



CLA Statement on a Treaty for services to Visually Impaired People

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am speaking on behalf the Canadian Library Association. As this is the first time we take the floor at this meeting please accept our congratulations on your election.

CLA urges delegates to move expeditiously to finalizing a recommendation on a treaty for the visually impaired and print disabled. The time is now to address this crucial need. We are encouraged by today's deliberations recognizing there are still important to issues to address.

For libraries, education institutions, government agencies and charities providing direct service to the visually impaired and print disabled, it is imperative that there be an international treaty which permits the cost effective delivery of alternate formats. Cross border movement of legally produced alternate formats is an essential element in achieving the affordable and timely delivery of these formats for those who need them.

As I said previously, the time is now for direct constructive action. Visually impaired and print disabled individuals have waited too long. Thank you for your productive deliberations to date and best wishes for success in the up-coming informal meetings and next week.

Thank you.