

New Partnerships

We continue to develop new partnerships to support our work. Our newest one is with the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada, who sponsors Financial Literacy Month. We will be represented in this relationship by Evelyn Pringle, Markham Public Library.

As opportunities for representation arise, we will continue to reach out to our members for recommendations of individuals who can represent us.

Advocacy

Our most significant advocacy efforts for the past few months have been supporting our partners as they deal with potential changes with Canada Post rates, following the federal budget. Formerly, protected rates were legislated for library material and material for the visually impaired.

Introduced in 1939, the Library Rate (commonly called the Library Book Rate) assisted in extending library services to rural and remote areas, as well as supporting interlibrary loans. Canada Post provides a discount to libraries mailing print materials to their users or other libraries. Additionally, Canada Post was required to offer free postage under the free Literature for the Blind service.

If you would like to add your voice to this issue, contact us at info@cfla-fcab.ca. We would be happy to share copies of our letters with you.

Administrative Changes

We are changing our membership fee renewal date this year so that all members have a common renewal date. This should improve our financial planning and record-keeping. This year's invoice will detail how the change affects your organization and will explain the transition from your old membership year to the new one.

Message from the Chair

CFLA has had a productive fall season. Following our recent transition to the Task Force model, we have had several proposals for opportunities to delve into policy issues important to our members, and the national library sector.

CFLA has continued to grow strategic partnerships nationally and internationally including with Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada, and Elections Canada, all in support of national multi-literacy initiatives.

CFLA has been proud to cohost the Library and Archives Canada Stakeholders' Forum Community of Interest and supporting a national working group to address AI throughout the GLAM sector. With our members, we've also been coordinating an advocacy response to legislative changes impacting the Canada Post book rate that is a critical issue of access for many Canadian library users, and particularly CELA/NNELS users.

CFLA will be at the OLA Superconference for our annual update on January 30. We are also excited to be collaborating with IFLA's North American Regional Division on a preconference session on January 28 entitled "Advocacy is Essential". Please join us for both events!

Lastly, I hope you will join the CFLA Board at our Annual General Meeting on February 25. This will be a bittersweet meeting for me personally as my term as Chair comes to an end, but also an opportunity to meet the incoming CFLA Board

Andrea Cecchetto

Chair, CFLA-FCAB
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Intellectual Freedom Award Winners

We are pleased to announce two people have been selected this year for the CFLA Intellectual Freedom Award: Dick Ellis and Toni Samek.

Dick Ellis

Dick is recognized for his ongoing commitment to CFLA-FCAB's work in the area of Intellectual Freedom, and his previous work with the CLA Intellectual Freedom Committee. In particular, he was instrumental in supporting and promoting the surveys that led to national reports on challenged material, resulting in ongoing analysis of censorship in Canadian libraries since the 1990s. This data has been used by numerous researchers, resulting in publications and conference presentations.

From the nomination letter: "In addition to his work with the CFLA, Dick was also active in the Ex Libris community, spearheading conversations about the evolving face of intellectual freedom among members of the community. He was well-known for his informative presentations, distinct voice, and ever-present sense of humour".

Dick was a mentor to many librarians and is remembered for the influence he had on librarianship across the country.

Toni Samek

Toni is recognized for her commitment to making intellectual freedom a part of the education of new librarians. The intellectual freedom course she introduced at the University of Alberta was the only one offered in Canada, now, thanks to her advocacy, it is also part of the curriculum at the University of British Columbia and the University of Toronto.

She has a significant number of publications detailing the history of intellectual freedom in North America, and the relationships between intellectual freedom and social justice, library and information service education, and ethical questions related to intellectual freedom.

In addition to her work in the library community, Toni has advocated for intellectual freedom within the Canadian Association of University Teachers, the Centre for Free Expression and the International Center for Information Ethics. She is a frequently invited speaker on intellectual freedom issues at library and academic conferences in Canada and internationally.

From the nomination letter: "Toni has been a leading champion in Canada for intellectual freedom for more than two decades".

Toni will be presented with her award at a future date in Alberta.

Thank you to the members of the Intellectual Freedom Award Selection Committee, who have agreed to work on clarifying the award terms of reference, and the criteria for the selection of candidates.

Share Your Thoughts

We are happy to get feedback on how we communicate with you. We'd like our members to know what is going on with CFLA-FCAB, so let us know if you'd like more information, or if you'd like information delivered in a different way, by contacting Executive Director Margaret Law at executivedirector@cfla-fcab.ca.