



To support and represent trustees in advancing public libraries

April 18, 2017

The Honourable Don Morgan
Minister of Education, Government of Saskatchewan

via email: minister.edu@gov.sk.ca

Dear Minister Morgan,

The BC Library Trustees Association (BCLTA) is deeply concerned by the cuts to library funding in the Saskatchewan 2017 Budget. The complete elimination of provincial operational funding for the Regina and Saskatoon public library systems and the 58% reduction in funding for seven of the eight Saskatchewan regional library is drastic and short-sighted. The BCLTA represents approximately 700 community volunteers and local government officials who govern public libraries across British Columbia, and we know that public libraries make a positive difference to people's daily lives as they work, learn, access services, and build community. These cuts will have long-lasting and negative consequences for the people of Saskatchewan.

We appreciate that during times of economic downturn, governments are faced with difficult decisions. We ask the government of Saskatchewan to reflect on the importance of public libraries and the value they bring to the resiliency, health, and social and economic development of communities. Saskatchewan libraries are cost-effective and deliver excellent value for the government's investment. The Saskatchewan library community is known and respected for its innovative thinking, commitment to equity, and quality of service. The development and success of the Saskatchewan Information and Library Services Consortium and the Multitype Library Board demonstrate the importance of outstanding library development and library service to the people of Saskatchewan.

We urge the government of Saskatchewan to reconsider these cuts to public libraries. Public libraries are of critical importance to the future of Saskatchewan and now is the time to strengthen public libraries as valued and accessible places of learning, community development, and civic engagement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Donna Macdonald'.

Donna Macdonald, President BCLTA

Copies:

Michael Shires, President, Saskatchewan Library Association
Lorna Black, President, Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association
The Honourable Brad Wall, Premier of Saskatchewan
Trent Wotherspoon, MLA, Leader of the Opposition