

Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry County Library Board

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED BY THE LIBRARY BOARD AT ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021:

MOVED BY: Margaret MacDonald

RESOLUTION NO.: 2021-01

SECONDED BY: Francois Landry

DATE: April 8, 2021

WHEREAS at least three million Canadians have print disabilities which include low vision or blindness, learning disabilities like dyslexia, or physical disabilities like Parkinson's, Cerebral Palsy, and others, which prevent them from using traditional print; and

WHEREAS each year in Canada, people with print disabilities read more than 1 million accessible titles, and the majority are in physical formats; and

WHEREAS access to information and ideas is crucial to education, to employment, and to opportunities to connect socially within a community, and yet fewer than 1 in 10 books are available in accessible formats for those with print disabilities; and

WHEREAS the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) provides necessary reading materials for people with print disabilities, including those with vision loss, learning disabilities and physical disabilities, and libraries across the country rely on CELA to provide accessible reading materials and support to patrons that are cost effective and equitable; and

WHEREAS the Federal government has recently decided to reverse its proposed cuts to funding for accessible book production and distribution, but offers no assurances for longer term funding, which is still set to be fully withdrawn by the 2024-2025 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS without a funding guarantee, CELA may face a 50% reduction to its production and distribution budget next year, which will have a devastating impact on its ability to produce and distribute accessible reading materials.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry County Library Board requests that the Federal government commit to ongoing, stable funding for CELA, so those with reading disabilities across Canada are not left further behind; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to: public library boards across the country; the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, Carla Qualtrough; the Minister of Finance, Chrystia Freeland; MP Eric Duncan; and MP Francis Drouin.

☒ Carried

☐ Defeated

☐ Deferred

Frank Prevost

Library Board Chair

