

August 14, 2009
File No. 0230.20 and 7960.01

FAX NO. 250.387.0087

The Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia
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Victoria BC V8V 9E1

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Dear Premier Campbell:

Reference: **Grant Funding for Public Libraries in BC**

At the regular meeting held on August 11, 2009, Fort St. John City Council resolved to write and voice great concern regarding the current freeze on provincial grants to libraries, as well as the potential cuts to library funding in the upcoming provincial budget.

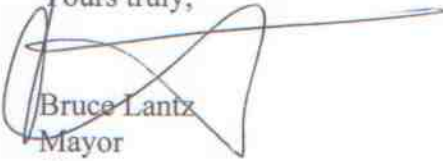
Libraries across British Columbia cannot afford to lose this funding. Since grants have been forthcoming for many years, libraries have come to depend on them. We acknowledge the current economic climate and the tough decisions facing the provincial government in the upcoming budget. However, it is the provincial government that has legislated how libraries are created and how they will work together to create a province wide resource for every citizen in British Columbia. Provincial grants support interlibrary loans; the Union Catalogue; online reference services; online resources such as magazines and encyclopedias; federations (e.g.: Interlink) delivering books between libraries, library programming and OneCard for libraries throughout BC. These essential programs strengthen and connect the resource base of libraries across British Columbia and they will cease to exist if grants that support them are cut.

Reference: **Grant Funding for Public Libraries in BC**

The loss of this funding will dramatically regress the vision of "Libraries Without Walls: The World Within Your Reach". This vision seeks to create communities open to new ideas with learning and personal development at the heart of every endeavor. This vision depends on your committed support and continued funding will ensure British Columbia remains the most literate place in the world.

Fort St. John City Council believes that libraries are a fundamental investment in community, and that learning and literacy open doors of opportunity for minds hungry for knowledge and adventure. Funding cuts will profoundly impact every library in British Columbia and we respectfully request that the Province reconsiders the current freeze and potential budget cuts to public libraries.

Yours truly,



Bruce Lantz
Mayor
/jc

Copies The Honorable Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid
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