



*To support and represent Trustees in advancing Public Libraries*

Thursday, May-13-21

Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage  
CC: British Columbia Members of Parliament

Re: Clause 4.1(1) of Bill C10

The British Columbia Library Trustees Association (BCLTA), founded in 1977, is a not-for-profit society and registered charity. As the association for public library trustees in British Columbia, BCLTA supports and represents trustees in their role of overseeing libraries (which have a collective annual budget of over \$0.25 billion).

The BCLTA board has been following the discourse regarding Bill C-10 and is sending this letter to the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage (copy to all British Columbia MPs) to communicate our concerns regarding the recent exclusion of clause 4.1(1) from Bill C-10.

The BCLTA board endorses freedom of expression as a core principle of Canadian librarianship. Public libraries are impartial collectors and distributors of knowledge in its many forms, including Internet social media. Because public libraries are fee-free and do not require membership, Canadians regard their local libraries as being key to supporting intellectual freedom and open communication. For many Canadians, their public library is the only place where they can participate in online discourse or create and publish end-user content.

This makes the Internet an essential tool for Canadians exercising their right to freedom of speech. Accordingly, the BCLTA board believes CRTC regulation should not be expanded to include Internet platforms such as YouTube and TikTok, which are just two examples of where Canadians may post content. Clause 4.1(1) allows for the exemption of end-user content from regulation by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).

The BCLTA board encourages the House of Commons Heritage Committee to press for the reinstatement of clause 4.1(1) of Bill C-10. Thank you.

Mike Gagel

President of BCLTA