ULC Executive Board Statement
Going Forward from the Pandemic

The coronavirus outbreak is rapidly transforming 21st-century life and the strong community leadership of our libraries is more essential now than ever.

The ULC Executive Board takes great pride in the inspiring ways that ULC libraries are stepping up during this crisis to help community members safeguard their health, stay connected and maintain stability in their lives. These efforts are a true testament to our membership’s enduring creativity, agility and deep dedication to the citizens we serve. However, the challenges of addressing COVID-19 and its impact on our communities are too great for any of our libraries to take on independently.

There is an immediate and urgent need for our libraries to join forces, share ideas and resources and coordinate our actions to catalyze our collective ability to support every individual during this crisis and on the path ahead. Fortunately, this is what ULC libraries do best. Our membership includes North America’s most innovative libraries, and for nearly 50 years we have united as a think and action tank to take on the most pressing issues of our times.

We are now asking each of you to join ULC and your peers in a new collaborative effort designed to mobilize our membership’s capacity at a greater scope and scale than ever before. Starting this month, ULC will begin launching member working groups to tackle key issues and challenges, including:

- Implementing the Leaders Library Card Challenge to ensure library support for local students and educators.
- Partnering with schools to creatively provide resources, services and programming for students’ virtual learning.
- Aggressively addressing the digital divide by developing strategies to ensure community-wide access to the internet and technology.
- Helping small businesses and entrepreneurs navigate and apply for newly available federal, state/province and local resources while identifying new online business opportunities.
- Identifying the impact of COVID-19 on race and social equity and developing means for addressing that impact.
- Redefining the library’s role in the post-pandemic world and raising awareness of that role with the public, school, business and government leaders.

The leadership and active engagement of every ULC member has never been more vital. This is our time to work together to elevate the impact of public libraries as essential and transformative community institutions.
Thank you for your continued dedication to ULC’s mission. Your work is making a real difference in shaping a brighter future for millions of North Americans.

Sincerely,

Members of the ULC Executive Board

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