

**Canadian Library Association**

**Resolution #3 Passed at Annual General Meeting held 22 June 2002**

WHEREAS the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the American Library Association (ALA) have taken very similar strong positions regarding World Trade Organization (WTO) proposals affecting libraries, following the pioneering work of members of the British Columbia Library Association (BCLA) and the Canadian Library Association (CLA) who worked to draw attention to the consequences of international trade treaties for libraries; and

WHEREAS the WTO negotiates in secret and excludes public participation; and

WHEREAS the WTO's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreements could have dramatic negative effects on publicly supported libraries as outlined in the IFLA position statement;

RESOLVED that the Canadian Library Association endorse the IFLA WTO position statement as approved by the Governing Board of IFLA on 25th August 2001;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CLA call on the Federal Government to recognize the value of the country's cultural, heritage, and educational institutions, by building protections for them into any WTO commitments it signs on behalf of the Canadian people;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CLA call on the Federal Government to support greater transparency and openness in WTO negotiations and activities, through, among other things, continued and increased dissemination of WTO documents to libraries;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CLA call upon its members to communicate these concerns about WTO policies to their users, their library boards or boards of governors, and their municipal and provincial government representatives;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CLA continue to work with other organizations to monitor the impact of international trade treaties on libraries, and will advocate for libraries within the context of international trade agreements;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CLA continue to identify and work in coalition with other organizations to protect libraries within the WTO context;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be communicated to the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), the American Library Association (ALA), and Libraries Advance Canada.

MOVED BY: Julie McKenna  
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CARRIED

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