

## Accessible Collections and Services Network

### MANDATE

In keeping with CLA's stated value that libraries and the principle of free universal access to information are key components of an open and democratic society, the Network will promote and foster accessible library facilities, collections and services.

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

- To act as a national forum for discussion, advocacy and professional development related to accessibility in libraries;
- To support the promotion and fostering of accessible library facilities, collections and services by acting as a clearinghouse for information about these issues;
- To facilitate the exchange of knowledge among library staff regarding issues related to accessibility;
- To facilitate collaboration and consultation with regional, provincial and local library associations and stakeholder groups with a view to improving accessibility to information for all;
- To provide a communications channel to and from the Canadian Library Association and particularly its Library Services to People with Print Disabilities Advisory Committee.

### PROPOSED PLAN OF ACTION

*While the Network is intended to address issues of accessibility for all groups, initially, the primary focus of the Network will be on services to persons with print disabilities.*

- Support, promote and review as necessary the CLA Grassroots Advocacy Kit (Call to Action for Library Services to People with Print Disabilities) and the Guidelines for CLA Service Levels at Canadian Public Libraries for Persons with Print Disabilities;
- Provide liaison to the CNIB-led initiative to create an accessible, national, independent and sustainable library and information service organization that will support equitable library services for the print disabled community through Canada's public libraries;
- Investigate the possibility of a National Summit on Accessible Library Services, as originally suggested by the former CLA Working Group on IELA;
- Facilitate the utilization and sharing of alternative format materials among libraries of all types through information interchange;
- Network with library associations, stakeholder groups and users with disabilities, to promote and foster equitable library services for persons with print disabilities.

**MODERATOR:** Teresa Johnson, [accessible@cla.ca](mailto:accessible@cla.ca)

**Facebook group:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cla.accessible.network/>

**FOUNDING MEMBERS:**

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