

## BCLTA

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**Subject:** BCLTA - Community Access Program Funding Update

**To:** Library Board Chairs and BCLTA Liaisons

### Community Access Program Funding - Announcement

The following bulletin was sent on Thursday June 7th from the Canadian Library Association:

CLA welcomes continuation of Industry Canada's Community Access Program

The Canadian Library Association (CLA) is pleased the federal government is continuing the Community Access Program (CAP) for this fiscal year. CAP has been one of CLA's major advocacy files, and the Association lobbied diligently for the program's continuation.

"This announcement demonstrates this government recognizes the importance of the CAP program to Canadians and to the libraries that serve them," says CLA President Alvin Schrader. "Libraries will now be better able to help Canadians get access to the information and federal government services they need through the Internet."

For the complete CLA media release with a link to the federal government's announcement, please follow this link: <http://www.cla.ca/top/whatsnew/wnjune07-07.html>

On June 8th, CLA followed up with a few more details. The note below is from Don Butcher, Executive Director of CLA:

Colleagues:

You may have notice that the announcement on the renewal of CAP funding did not include the amount of the funding.

Today, we were able to get a specific number from Industry Canada: \$19 million.

A little history for those who haven't been involved in this file before: CAP was basically a \$40 million per year program until 2004. The former Liberal government cut it to \$25 million, and was going to let it end March 31, 2006.

After the January 2006 election, the new Conservative government decided to keep CAP alive but of course there was no funding allocation. Somehow Industry Canada scraped together some funding for 2006-2007 -- I believe the number was in the \$15 million range.

Not all the funding goes to libraries, of course: other not-for-profit agencies can apply for and get funding.

Don Butcher

Executive Director, CLA

Lawrence Lavender who serves as Past President on the BCLTA Board and is the new President of CLTA, would appreciate any feedback from trustees on this issue directly or through BCLTA. He can be contacted at [llavend@telus.net](mailto:llavend@telus.net). If BCLTA recommends or proposes any changes to the CAP program, this information will be communicated to all members.

Sincerely,  
Peter Wainwright  
President

6/19/2007