

## **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 Manitobans regarding issues relevant to library and information services. Advocate for public policy that advances library excellence, and raises the visibility of libraries in Manitoba to advance our provincial intellectual, social, economic, and cultural success.

### **Membership:**

The Standing Committee should have a minimum of 2 MLA Board members, comprising the Director-at-Large, Advocacy and 1 other member. The minimum number of Committee members will be 3, and a maximum number of Committee members should be 5 but may be expanded if deemed necessary by the Committee Chair. Committee members may be either MLA Board members or MLA members-at-large in good standing.

Committee membership will be confirmed annually at the first meeting after the AGM. The Director-at-Large, Advocacy will be appointed Committee Chair for the duration of their term. In the event the position of Director-at-Large, Advocacy is vacant, the President, Past-President, or Vice-President will serve a 1 year term as Committee Chair.

For the purposes of maintaining continuity, there should be at least one member on the Committee with prior experience to share knowledge and experience with the current Committee members.

### **Governance:**

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

Committee meetings will be in person or via teleconference.

Committee documents and other shared information will be stored securely online, with appropriate files made accessible to non-Board members when appropriate.

**Duties/Deliverables:**

Engage with national and regional library organizations where appropriate for support on local, provincial, and territorial matters in collaboration with MLA, where the national voice is welcome and valuable.

Foster relationships with allied agencies, organizations and initiatives that share common missions, mandates, and goals.

Deliver yearly AGM report in summary of advocacy duties carried out on behalf of MLA.

***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
- Resolutions
- Petitions
- Letters to the Editor & Op-ed articles
- Correspondence or direct lobbying of elected officials
- Delegations to councils/boards
- Media requests
- Maintaining relationships with partner/allied organizations
- Advocacy related events

**Guidance/Jurisdiction:**

The Advocacy Committee will collaborate with other MLA Board members/committees to promote, develop, and enact the organization's goals and mission.

Committee activities may be reviewed at any regular meeting by the MLA Board to ensure these activities are within the scope of MLA's goals and mission.

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

**Budget:**

Budget to be set by the MLA Board annually.

**Additional information:****Calendar of Important Events**

- **January:**
  - **Family Literacy Day: January 27**
- **February:**
  - **Black History Month: February**
  - **Fair Dealing Week: Last week of February**
  - **Freedom to Read Week: Last week of February**
- **May:**
  - **Canadian Children's Book Week: First week of May**
- **June:**
  - **Pride Month: June**
- **September:**
  - **Banned Book Week: Late September - Early October**
  - **Right to Know Week: Week containing September 28**
  - **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: September 30**
- **October:**
  - **Canadian Library Month: October**
  - **Library Worker Day: Third Friday of October**
  - **Canadian School Library Day: Fourth Monday of October**
  - **Open Access Week: Last full week of October**
- **November:**
  - **I Read Canadian Day: November 8**

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

*Terms of Reference revised by the MLA Board on December 21, 2023*