



MLA-PLC action statement in support of the Black Lives Matter movement

The Prison Libraries Committee (PLC) is a volunteer-run committee of the Manitoba Library Association (MLA). We are a group of mostly white, and non-Black persons of colour who provide library collections and literacy programming for incarcerated and reintegrating people in Manitoba. We volunteer inside the Women's Correctional Centre, the Winnipeg Remand Centre, the Headingley Correctional Centre, and The Pas Correctional Centre.

PLC stands in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. We echo and support their call for an end to police brutality and the over-incarceration of Black, Indigenous, and people of colour in this country. We recognize that white supremacy is responsible for these disproportionate rates, and commit to doing our part to change this.

As individuals and as an organization we have a lot of work to do and we recognize that we can be part of this healing journey and movement for justice.

We pledge to do that work now and for the long term, in the form of the following concrete actions:

- PLC will join the Saskatchewan Manitoba Alberta Abolition Coalition (SMAAC) to collaborate on, learn from, and support abolitionist activities across the Prairie Provinces.
- PLC will build a racial justice and 2SLGBTQ+ book collection in each institution we serve.
- PLC will prioritize inviting BIPOC writers and guests into institutions for programming, and will always provide honoraria.
- PLC will donate a 25% from our annual fundraising to BIPOC-led justice organizations in the city.
- PLC will organize annual workshops and trainings around racial justice issues (which will be open to the library community as a whole).
- As book lovers ourselves, PLC will run book clubs on a quarterly basis for our volunteers centered on settler colonialism and racial literacy, including unpacking whiteness.