



CITY OF PRINCE GEORGE  
BRITISH COLUMBIA  
ESTABLISHED A.D. 1915

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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August 14, 2009

Honourable Gordon Campbell  
Premier, Province of British Columbia  
P.O. Box 9041, STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, B.C., V8V 9E1

Dear Premier Campbell

During the August 10, 2009 regular meeting, Prince George City Council passed a resolution to provide a letter expressing concern that the Provincial Government may not continue funding public libraries to the extent previously committed and to the requirement of future direct increases.

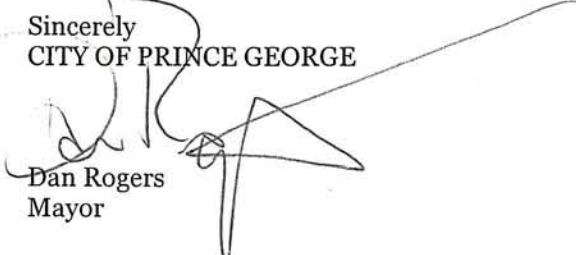
The Prince George Public Library is a valuable social agency that works with schools, literacy groups, families, and social development agencies. Our library is the anchor point for other libraries in the north for the OneCard program, is a net contributor to AskAway, and leading coordinator of provincial "Library without Walls" programs in northern B.C. Without continued funding, the library will likely have to withdraw from these programs. This would not only affect local services but would have detrimental implications for other libraries throughout the north.

If the provincial operating and program funding is not received, the financial impact on the library will be approximately \$273,000. The Prince George Public Library has already delivered programs for three-quarters of the fiscal year. As funding cuts will be compressed into the final quarter, the library will have to consider drastic measures such as cuts to programs and services, and / or a significant reduction in operating hours to offset this shortfall.

Council does recognize that, as a result of the current economic conditions, your government will have difficult decisions to make during the upcoming budget discussions. We ask you to consider that cuts to provincial library services will have a particularly negative impact for individuals living in rural, economically challenged communities as, ironically, library services are more critical during recessionary times since the unemployed are seeking its services by way of job support, internet service and access to government information.

We cannot stress enough the importance of maintaining provincial support for our libraries, and we urge you to continue this critical funding.

Sincerely  
CITY OF PRINCE GEORGE

  
Dan Rogers  
Mayor

cc Honourable Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Education, Minister Responsible for  
Early Learning and Literacy