



The Honourable Tina Beaudry-Mellor

Member of the Legislative Assembly · Regina University · Saskatchewan · Canada

March 31, 2017

Thank you for your letter of March 29th.

While we recognize the important work that local libraries do for our communities, difficult decisions had to be made to meet the fiscal challenges our province is facing. The revised grant represents a 2.75% reduction in the Regina Public Library's operating budget. It is important to note provincial grants do not fund local branch operations, which are the responsibility of the municipality.

Since 2007, library transactions have dropped by 1.6 million and library cards by 175,000. There are opportunities to combine resources and we encourage exploring those ideas. For example, there are five libraries along the 35 kilometers between Martinsville and Langham near Saskatoon. Please also note the regional libraries have accumulated substantial surpluses, including:

- Chinook: \$1,625,399
- Southeast: \$2,581,223
- Lakeland: \$1,118,587
- Wapiti: \$2,882,080
- Palliser: \$2,124,749
- Wheatland: \$2,805,972
- Parkland: \$1,223,420

It is our hope that local libraries will work with their municipalities and school divisions to find new ways of delivering services. Our focus is on supporting things such as electronic resources, community net, and interlibrary loans.

It is important to know your perspective and I appreciate you taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Tina Beaudry-Mellor, MLA

cc: Premier Brad Wall, Hon. Don Morgan, Minister of Education

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