

**Submitted by the BCLA Information Policy Committee to the BCLA AGM,  
Saturday, May 31, 2003**

**Libraries and Media Concentration**

Whereas freedom of the press and public access to diverse media and information are a prerequisite to a functioning democracy;

And Whereas public interest is served by the availability of a broadly diverse range of viewpoints and one of the fundamental tenets and responsibilities of libraries is to both facilitate and foster this availability;

And Whereas the consolidation of media ownership, both horizontally and vertically, in Canada and internationally has the effect of reducing the range of opinions that can be expressed;

And Whereas consolidation in the publishing and distribution networks in Canada and internationally reduce public access to diverse media and information requiring libraries to make a concerted attempt to move beyond mainstream distributors;

And Whereas libraries are the primary social institutions with responsibility to assure the broadest possible availability of a wide range of ideas and information;

And Whereas Media Democracy Day has been organized by the Campaign for Press and Broadcast Freedom for the last three years and will be held this year on October 17/18, 2003;

And Whereas the Canada Standing Senate Committee on Transportation and Communication is studying "the current state of Canadian media industries, emerging trends and developments, the media's roles, rights and responsibilities in Canadian society, and current and appropriate future policies";

Be It Therefore Resolved that the BCLA endorse Media Democracy Day and encourage libraries and other library organizations to do likewise;

And Be It Further Resolved that the BCLA encourage libraries and other library associations to engage in public education activities such as displays, bibliographies, Web sites and programmes on the current extent of concentration in Canadian and international media industries and its impact on access to the widest possible range of information and analysis;

And Be It Further Resolved that the BCLA encourage BC libraries to work with local, regional and alternate publishers to deepen and broaden their collections;

And Be It Further Resolved that the BCLA prepare an information kit on media democracy to make available to all British Columbia libraries in Fall 2003 in time for Media Democracy Day;

And Be It Further Resolved that the BCLA prepare a submission to the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications studying the current state of Canadian media industries;

And Be It Further Resolved that the BCLA work with organizations such as Campaign for Press and Broadcast Freedom, Communication, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada, Canadian Association of Media Educators, University Departments of Communication, journalism schools, local alternate media and other community organizations to implement this resolution.

**Resolution passed by BC Library Association members at the 2003 Annual  
General Meeting**  
May 31, 2003