

**Human Rights Commission Submission**  
**Discussion Topic #3**  
**Building Awareness**  
**Submitted October 31, 2017**

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the BC Library Trustees Association (BCLTA). The BCLTA represents the over 700 public library trustees who establish the strategic direction and provide governance for public libraries across BC.

In regards to “the call for more public education on human rights as a crucial consideration when building the new commission”, we believe that our association, public library boards, and the public libraries we serve, play a critical role in public education for all.

Public libraries are our communities’ only fee-free centres for lifelong learning, for knowledge exchange, and for sharing experiences and stories that inform and influence our communities. Regardless of whether we share these ideas through books, films, music, or through physical objects or digital platforms, public libraries ensure that everyone has access to information and culture, as well as opportunities to create and share knowledge and ideas.

Public libraries have been, and continue to be, a force for equity, hope, and social and economic development across this country and here in BC. In addition to providing strong collections and programming, libraries across this province are leading the way on matters of justice such as the work library staff are doing towards trans\* inclusion and the operationalization of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action.

Public libraries make a positive difference to how British Columbians connect with, and experience, all the advantages of living in this province. As such, public libraries, working with the Human Rights Commission, are in a unique position to support and provide public education on human rights.

BCLTA Resolution on the Rights of Transgender, Gender Variant, and Two-Spirited People  
<http://bclta.ca/resolution-on-the-rights-of-transgender-gender-variant-and-two-spirited-people>

BCLTA June 2017 *Bulletin* focus on Public Libraries and Reconciliation.  
<http://bclta.ca/emails/bulletin/?id=138>

Thank you,  
Babs Kelly (ED, BCLTA)