



Canadian Federation of Library Associations
Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques

Board of Directors Meeting
Réunion du Conseil d'administration

Friday July 23, 2021 – vendredi 11 juillet 2021

12:00pm – 2:00pm ET – 12 h à 14 h HE

Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Attending:

Todd Kyle	Kirk MacLeod	Michael Rogowski	Graeme Tennant	Mary Chevreau
Vivian Lewis	Sharon Rankin	Hélène Carrier	Todd Mundle	Katya Borrás
Ann Smith	Julie McKenna			

Absent:

Lorisia MacLeod due to a scheduling conflict

Guests:

Tina Thomas and Deb Thomas for items 3.1 and 4.1

1. Opening Statements and Movements

1.1 Call to order:

Motioned Todd Kyle with the stipulations of agenda items: 3.1 may be deferred for needing more information, and addition of new business 2021-2022 budget.

1.1.2 Approval of June 11th Minutes

Motioned by **K.L.**, seconded by **K.B.**

Motion Carried.

1.1.3 Approve Agenda

Motioned by **T.M.**, seconded **V.L.**

Motion Carried.

1.1.4 Conflict of interest Check:

None



Canadian Federation of Library Associations
Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques

1.2: Executive Committee Report

Accepted

2: Business Arising from last minutes

2.1: Appointing **Lorisia MacLeod** as Liaison to Indigenous matters Committee.

Motioned: **M.C.**, seconded: **V.L.**

Motion Carried

2.2: Update on Value Statement For Libraries

MR & SR: Call to Action: Changes have been made to the document based on your suggestions. Please have a look at the document and let us know your thoughts / suggestions if anything else needs to be addressed.

T.K.: No urgency but a very important document.

S.R.: I'll be looking at it every couple of weeks to flush it out.

Suggestion H.C.: Add preservation documentary heritage memory.

2.3: Update on Translation Opportunities

T.K.: Megalexies and Impact Public Affairs will still be our main source for translations, but a member of the board will always review their work before making it public.

3: New Business

3.1: Accepting the Position on Protest and Dissent.

T.K.: We will defer this until we get more context and make sure we know what the full picture is.

Discussion:

K.B.: They wonder if they can publish this themselves, and not have to go through CFLA for their portion of the website. They feel like they are the voice of CFLA in regards to intellectual freedoms.

K.B.: They still have an issue with CFLA representing associations and not libraries.

J.M.: Who is it they believe we represent?

K.B.: They're not sure. They think they represent intellectual freedoms in libraries. They want to be the reference point for anyone in the library. They feel like they are the experts and want the autonomy to do so.

V.L.: Do they feel like they'd be speaking on behalf of CFLA?



Canadian Federation of Library Associations
Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques

K.B.: They are a part of CFLA and they want to be more of their own entity.

M.C.: As a committee to CFLA, CFLA is the authorizing body for any content created for their banner.

J.M.: There might be a discrepancy between thinking who it is we serve having a carry over of committee members from CLA. We represent the institutions of libraries and those member associations as well as individual librarians, whereas CLA was only looking at those individual librarians. So it may be helpful to instruct them on this shift in perspective.

H.C.: I'm looking at our current website, and see between IFC and Copyright, Copyright has a lot more material on their portion of the website compared to IFC. I wonder if part of the issue might be allowing IFC to post more on their own portion of the website.

K.M.: At the end of the day, they want to be able to post what they want to their site without having to go around to the board to approve it.

Decision:

Executive team and Katya Borràs offer to meet with the team to gain full perspective.

Included once Tina provided Context

T.T.: This originated over meeting room rentals around Meagan Murphy. This extended off of the CFLA statement of Intellectual Freedom and the interpretation of it to the topic at hand. This was an aim to give suggestions and resources to libraries so they could understand intellectual freedom and how it applies to disagreement, dissent and protest around meeting room bookings and items in your collection.

J.M.: Is the purpose of this position to enable library workers to have more support to speak against their own library when they feel the library is taking the wrong stance on a topic?

T.T.: No, this is separate.

J.M.: It may just be the language that is in the document, when it's saying 'library member' instead of 'the library', we are not speaking of breaking codes of conduct that are in place for employees or supporting them in any other actions against the library.

T.T.: This is meant to be for the public, and not the library worker.

