

# Information Policy Committee Annual Report: 2010-2011

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## The British Columbia Library Association's Information Policy Committee undertakes to:

- Monitor developments in information access and advise BCLA and the general library community on appropriate policies and actions
- Organize conferences, public talks, newsletter articles, salons, brochures, etc.
- Develop public education and lobby campaigns
- Establish liaisons and coalitions with other organizations to further the position of BCLA in ensuring the public good is paramount in information policy development.

This past year, the IPC hosted a number of events.

### Salons:

- Usage-based billing which focuses on net neutrality, public access, and issues arising from the CRTC's recent decision (now under review) to allow usage-based billing.

The guest speaker was Reilly Yeo, managing director at OpenMedia.ca. Reilly is an organizer, facilitator and online communications consultant who has worked with Amnesty International, The Walrus magazine and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. She led the organizing team for the first Vancouver ChangeCamp, and facilitated cross-country in-person and online dialogues with the Canada's World project at the SFU Centre for Dialogue. Reilly holds an MA in comparative politics from McGill University.

- Wikileaks: A Library Issue? virtual salon in conjunction with Al Kagan who drafted two resolutions on Wikileaks on behalf of the American Library Association's Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT). Al spoke about the SRRT, why WikiLeaks is a library issue, what SRRT tried to do at the ALA Council (resolutions and proposed

amendments), and Al's follow-up article (available at <http://tinyurl.com/3b7zmbp>).

Al Kagan is African Studies Bibliographer and Professor of Library Administration at the University of Illinois Library, and a long-time member of ALA's SRRT.

June, 2011 follow up: Al's resolutions were defeated at this year's ALA Conference. See <http://tinyurl.com/3htrmp6> for details.

- Elimination of the Mandatory Long Form Census featuring
  - Bill Siksay, NDP MP for Burnaby-Douglas. Mr. Siksay has spoken out in support of the long form census <http://tinyurl.com/3qvsmo>
  - John Richards, Professor, Public Policy Program, Simon Fraser University. Professor Richards, a trained economist, has made extensive use of Census data in his research. He has written extensively on social policy in Canada, primarily via the C.D. Howe Institute (several publications available online at <http://www.cdhowe.org>), where he holds the Roger Phillips chair in social policy. His current social policy focus is on Aboriginal policy.
  - Walter Piovesan, Maps/Data/GIS Librarian, Simon Fraser University. Walter is a staunch advocate of the Mandatory Long Form Census and was one of the first people to alert researchers about its elimination.

### Workshops:

The **2010 Annual Gathering of Librarians Interested in Government and Legal Information**, a day-long event co-sponsored by the Simon Fraser University Library provided sessions on:

- Population Data BC

- Joint initiative on behalf of the British Columbia Research Libraries Group and the Legislative Library of BC on digitizing historical provincial government documents
- Vancouver Open Data Initiative
- ABACUS: New Gateway to Numeracy
- BC Freedom of Information and Privacy Review

### Advocacy:

The IPC also drafted several documents on behalf of the Association. These were:

- The submission on Net Neutrality to Canada's Digital Economy Consultation last summer: <http://de-en.gc.ca/2010/07/06/internet-net-neutrality-as-a-necessary-mechanism-to-foster-innovation-and-intellectual-freedom/>
- Letters opposing the elimination of the Mandatory Long Form Census
- Resolution opposing the elimination of the Mandatory Long Form Census for members to vote on at the 2011 AGM

And, unofficially, several committee members responded to the CRTC's call for comments on their contentious proposal that would have changed its regulations so that TV and radio stations would be allowed to broadcast fake or misleading news.

### Upcoming Priorities: Expanding IPC membership

- Engaging with IPC members outside of the Lower Mainland
- Providing for educational opportunities including, but not limited to, hosting more Salons
- And focusing on issues such as:
  - Introduction of Bill C-51, the 'Investigative Powers for the 21st Century Act' formerly known as 'Lawful Access'.
  - Copyright (in conjunction with the BCLA Copyright Committee)
  - Usage based billing

The IPC would like to thank everyone for their interest and support of the committee and in particular the following active members:

Heather Morrison  
Sylvia Roberts  
Joe Haigh  
Trish Mau  
Ali de Haan  
Leanna Jantzi  
Brian Campbell  
Barbara Jo May

*Carla Graebner & Devon Greyson are the  
IPC Co-chairs.*