



Hudson's Hope Public Library

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The Honourable Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid
Minister of Education and
Minister Responsible for Early Learning and Literacy
East Annex, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

August 6, 2009

Dear Minister Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid:

RE: Provincial Grants to BC Public Libraries

The Provincial Government's decision to freeze library grants will hugely impact all libraries in the province. We are a small rural library, which depends on these grants to meet our Mission Statement of promoting and encouraging lifelong learning at an equitable level for all our citizens.

Any cuts to funding will most definitely impact our service to the public and therefore influence the challenge by this Government to make BC the most literate province in Canada by 2010.

The provincial government legislates how the libraries are created, and governed. In the past few years the government's has implemented province wide initiatives which have enabled our library to expand the resources, and offer services that we would only dream of having in a small community. This only happened because of the grant funding the provincial government offered. Cuts in funding will mean cuts in services.

This province has been innovative and recognized throughout Canada as being progressive and innovative in their support of libraries. The resources such as the online reference services, OneCard for all libraries in BC, Interlibrary Loans, and the union catalog to mention just a few of the successful projects which have been well received and used throughout the library community. We look to the provincial funding to support these successful endeavors.

It is our hope that the Provincial Government will continue to fund libraries at the existing levels, which will be beneficial to all British Columbians.

Yours truly,

Thomas Ferguson
Chair
Hudson's Hope Library Board

C: Premier Gordon Campbell
Jacqueline van Dyk, Director Public Library Services
Pat Pimm, MLA Peace River North
Andy Ackerman, President BCLTA