

## PTPLC & CULC/CBUC WORKING TOGETHER TO REMOVE BARRIERS FOR CANADIANS WITH PRINT DISABILITIES

September 23, 2013 – WINNIPEG, MB – The Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC/CBUC) and the Provincial/Territorial Public Library Council (PTPLC) are co-operating to expand and improve public library access to alternative format books and information for all Canadians with print disabilities.

Three million Canadians have vision, learning, and physical challenges that prevent them from using printed books and information. CULC/CBUC and PTPLC believe in the fundamental right of Canadians with print disabilities to have equitable access to a broad range of human knowledge, information and ideas.

Public libraries have a critical role in providing equitable access and have been challenged by the scarcity of alternative format material. Technological advances are making access to information and printed material possible in new and exciting ways. The PTPLC and CULC/CBUC are committed to exploring co-operative efforts to serving the needs of Canadians with print disabilities by increasing the availability of accessible books and other materials through public libraries. A working group has been established to explore joint initiatives with the intent to work toward an integrated solution for access to accessible format materials for Canadians with print disabilities.

### ABOUT THE GROUPS

The Provincial/Territorial Public Library Council facilitates the co-ordination of cross-jurisdictional initiatives and serves as a point of contact with national library organizations and the federal government. Collectively, the PTPLC partners work to ensure that all Canadians have effective library service, providing legislation, funding, management, and assistance for the more than 3,000 public libraries and library outlets across Canada.

The Canadian Urban Libraries Council strives to strengthen our vibrant urban communities through building the capacity of Canada's urban libraries. Our members collectively provide public library service to more than 55% of Canada's population from 640 physical locations and virtually. 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.

For more information please contact:  
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