



# FRASER LAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Serving the residents of Fraser Lake, Fort Fraser,  
Endako & Regional District D

Box 520 Fraser Lake, BC V0J 1S0  
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Hon. Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid  
Minister of Education and  
Minister Responsible for Early Learning and Literacy  
East Annex  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

August 4, 2009

Dear Dr. MacDiarmid,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Fraser Lake Public Library Association Board regarding our concerns over the possible freeze or cuts to provincial per capita funding, and other grants which are necessary to the viability of our Library.

The Fraser Lake Public Library serves the residents of Fraser Lake, Fort Fraser, Endako and Stellat'en & Nadleh Whut'en First Nations. As the closest Provincial Service Centre is over 60 kilometers away, "Technology Grants" give our residents access to Provincial programs and agencies through the Internet at the Library.

One of our more important programmes is "Books for Babies". In conjunction with our local health unit, every new born and their family is given a "Welcome to the Library" gift bag. The bag includes a number of materials encouraging early literacy as well as offering parents the opportunity to raise their babies in a healthy, strong, loving environment right from the start as all the informational books they need to do so are free at their local library.

Our operating grant of approx. \$11,000 is used to maintain and update our collection. We make sure every dollar goes as far as it can but we still cannot always meet the needs of our patrons. However, "Inter-Library Loan" monies help us provide access to more material which they appreciate so greatly. We are also able to loan our books to other Libraries.

The "Equity Grant" has helped us provide excellent programmes for children, youth and adults. Some of these are the "Summer Reading Club", author visits, "Young Reader's Choice Award" reading programme as well as many others.

"BC OneCard" has been well worth the funding as patrons throughout the Province now have broadened access to materials.

Funding to the Library Federations have allowed us to share and rotate collections as well as share costs for other Library programmes which we could not otherwise offer. We have become more efficient in that rotating collections means a greater variety of materials.

Smaller Libraries are expected to provide all the programmes that are available in larger urban centres. Fraser Lake Public Library has an annual budget under a \$100,000 with Provincial grants making up about 20-25 %. If the Provincial operating grant and/or other support grants are cut or discontinued it is going to make it very difficult for us to serve our patrons at even a basic level of service.

Libraries are one of the few places that all social barriers are non-existent because everyone is welcome and in these economic times when more people than ever are turning to their public library for support the funding we receive is more important than ever.

Therefore, if the Province of British Columbia is serious in its quest to make our Province the most literate jurisdiction; I would ask that you continue heading in the right direction by funding British Columbia Libraries through the Public Library Services Branch at least at its' current levels.

Thank-you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. Nicholson', written in a cursive style.

William Nicholson,  
Fraser Lake Public Library Board Chair

cc:

The Right Honourable Gordon Campbell, Premier  
Jacqueline van Dyk, Director, Public Library Services Branch  
Errin Morrison, Executive Director, BC Library Trustees Association