

COPY



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HAZELTON *District Public* LIBRARY

August 5, 2009

The Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia
Box 9014
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B. C.
V8W 9E1

Re: Province of BC Financial Support for Libraries

Dear Premier Campbell:

We are writing from the public library in Hazelton. It serves a population of 6537, spread between 13 communities, 8 of which are First Nations villages. We are writing to ask that the public libraries of British Columbia not be forgotten or pushed aside at budget time.

The annual Operating Grant is really important to our ability to remain open. We use it to purchase books and supplies. The Equity grants provide funding for outreach programs and keep our computer equipment working and available to patrons who do not have access to the Internet at home.

Other provincially supported programs enable our library to provide services such as InterLibrary Loans, On-line Databases, BC OneCard, and Every School Child a Card. Without your support, a small library such as ours would not be able to continue these programs. Library patrons would be disappointed that the services they have come to expect, and which have been widely advertised throughout the province, will not be available.

The annual grant to the North Coast Library Federation is enabling seven public libraries to work together to provide large print books, family literacy bags, multilingual books, and on-line databases, which, as individual libraries we would not be able to afford.

Much of our library funding is through the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine and the Village of Hazelton, however, their grants do not cover many of the programs and services that our patrons rely on.

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When planning the new budget, we ask that you take into consideration the work that has been accomplished by libraries in general and the Hazelton District Public Library specifically, toward furthering the Province of BC's promise to make BC the best educated and most literate jurisdiction in North America.

Sincerely

Fred Roisum
Chair
Board of Trustees

- c.c. The Honourable Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Education and
Minister Responsible for Early Learning and Literacy
Doug Donaldson, MLA Bulkley-Stikine
Jacqueline van Dyke, Director, Public Library Services Branch
Ken Cooley, President, British Columbia Library Association
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