CAO

Subject: FW: #eBooks for All - Municipal Support Requested

From: Linda Duplessis <LDuplessis@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca>
Sent: November 18, 2019 2:39 PM
Subject: #eBooks for All - Municipal Support Requested

To Municipal CAOs:
On November 1st I sent out the message below asking for support for libraries in their efforts to receive fair treatment from eBook publishers. I'm afraid that I did not clearly explain how municipalities could respond. Please note that there are two ways that you can show support:

1. Respond to the American Library Association's online petition at https://ebooksforall.org/. This can be done individually by any/all municipal councillors and employees.
2. Pass a motion of support at your Council meeting. There are templates at the bottom of my original message as well as a link to background information.
3. Please forward the motion on to me and I will make sure it gets to the Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC). CULC will post your municipality's name along with other Canadian municipalities who have indicated their support.

Thank you to Adele from the Town of Falher who followed up after the Town passed a motion of support and asked me to clarify the next steps.

Linda

ORIGINAL MESSAGE – NOV. 1, 2019

Good afternoon, everyone. At the October 26 meeting of the Peace Library System Executive Committee, the Committee discussed the challenges that libraries are facing from publishers to acquire eBooks for patrons. As an example, today Macmillan US has started an embargo that limits access to new releases in eBook form. TRAC, which is a partnership of four library systems and over 170 libraries, will only be able to purchase one title of a new release and then must wait for 8 weeks to purchase additional copies! The title is not simultaneous use; one person checks it out at a time, so there will be a long wait list.

Behind the scenes, library organizations are trying to work with publishers to find a fair way to offer eBook service to patrons. In the meantime, an online petition has been set up to put pressure on Macmillan. Katherine Wiebe, Assistant Director, sent out the message below to our member libraries and boards, asking for them to fill out the online petition. The link is in Katherine's email. We ask for your Council's support for the petition as well as a motion of support. We will be asking the Peace Library Board to pass a motion of support at its November 30 meeting.

How municipal councils can get involved. Please see http://www.culc.ca/knowledge/econtent/ for the background and initiatives, as well as to see which municipalities have already passed a motion of support. CULC (Canadian Urban Libraries Council) has partnered with the US ULC (Urban Libraries Council) and the ALA (American Library Association), so the voice is becoming strong and unified.

Here are motions passed by some Canadian municipalities [TEMPLATES]:

Edmonton: 6.4 http://sirepub.edmonton.ca/sirepub/mtgviewer.aspx?meetid=2313&doctype=minutes&itemid=75411

Mississauga:
16.3: https://www7.mississauga.ca/documents/committees/council/2019/2016_06_19_Council_Agenda.pdf
Ottawa: Reports #2, http://app05.ottawa.ca/sirepub/mtgviewer.aspx?meetid=7556&doctype=agenda&itemid=388549
Toronto: Ex7.30 http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.EX7.30

Thank you for your support.

Linda
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Connecting Libraries, People and Resources

From: Katherine Wiebe
Sent: November 1, 2019 8:18 AM
Subject: #eBooksForAll - consider signing the petition
Importance: High

Good morning everyone,

You may wish to make your library staff and patrons aware of an online petition to consider signing in support of fair and timely access to eBooks and eAudiobooks through libraries. The big 5 publishers are making it increasingly difficult for libraries to acquire and retain sufficient copies to serve patrons.

Please see the link at https://ebooksforall.org/ that helps to explain the situation to patrons (see the FAQs) and provides access to the online petition, which is very easy to fill in and submit.

Today, November 1st, Macmillan US, one of the big 5, starts an embargo where TRAC will be able to purchase only 1 copy of their new releases, and then have to wait 8 weeks after the publication date before we are permitted to purchase further copies. In the meantime, patrons may become quite frustrated to see that there is only one copy in all of TRAC (which serves 170+ libraries and approximately 285,000 cardholders) ands holds pile up, because only one person can borrow the copy at a time.

The petition is specifically aimed at this new policy of Macmillan's, however, your and your patrons' participation in the petition will speak to publishers generally, regarding pricing and metered access where we have to keep re-purchasing titles - as they expire after so many uses rather than being able to perpetually owning the copies we purchase, and to the much higher prices libraries have to pay than does the general public to purchase titles.

Thank you for considering the petition and for sharing the information with your patrons.

Katherine
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