

The CENTRE for EQUITABLE LIBRARY ACCESS (cela)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Making Good on the Promise:

A Public Library Led National Solution for Accessible Format Materials

November 4, 2013 // TORONTO

The Canadian Urban Libraries Council has been working since Spring 2012 on the creation of a new national public library organization – focused solely on the creation, collection, delivery and preservation of both digital and physical alternate format accessible materials.

NEW ORGANIZATION FORMED

On September 1, 2013 Industry Canada issued a Certificate and approved Articles of Incorporation for a new Canadian Not-for-Profit corporation to establish, operate and maintain national equitable library services delivered through Canada's public libraries for Canadians with print disabilities. The working name of the new entity is The Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA).

The new organization, separate from CULC/CBUC and the CNIB, will leverage the extensive publicly-funded digital repository, ILS and physical production and delivery infrastructure currently used for those Canadians who receive their service direct from the CNIB Library Service and from existing public library partners.

SENIOR PROJECT DIRECTOR HAS BEEN HIRED

To lead the transition of this new Not-for-Profit, the Corporation has contracted the services of Andrew Martin. Andrew has had a distinguished career in both non-profit and for-profit businesses, with more than 30 years of applicable experience. He started officially on November 1, 2013.

Andrew has senior executive experience in publishing, newspaper databases, and copyright. As a consultant he has worked with several libraries, universities and government departments and agencies. He helped to draft several of the recent copyright amendments to facilitate alternate format production, and has a successful record in budgeting and financial management, lobbying, and writing grant and funding proposals.

AMBITIOUS TIMELINE SET

Andrew has been given a considerable task and a tight timeline to work within. The new organization is expected to be operational by the start of Q2 in 2014. The initial stages will involve:

- establishing a project timeline that meets the target of a 2014/Q2 start for the new organization
- consulting with all key stakeholders
- developing sustainable funding and operational models

He will be working with three levels of support: they include a steering committee of library leaders representing libraries of various sizes; an advisory committee of users who will advise on needs and improvements; and another advisory committee of library personnel from libraries of various sizes across the country who will assist with operational issues.

ABOUT CULC/CBUC

CULC/CBUC is a national library group dedicated to working collaboratively to build vibrant urban communities by strengthening the capacity of Canada's urban libraries. Our 43 member systems operate almost 650 points of access, and in 2012 were used by citizens more than 385,000,000 times. In 2012 member libraries were used by Canadians more than 325,000,000 times and expended in excess of \$100,000,000 on all types of materials. Our members employ over 12,000 Canadians.

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ABOUT CNIB LIBRARY

CNIB Library is the largest collection of public library-type content in Canada for people with print disabilities. It includes more than 80,000 books, newspapers and magazines in braille, accessible audio, printbraille and e-text formats, in both English and French, available to library clients nationwide by mail and electronically. It is also home to a range of innovative educational programs designed to help kids with vision loss build their literacy skills.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Sandra Singh,
Chair, CULC/CBUC Working Group and,
Chief Librarian, Vancouver Public Library
sandra.singh@vpl.ca

Jefferson Gilbert,
Executive Director, CULC/CBUC
jgilbert@culc.ca
416-699-1938

Margaret McGrory,
Executive Director, CNIB Library
margaret.mcGrory@cnib.ca

Andrew Martin,
Senior Project Director, Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA)
andrew.martin@bell.net
416-463-0007