

## MEMO / NOTE DE SERVICE

**To / Destinataire** OPL Board Members / Membre du C.A. de la BPO

**From / Expéditeur** Sonia Bebbington, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Librarian / Directrice Générale et bibliothécaire en chef

**Subject / Objet** Bill C-15: Impacts on OPL Services / Effets du projet de loi C-15 sur les services de la BPO **Date:** December 12, 2025 / 12 décembre 2025

The purpose of this memo is to provide the Board with an overview of OPL's recent advocacy efforts related to Bill C-15.

Bill C-15 (Budget 2025 Implementation Act No. 1) proposes amendments to the *Canada Post Corporation Act*, repealing the definition of library material in subsection 2(1) of the *Canada Post Corporation Act* and adding a new section (16.1 and 16.2) allowing the Canada Post Corporation to “establish rates of postage and the terms and conditions related to the payment of the postage. In establishing rates of postage, the Corporation must have regard to whether they are fair and reasonable and consistent so far as possible with providing a revenue that, together with any revenue from other sources, is sufficient to defray the costs incurred by the Corporation in carrying out its objects under this Act.”

While the recent amendments to Bill C-15 do not directly eliminate the reduced rate of postage for library materials, as was proposed in an earlier version of the Bill, they do eliminate the legislative protections for this rate, permitting Canada Post to set rates and opening up the possibility of increased rates particularly to provide revenue to defray costs. If rates are increased, this would have a significant negative impact on libraries across the country, including OPL.

### OPL Context

Interlibrary Loan (ILL) is a service offered by libraries to facilitate the borrowing and lending of materials between different library systems. Interlibrary Loans reduce costs and space requirements for public libraries, while ensuring people have access to resources they need. This service operates through a cooperative system that bridges the gap between users' information needs and resource limitations.

While many libraries, including OPL, sometimes charge clients for ILL items, these fees are minimal. Increased rates for postage would put OPL and other libraries in the position of

continuing a fiscally untenable service or increasing fees for clients, thereby decreasing access to material for many clients who may not be able to afford to participate in ILL.

Either of these scenarios will have a negative impact on the more than 260, 000 active OPL clients who rely on our services to meet their information needs. In 2025 alone, ILL was used by 2,200 OPL clients; this year, on behalf of those clients, OPL borrowed from 487 library systems. In service of Canadian library clients in other cities and towns, OPL has further lent material to 342 different library systems in 2025. All told, these figures illustrate how ILL services represent significant savings for Canadians and allow OPL and other library systems to provide vital services to their clients.

## **Advocacy Actions**

The OPL Chief Librarian and CEO signed the advocacy letter sent by the National Network for Equitable Library Service (NNELS) and the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) on December 10, 2025.

Individual letters co-signed by the OPLB Chair and Chief Librarian / CEO were also sent on December 12, 2025 to:

- Hon. Joël Lightbound, Minister of Government Transformation, Public Works and Procurement (requesting urgent meeting and withdrawal of amendment) (copy provided to OPL Board members);
- Hon. Larry Smith, Chair of Senate Standing Committee on Transport and Communications (request to appear before committee); and,
- Hon. Karina Gould and Kelly McCauley, Chairs of House Finance and Government Operations Committees (request to appear).

## **Next steps**

OPL has provided Board members with a letter template that can be used to write to their respective MP. Staff will provide further updates to the Board when new information regarding this issue becomes available.

For any questions, please feel free to contact me.

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