



CULC/CBUC Honoured to be Recognized for the Establishment of the Centre for Equitable Library Access

TORONTO – November 26, 2014 – On Friday, November 21st the CNIB presented the Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC/CBUC) with the Dr. Dayton M Forman Memorial Award for their key role in establishing the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) and the removal of barriers for people with print disabilities.

The partnership between CULC/CBUC and CNIB was pivotal to achieving the long-standing vision of CNIB to see equitable library service for people with print disabilities delivered through Canada's public libraries.

"CELA works for the more than three million Canadians with print disabilities, providing equitable access to library materials through their public libraries," said John M. Rafferty, President and CEO, CNIB. "No one should have to rely on a charity for library access – CULC/CBUC's determination and hard work in the launch of CELA is helping make this a reality."

Selection Committee Co-Chair Joan Robinson read in braille the Award citation at the presentation event:

This award is given in recognition of outstanding leadership in the advancement of library and information services for Canadians living with vision loss or print disabilities. This year the award is given to CULC for the creation of the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA). The CULC collaborative partnership with CNIB was pivotal to achieving the long standing vision of CNIB to see equitable library service for people with print disabilities delivered through Canada's public libraries. This year's award is a celebration of a courageous coming together of organizations, agencies, professionals, and volunteers with a common purpose: equitable library service for ALL Canadians.

"CULC/CBUC is grateful for this recognition," said Maureen Sawa, Chair of CULC/CBUC. "We are fully committed to ensuring that everyone in the country has the ability to access reading materials in the format of their choice through their local public library"

On accepting the Award on behalf of CULC/CBUC Past Chair Catherine Biss had this to say, "Equitable library service must be accessible to everyone through their local public library, and through CELA this is becoming a reality. We value CNIB's almost 100 years of service and it's because of this that CELA has a strong, robust foundation upon which to build a new pan-Canadian service," said Biss. "We thank CNIB for recognizing our efforts to date, and we know that together we will build something special that will make an enduring difference in people's lives."

Former CNIB Library Chairperson Jane Beaumont, as part of the presentation, read a few words from Dr. Forman's daughter Janet Forman. *"I wish my father could see what the Canadian Urban Libraries Council has accomplished. When I read the vision statement of the Centre for Equitable Library Access, I instantly pictured Dad smiling with approval – and appreciation."*



**About the Canadian Urban Libraries Council /
Conseil des Bibliothèques urbaines du Canada (CULC/CBUC)**

CULC/CBUC www.culc.ca strives to strengthen our vibrant urban communities through building the capacity of Canada's urban libraries. Our 45 member libraries (www.culc.ca/about/librarymembers) collectively provide public library service to more than 60% of Canada's population from almost physical locations and extensive websites. In 2013, member libraries were used by Canadians more than 380,000,000 times. Our members employ over 12,000 Canadians.

About the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA)

CELA www.celalibrary.ca is a new, national non-profit organization that supports the provision of equitable library access for all Canadians with print disabilities through their local public library. CELA champions the fundamental right of Canadians with print disabilities to access media and reading materials in the format of their choice, and is supported by the Canadian Urban Libraries Council and CNIB. For more information, visit www.celalibrary.ca.

About CNIB

CNIB www.cnib.ca is a registered charity, passionately providing community-based support, knowledge and a national voice to ensure Canadians who are blind or partially sighted have the confidence, skills and opportunities to fully participate in life. For more information, visit www.cnib.ca.

About the Dr. Dayton M. Forman Memorial Award

The award was established by the CNIB Library Board in 1996 and recognizes outstanding leadership in the advancement of library and information services for Canadians living with vision loss. The award is offered in tribute to Dr. Dayton M. Forman, an exceptional humanitarian and longstanding CNIB volunteer, who exemplified the leadership required to make a difference in the lives of Canadians who cannot easily access printed material.

For more information about CULC/CBUC

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For more information about the Award and CNIB

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