

BCLTA

From: BCLTA [admin@bclta.org]
Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2007 9:29 AM
To: BCLTA-Liaisons (bclta-liaisons@interchange.ubc.ca); BCLTA - Library Board Chairs (lib-bd-chairs@interchange.ubc.ca)
Subject: BCLTA - Support Private Members Bill C-458 re: Postal Rates for Library Materials
Attachments: Sample Letter to MP.doc

To: Library Board Chairs and BCLTA Liaisons

Private Member's Bill C-458

BCLTA, in addition to the British Columbia Library Association (BCLA) and the Canadian Library Association (CLA), has pledged its support for a private member's Bill designed to protect Canadian libraries' access to concessionary postal rates for mailing library books.

The Library Book Rate is a Canada Post service that since 1939 has provided a reduced rate for mailing library books between libraries and from libraries to their users. It costs Canada Post about \$8 million per year. Currently, the book rate is only guaranteed until January 2008. The loss of the book rate would be devastating to libraries across Canada - particularly those libraries in smaller centers that serve rural areas. (For example, the loss of the book rate would cost Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) \$140,000 per year.)

Merv Tweed, MP for Brandon-Souris, Manitoba, has put forward a private member's Bill that would not only sustain this rate but would also extend the list of eligible materials to include CDs, DVDs and other audio-visual materials that are currently ineligible for the reduced rate.

We urge all library boards to write to their MPs to request their support for Bill C-458.

As well, based on the VIRL model, you may wish to undertake further efforts to garner support for the Bill such as:

- writing to your local government and encouraging them to request support from your MP for Bill C-458
- contacting your local Friends' groups and asking them to ask for their MP's support
- encouraging the general public to write to their MP (for a sample of VIRL's online petition go to: <http://www.virl.bc.ca/content/view/173/1/>)

Additional information regarding Bill C-458 can be found at:

- Bill C-458 <http://www2.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?DocId=3040262&Language=e&Mode=1&File=14>

- BCLA - follow the story link from their home page www.bcla.bc.ca

- CLA website press release <http://www.cla.ca/top/whatsnew/wnjuly16-07.html> ; response from Merv Tweed MP to CLA's support <http://www.cla.ca/issues/lbr.htm>

Even if the dollar implications of the Library Book Rate are small for your library, we urge you to write to your MP on behalf of all libraries. With over 2,000 libraries actively using the Library Book Rate and an estimated one million Canadians benefiting from it annually, the Library Book Rate is an indispensable part of the service delivered by the public, academic, school and special libraries. We have attached a sample letter that could be easily customized for your board.

Thank you for support for this national library issue.

Sincerely,
 Peter Wainwright
 President, British Columbia Library Trustees' Association