

TILMA (Amended)

The British Columbia Library Association passed a resolution opposing the Trade, Investment, and Labour Mobility Agreement at their AGM in April 2007.

Whereas the British Columbia and Alberta provincial governments have signed the Trade, Investment, and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) effective April 1, 2007, and for municipalities April 1, 2009, without any public consultation or legislative debate;

And Whereas TILMA has been justified by the governments as removing interprovincial barriers to trade but is analogous to the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI);

And Whereas no government entities in those provinces can maintain or establish new measures that restrict or impair trade, investment or labour mobility unless the province can show the restriction or impairment is exempted or justified under TILMA;

And Whereas even those areas exempt from TILMA must use the "least restrictive" regulations thereby hampering local autonomy;

And Whereas there are very few if any measures that could not be interpreted as restrictive including land use planning and zoning, environmental regulations, the Agricultural Land Reserve and services in competition with the private sector which could include health and education services and such library services as reference services, loaning of CD's and DVD's and even book loans;

And Whereas TILMA reduces the autonomy of representative institutions to make decisions and provide services in the public good

And Whereas a dispute resolution procedure, outside of the judicial system, permits individuals and business entities to challenge government measures and if successful be awarded monetary damages of up to \$5 million for each successful challenge unless the measure is eliminated or otherwise changed to conform to TILMA;

And Whereas the BCLA has previously passed resolutions against the MAI and the World Trade Organization General Agreement on Trade in Services (WTO GATS) because of the primacy given to investment and trade over public services and the public good.

Be It Resolved that this BCLA AGM oppose the TILMA;

And Be It Further Resolved that BCLA communicate this decision and the reasons for it to the BC government and the BC opposition party;

And Be It Resolved that BCLA send a copy of this resolution and background information to Library Boards within British Columbia encouraging them to pass a similar resolution and urging their municipalities to also adopt the resolution.

And Be It Further Resolved that BCLA send a copy of this resolution to the Alberta Library Association encouraging them to pass a similar resolution.