



Canadian Urban Libraries Council
Conseil des Bibliothèques Urbaines du Canada

2006 Queen Street East, No. 7 | Toronto, ON, M4L 1J3 | 416-699-1938 | www.culc.ca

May 8, 2012

Steve Potash
President and CEO
OverDrive, Inc.
Valley Tech Centre - Suite N
8555 Sweet Valley Drive
Cleveland, OH 44125 USA

Dear Mr. Potash,

I am writing to you as the Chair of the Canadian Urban Libraries Council. Our members serve the larger urban populations across Canada.

The Canadian Urban Libraries Council passed, at its Autumn, 2010 meeting, a *Vision Statement for Public Library Access to Downloadable and Portable E-Content*. You can see the whole Statement at www.culc.ca/eBooks. While some elements of this Vision Statement need to be updated, much of it is still relevant. I want to quote from the first bullet point listed under the heading of *Delivery Platforms, Circulation and Access*. It states that "Libraries need a shared, non-proprietary delivery platform and interface for the circulation of all e-content that is easy to use. Access to e-content should be allowed through the catalogue and/or through a consolidated site/portal, as determined by individual libraries. Having to search and borrow e-content through different vendors is inefficient and confusing."

CULC/CBUC members are seeking ways to unite their content in their catalogue, creating a single search and easy access to material. Most CULC/CBUC members either subscribe to BiblioCommons or are looking at other products that permit the unification of e-content on their catalogues. We need to be clear. While most CULC/CBUC members are also customers of OverDrive, most CULC/CBUC members have no long-term interest in an e-content solution that requires customers to see or interact with third party, vendor software. Most of our members would love to work with OverDrive as a vendor that supplies content. Some will want to work with OverDrive as a vendor that also supplies software. The decision of what level of service to use absolutely must reside with individual library systems and must relate to each system's strategic priorities.

We are aware of conflicting rumors and would love to hear, from you, confirmation that OverDrive will work hard to ensure that the needs of its clients – as expressed by those clients – will be met in a timely fashion. When and if we hear from other e-content providers that their understanding of the needs of public libraries differ from the positions established by CULC/CBUC, we will also act to remind them of the desires of our members.

CULC/CBUC strives to strengthen our vibrant urban communities through building the capacity of Canada's urban libraries. Our members collectively serve more than 7,500,000 active users from 522 physical locations and virtually. In 2011 member libraries were used by Canadians

more than 325,000,000 times and expended in excess of \$85 million on collections including almost \$10 million on digital resources.

Mr. Potash, we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Lague', with a stylized flourish at the end.A small, horizontal handwritten mark in blue ink, possibly initials or a decorative element, positioned above the printed name.

Carole Lague

Chair, Canadian Urban Libraries Council

cc: Jefferson Gilbert, Executive Director, CULC/CBUC
Members of the eBook Task Force