Letter to Local School Board

Dear [School Board representatives]

[Name of Library] has always been committed to supporting educators and students of [Name of School Board]. Now, thanks to a new partnership with CELA, the Centre for Equitable Library Access, [Name of Library] is able to offer even more resources to support students with print disabilities.

CELA provides 540,000 titles in accessible formats to [Name of Library] patrons with low vision or blindness, physical disabilities that prevent people from manipulating print books and learning disabilities like dyslexia. The collection includes materials for children and young adults, best sellers, fiction and non-fiction titles in both French and English and a special focus on Canadian authors and award-winning titles. The CELA Collection also includes 150 popular magazines and 50 national, international and regional newspapers. All that is needed to register for free access to this material is a [Name of Library] card. A public library card is all that is needed to register.

CELA also offers a special Educators Access account which allows teachers and other educational professionals to access materials on behalf of their students with print disabilities. CELA makes the effort to provide classroom appropriate materials by supporting programs like Forest of Reading, TD Summer Reading Club and Canada Reads, as well as major awards like the Governor General’s Awards for Literature and the Giller Scotia Prize. Educators register for their account through CELA <https://educators.celalibrary.ca/>

CELA resources can be read using a variety of technology and devices. Free and low-cost apps are available for iOS and Android devices and materials offered for free through CELA’s partner Bookshare, the world’s largest accessible library, can also be read using programs like Google Read and Write. Educators are welcome to learn more through free webinars offered on the CELA website. More information about Bookshare services and materials, which are free for those with a CELA account, can be found by visiting Bookshare.org.

Please help us spread the word about this wonderful new free resource to your teachers and colleagues as well as parents of your students with print disabilities. More information about CELA and the other accessibility services we offer can be found on our website [library website accessibility link] or by visiting CELA’s website directly at www.celalibrary.ca

If you would like more information or to arrange a presentation to staff please do not hesitate to contact [name of library contact or CELA member services]