T.K.: This was originally listed as 'the workplace'

V.L.: I'm confused. The document is about Protest and dissent, but it's actually about meeting and library spaces?

T.T.: It could be about many different intellectual freedom aspects, such as the content in the collection and the speakers who come to talk about it. Those are the two main pieces.



Canadian Federation of Library Associations
Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques

V.L.: I'm still struggling with the title as it's an interpretation of our policy. Is it really an interpretation of the policy, of our statement, as it doesn't analyse the whole statement.

T.T.: It's the format we've used previously to keep it as uniform as possible from our past statements. We can be more clear so that it's a statement on protest and dissent of collections and speakers.

V.L.: Yes, otherwise, I'm confused reading the whole document wondering what's the point. If you can make it really clear in the title what it's about, that will help everyone when they're reading the document.

T.K.: We will continue to defer and let the committee continue to work on the document. We do understand the relevance of it, and why it's needed. This is useful in a library setting in how to manage the protest and dissent that the library faces.

T.T.: Yes, and that's the whole point of the document. You have the right to disagree, but you don't have the right to prevent someone from speaking or listening. The main point is how disagreement and protest go along with intellectual freedom.

T.K.: Great, so we have enough information for the context of the paper, and the committee now has the tools and suggestions from us on moving forward.

3.2: Pre-Budget Submission for Impact Affairs

T.K.: Our deadline for a pre-budget submission for the federal government is August 6th. Impact has already done great work to contextualize our statement to move from a COVID response plan, to a COVID recovery plan. CULC is already doing a lot of great work, and we don't want to duplicate our work. Impact has put together a document based on last year's pre-budget submission, and we have come up with four recommendations for them to work on in our budget.

H.C.: We should include something in our recommendations to get the government to do something about the telecommunications companies and their strong hold on the Canadian Market in regards to their limiting access to information.

T.K.: This is a fair point, but outside the scope of a budget.

H.C.: Should we support increasing LAC's budget? Our presence in trying to get more funding in the Library and Archives Canada has been lacking, and I think we need to increase our support.

T.K.: Yes.

Motion: Are we in agreement to accept recommendations 1, 2, and 3 as presented, and to change our fourth recommendation to include an increase of a working budget by 5% for LAC to fulfill their incoming information requests?

Motioned by K.M., Seconded by M.C.

Motion carried.



Canadian Federation of Library Associations
Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques

3.3: Budget Proposal for CFLA-FCAB 2021-2022

T.K.: We will need to propose and approve a new budget for September first, otherwise we will continue to work under our old budget at 50% capacity in each category once we enter September when the old budget expires. This is information that will be needed for our September meeting when we will propose a new budget to vote on.

4. Discussion Item

4.1: Controversial book.

T.K.: Thank you Tina and Deb for joining us today. Could one of you give us a bit of background on the issue?

T.T.: As the committee to uphold intellectual freedoms, we should be providing statements when libraries uphold the tenets of intellectual freedoms, and we haven't been doing so. We did something for Meagan Murphy at Toronto Public Library, but this was at the request of TPL. But there are issues like this that are happening at a national level, and it's odd that there is a national body that is not making some kind of statement about it. This would be a general statement for the overall issue of the call to action of this book being removed from libraries and our statement for keeping it included.

T.K.: Just as a clarification for CFLA, this wouldn't be at the request of the library or a librarian, but the request of the member association that represents them. For TPL, it was both OLA and/or FOPL who had requested it. This time around, it's not the library that's being challenged, but a book that's being challenged across libraries.

M.C.: With this particular book, it dates the issue. We need to make sure the next book that gets challenged is being represented in this statement.

D.T.: We do have a position statement on books being challenged that serves a general position, but we don't have any resources for librarians to use against the challenge of this particular book.

M.C.: We want to make sure that this statement includes the possibility of other challenged books. I support the sentiment of the statement, but don't want it to become outdated with the next book that gets challenged tomorrow.

T.T.: We are brainstorming our work plan in August, and we should be doing more of this in IFC, and it's currently not being captured. We should be doing more statements on this as these items become more national. When these challenges rise in multiple libraries across the nation, it warrants a statement from us.

