

ADVOCACY STANDING COMMITTEE

Introduction:

Based on its mission statement below, the Manitoba Library Association is primarily an advocacy organization. The Advocacy Standing Committee is the lead body with respect to the advocacy initiatives of the MLA.

Manitoba Library Association Mission Statement

“MLA provides leadership in the promotion, development and support of library and information services in Manitoba for the benefit of MLA members, the library and information community and the citizens of Manitoba.”

Intent:

To advocate on behalf of Manitoba libraries, library workers and all Manitoban regarding issues relevant to library and information services.

Membership:

The Standing Committee has a minimum of 2 members which are the Chair (Advocacy Director) and 1 Director-at-Large. The maximum number of Committee members is 5. Committee members may be either of MLA Board members or MLA members-at-large.

The Chair (Advocacy Director) serves for 2 years and committee membership will be established annually at the first meeting after the AGM

Membership should rotate annually with ideally one continuing member from a previous year to maintain continuity.

Governance:

The Advocacy Committee works on consensus with Chair as a voting member and authority on procedures.

Committee meetings will be in person or via teleconference.

Committee documents and other shared information will be stored on the secure executive website.

Duties/Deliverables:

National Library Campaigns – Materials Distribution

- 1 member of the Committee will sit on the national planning committee for Canadian Library Month
- Members of the Committee will facilitate distribution of Canadian Library Month materials to Manitoba libraries (distribution by August)
- Members of the Committee will facilitate distribution of Freedom to Read Week materials to Manitoba libraries (distribution by January)

Advocacy regarding library and information issues

The Committee will be responsible for crafting MLA's position and engaging in action regarding library and information issues, as they arise both in Manitoba and nationally. This may include but is not limited to:

- Letters of support
- Position statements
- Resolution
- Petitions
- Letters to the editor
- Correspondence or direct lobbying of elected officials.

The Committee will submit a report of annual activities to the MLA's general membership at the AGM.

Guidance/Jurisdiction:

Public statements (e.g., postings to MLA listserv, website, letters to government, funders, media, etc.) will be approved, where possible, by a majority vote of the MLA Executive either in-person or electronically.

Budget:

There is no budget accorded to this committee.

Advocacy Standing Committee Terms of Reference approved by the MLA Executive Committee February 8, 2010.

Additional information:

Canadian Library Month

- Ordering of materials is done through Canadian Library Association staff.
- Distribution of materials to rural libraries is facilitated by Public Library Service (Government of Manitoba)
- Distribution to school libraries is facilitated by the Instructional Resources Unit (Government of Manitoba).
- Committee members should consult the CLM documents posted under the Advocacy Committee folder on the MLA website.
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Freedom to Read Week

- Ordering of materials is done through the Canadian Book and Periodical Council.
- Distribution of materials to rural libraries is facilitated by Public Library Service (Government of Manitoba)
- Distribution to school libraries is facilitated by the Instructional Resources Unit (Government of Manitoba).
- Committee members should consult the Freedom to Read Week documents posted under the Advocacy Committee folder on the MLA website.