



Background Information

Federation of Canadian Municipalities – March 2016 & July 2018

In March 2016, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Board of Directors adopted a resolution, requesting that the Government of Canada investigate, as part of a statutory review of Canada's Copyright Act, a solution that would allow public libraries to purchase e-books from publishers at a fair and reasonable price. Further to this, on July 10, 2018, The FCM forwarded correspondence to the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology encouraging a review of the Act to consider how the implications of the rights compromise the ability of Canada's public libraries to deliver on their mandate of providing public access to a wide variety of digital information.

They also wrote to the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology in July 2018, encouraging "the committee to review Section 29 of the Act and consider how the implications of the rights available under the Copyright Act compromise the ability of Canada's public libraries to deliver on their mandate of providing public access to a wide variety of digital information."

Calls for Federal Government Investigation

Public Library Boards and their respective municipalities across Canada are currently considering or have passed motions in support of CULC to seek approval of a motion calling on the Federal government to investigate the barriers faced by public libraries in acquiring digital publications, and to seek solutions that increases public access.

For example:

June 2019 – Mississauga

In June 2019, The City of Mississauga passed the following motion:

Now, there be it resolved that the City of Mississauga do hereby:

1. Indicate our support for the Canadian Urban Libraries Council In its efforts to increase access to digital publications for library users in Mississauga and across Canada;
2. Call on the Federal government to investigate the barriers faced by libraries in acquiring digital publications and the problems that poses for vulnerable demographic groups in Canada; and
3. Further ask the Federal government to develop a solution that Increases access to digital publications across Canada and assist libraries in meeting the cost requirements to acquire digital publications.

Ottawa – June 2019

In June 2019, The City of Ottawa passed the following motion:

That Ottawa City Council:

1. Recognize the important role that public libraries play in the community through early literacy programs that are integral to developing proficient readers and ensuring that children succeed in school and digital literacy programs that help ensure that citizens can contribute to the digital world;
2. Recognize that public libraries must be able to offer digital publications to their customers as part of their core service offering to the community, particularly given the digital divide and the contemporary rapid pace of digitization of educational and cultural materials;
3. Indicate its support for the Ottawa Public Library and the Canadian Urban Libraries Council in efforts to increase access to digital publications for public library customers in the City of Ottawa and across Canada;
4. Call on the Federal government to investigate the barriers faced by public libraries in acquiring digital publications and the problems that poses for vulnerable demographic groups in Canada; and,
5. Further ask the Federal government to develop a solution that increases access to digital publications across Canada and assists public libraries in meeting the cost requirements to acquire digital publications.

Toronto – July 2019

In July 2019, The City of Toronto passed the following motion:

City Council endorse the Toronto Public Library Board draft resolution outlined in Attachment 1 to the letter (June 19, 2019) from the City Librarian, requesting the City of Toronto to:

- a. indicate the City of Toronto's support for Canadian Urban Libraries Council's/Conseil des Bibliothèques Urbaines du Canada's efforts to increase access to e-books and other e-content for library users in Toronto and across Canada;
- b. call on the federal government to investigate the barriers faced by libraries in acquiring e-books and other e-content and the problems that poses for vulnerable demographic groups in Canada; and
- c. ask the federal government to develop a solution that increases access to e-books and other e-content across Canada and assists libraries in meeting the cost requirements to acquire e-books and other e-content.