V.L.: After reading the document that's being submitted, I'm cognizant of the language being used. One is 'exercise of prior restraint.' What does this actually mean, as it's unclear to me. The other item is that the document says "CFLA directs libraries to do



Canadian Federation of Library Associations
Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques

something" and I don't think CFLA directs libraries. We don't control the management of libraries, so we would need to change the word "direct". Other than those two items I think the document looks great, and thank you for all your work.

D.T.: Yes, you are quite right about the word 'direct' and we had one member who thought 'encourages' might be a better word. 'Prior Restraint' was lifted off a CFLA document.

T.T.: That was from a legal perspective. You can't deny someone access to information or space based on their previous activities. The idea of Prior Restraint, was for the issue of their past actions, with the threat that they might do it again, we're going to cancel their activity. Do we want to make it more layman's terms?

V.L.: Yes I think we should. Anyone should be able to read this and be able to understand it. But thank you so much.

H.C.: I still think we should make it as general as possible to include all future challenged books so that it's not just a hot button response to a topic currently. Other organizations have programs like Freedom To Read Week and Banned Books week which covers both this book and all other challenged books, so we might need to put together a program such as that.

T.T.: Just to clarify, we could align ourselves with other organizations that are doing IFC work. We have positions on intellectual freedoms that cover the macro, but what can we do on a regular basis that are actionable?

D.T.: We work very closely with Freedom to Read week. We will also write the article that goes into the package.

J.M.: Perhaps it's the title of 'Position Statement' that is tripping people up about this. I agree we need to put something out on this very sensitive and touchy topic as it is a very challenging topic, but we still must maintain intellectual freedom. What does it say about our organization that this is the book that we choose to defend when other books have been challenged to this degree and we have said nothing over. I also agree and support that we need to do this more often, and more regularly, but we need to be careful on how we frame it.

D.T.: We had a discussion about calling it a statement or something else. Especially if we're going to be doing them more often.

T.T.: We should add that there's a context of analysis on how many times something is challenged, we can showcase what is being challenged. As everything has been challenged, only very hot button topics make it to the public eye. So showcasing this data will help put things into perspective for this document and other books that get challenged.



Canadian Federation of Library Associations
Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques

T.K.: There is board agreement that the document is important and could be considered as something CFLA would adopt and publish, when those concerns are met and dealt with. Change the wording of 'prior restaurants', change 'directs' to 'encourage', change 'statement' to brief, or update, and in the future there would be some way forward as this is an ongoing issue.

Motion: Accept the document with the revisions as agreed on.

Mover: J.M., Seconded: A.S.

Further Discussion:

T.K.: We've discussed the document, but not on the actual book being challenged. Is there anything anyone would like to discuss about the book?

None.

Motion Carried.

5. Updates from Committees:

5.1: Copyright

A.S.: Everyone is very excited for the longer consultation time for AI until September and what this means for copyright. We will be keeping everyone updated as the AI information unfolds.

6: Marketing and Advocacy

6.1: New Homepage/Landing page design

M.R.: A new mock up of our web page has been created. It is in testing / proof of concept at the moment to allow for input and comments.

Suggestions:

J.M.: Would these graphic buttons change as things become more timely?

M.R.: They can, as they are not static. We could introduce a rotating banner which would have more timely content associated with them, and then static buttons that wouldn't change. El: Strategic Plan, Position Paper, and the different committees.

J.M.: Who is the audience? Who is this for? If it's for the media, we need to have something very fast for the media and general public, so they aren't bogged down by seeing the different committees. I will also mention that the French piece is so confusing for people, that we have a mirror site specifically for french, and people don't know how to navigate that.

M.R.: Very good point. For the media, we do have a number of different places for the media for our news. We have a specific button for all of our posts, we have our twitter



Canadian Federation of Library Associations
Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques

stream on the right hand side on our page, and we have important posts in short on our home page.

T.K.: The Committees are four very good things to have up front. Same with these different projects that are being presented in this moc-up, the indigenous subject headings being the example.

Call To Action:

Have a look at the mockup site and let Michael know of your thoughts on the new page.

6.2: Twitter Analytics

M.R.: Looking at engagement, we've had 76 points of engagement over the past month across 11 posts. We've had 11 engagements through twitter in general, with a total following of 2,107.

10. Closing remarks

None

Next Meeting: September 10th, 2021

Meeting Adjourned.