



### **Canadian Library Association Responds to the Attack on *Charlie Hebdo***

OTTAWA, ONTARIO—(January 9, 2015)—The Canadian Library Association (CLA) and its community are profoundly saddened by the brutal attack on the offices of *Charlie Hebdo* in Paris. The CLA condemns this and all acts of violence against the freedom of expression and against those who exercise free expression, regardless of who considers it unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable anywhere in the world.

The CLA affirms that libraries in Canada and in every democratic country have a fundamental responsibility to collect, curate, preserve, and provide access to the widest variety of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity that is essential to the moral health and intellectual development of our societies and that forms the bedrock of democratic culture, social and economic improvement, innovation, and civic engagement. Our work celebrates and reinforces diversity, supports lifelong learning, and contributes to the development of just and equitable communities. Our libraries and the civic interests we uphold serve as the foundation for modern democracy and human advancement.

The CLA encourages libraries to resist all efforts to limit the exercise of free speech while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups.

The Canadian Library Association is Canada's largest national and broad-based library association, representing the interests of public, academic, school and special libraries, professional librarians and library workers, and all those concerned about enhancing the quality of life of Canadians through information and literacy.

- 30 -

Media contacts:

Valoree McKay, CAE

Executive Director

[vmckay@cla.ca](mailto:vmckay@cla.ca)

613-232-9625