

## Title of Resolution (At the discretion of the Resolutions Committee)

Climate Emergency Declaration

## 2. Rationale / Purpose for Resolution

The scientific consensus is that urgent action is needed to address the climate crisis. In October 2018, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C, noting that global heating caused by human activity will likely reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052, with significant risks to humanity and nature. It also noted that heating above 1.5°C presents even greater risks, and laid out recommended greenhouse gas reduction targets to limit heating to 1.5°C, with the goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

The IPCC's Emissions Gap Report 2019's findings are "bleak." With greenhouse gas emissions continuing to rise, steep reductions in emissions are required to preserve hope of limiting global heating to less than 1.5°C or 2°C.

2019 saw many different levels of government worldwide declare climate emergencies, with many of them committing to the IPCC emission reduction targets. 2020 has started off with organizations from across the public and private sectors also recognizing the urgency of the climate crisis and committing to IPCC targets and a wide range of other concrete actions to address climate change.

In recognition of the community-wide, geographically diverse implications of climate change, BCLA is strategically positioned to play a leadership role in advocating for climate justice and action across British Columbia's well-networked library sector. Although BCLA's carbon footprint may be low compared to many organizations, it should also work towards decarbonization. We recommend that BCLA form a Climate Crisis Committee that reports directly to the BCLA Board with a mandate to:

- Represent BCLA, and at the direction of the Board, to support libraries across sectors in their efforts to address the climate crisis, recognizing the vital roles libraries play within their communities that can be leveraged for climate engagement, dissemination of accurate information, and community support
- At the direction of the BCLA Board to participate in the Libraries 2020 campaign and similar advocacy efforts to raise provincial investment for public libraries, recognizing that public libraries will increasingly have a front-line role to play in community support as the climate crisis unfolds
- work with BCLA to reduce its environmental impact in areas including operations, and the annual conference, and make recommendations for improvement.
- draft letters at the request of the BCLA Board and on behalf of the BCLA Board to the other Canadian provincial library associations, urging them to support their members in declaring climate emergencies and, where applicable, to adopt the IPCC targets
- draft a letter at the request of the BCLA Board and on behalf of the BCLA Board to the Province urging the provincial government to declare a climate emergency and adopt the IPCC emission

targets

- continue working to support BCLA, its members, and the library sector in addressing the climate crisis.

### 3. Prior History of this Resolution (IF ANY)

None

### 4. Body of the Resolution (Action Proposed)

Whereas the scientific consensus is that urgent reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are needed to limit the extent and destructiveness of the climate crisis;

Whereas climate emergency declarations and commitments to IPCC emission reduction targets will signal the seriousness and urgency of the climate crisis to member libraries and the library sector as a whole;

Whereas BCLA plays a leadership role within the provincial and Canadian library community;

Be it resolved that BCLA recognizes climate change as an emergency.

Be it further resolved that BCLA will form a climate crisis committee that reports directly to the BCLA Board. This committee will be tasked with working with BCLA to reduce its environmental impact in areas including operations, and the annual conference, and make recommendations for improvement.

Be it further resolved that the climate crisis committee will be tasked with supporting the BCLA Board with additional advocacy on the climate crisis within the library and governmental sectors, and working with and supporting libraries and the library sector as they work to address and adapt to the climate crisis.

### 5. Initiating Individual, Section, Committee or Interest Group

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**8. BCLA Sections / Committees / Interest Groups Consulted (IF ANY)**

None

**9. Endorsement by BCLA Sections / Committees / Interest Groups (IF ANY)**

N/A

**10. Fiscal Implications (IF ANY)**

N/A

**11. If this resolution necessitates a change in an existing bylaw, identify the current bylaw(s) affected by number, state the change and provide the full text of any amended or new bylaw to be included.**

N/A

**12. If this resolution proposes a BCLA position statement, indicate the positions relation to libraries and library service.**

N/A