

**AGENDA ITEM DOC 8**

**Subject: CFLA Election Strategy**

**Date: March 11, 2019**

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**Prepared for: FOPL Board of Directors’ Meeting, March 22, 2019**

Attached is the draft CFLA/FCAB Federal Election Strategy for comment:

Hello to OLA, FOPL, and AMPLO:

As the Ontario members of CFLA-FCAB I’m reaching out to you and your Boards for feedback on our advocacy with federal parties in advance of the fall 2019 election. We retain Impact Public Affairs as out government relations firm and they are eager to begin putting forth the asks of the Canadian library community with all parties, with MPs, and by creating a toolkit including microsite for our community to engage in advocating in the lead up to the election.

Their strong advice is for us to limit the number of asks to 2 or 3 and we have begun drafting a strategy on 3 issues. These are:

         A proposed $50-million Library infrastructure upgrade fund

         An additional $30 million annually to continue to expand the availability of accessible format reading material for Canadians with perceptual disabilities

         Continuing to advocate for Fair Use exemptions for libraries and their users in ongoing copyright law review.

We are short on time but want to see if members are comfortable with this. One other issue has come up which is our continuing advocacy on Indigenous issues, specifically the ability of libraries to deepen cultural and linguistic vitality. However, Impact’s advice is that federal parties are focussed on much more fundamental issues surrounding things like water quality, nation-to-nation relations, and education and child welfare. However, it has been pointed out that proposed federal legislation to strengthen Indigenous languages falls short in funding, and libraries’ ability to collect material in these languages is highly constrained. (2019 is the UN Year of Indigenous Languages).

Please let me know if you or your Boards have any comments or concerns about this choice as we hope to give final go-ahead to Impact in short measure.

Have a good weekend,

Todd Kyle