to traditional strategic planning.*

- i) For decision: Revised BCLA Intellectual Freedom Statement

Moved: Anton Dounts

Seconded: Mari Paz Vera

Result: Passed

Motion: *That the Board endorse the revised BCLA Intellectual Freedom Statement.*



- Suzanne, in her role as BCLA President, acknowledge what an accomplishment it is to have revised and approved a new Intellectual Freedom statement, and expressed appreciation for the thoughtful and engaged way the Intellectual Freedom Comitee and the BCLA Board have done in this work.
- The next step will be to coordinate the announcement and the virtual townhall.

j) For decision: BCLA Membership Review

Moved: Ann Johannes

Seconded: Emily Gow

Result: Passed

Motion: *That the Board ratifies the approval of all memberships made from November 21, 2025 to January 30, 2026.*

- Discussion about the issue of people who are not students signing up for free student memberships. BCLA staff monitor memberships and the number of these is believed to be small. Free memberships do not renew, requiring them to re-register each year. BCLA is also considering other measures to prevent this abuse of the free student membership.

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: Hilary Bloom

Seconded: Susie Wilson

Result: Passed