

## Burns Lake Public Library

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The Honourable Gordon Campbell  
Premier of British Columbia  
Box 9014, STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

July 28, 2009

RE: Provincial Funding to Public Libraries

Dear Premier Campbell,

As a trustee on the Burns Lake Public Library Board, I am very concerned about the current situation which has our library and those throughout the province wondering if we will receive provincial funding grants.

Rural libraries such as ours face the challenge of providing equitable access to information on par with centrally located libraries. Provincially supported programs such as interlibrary loans, the reference service Askaway, online databases, and BC OneCard help bridge this geographical discrepancy to allow for equitable access to information.

Literacy grants available through provincial funding have enabled our library to offer a variety of reading and literacy programs, such as literacy kits, a special first nations collection and assistance for a summer student when other grants were unavailable. Should these grants not be available these programs would be put in jeopardy.

Burns Lake Public Library receives annual funding through the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako and the Village of Burns Lake. This operational grant does not cover the programs, outreach and services that our patrons have come to expect and rely on. The Regional District of Bulkley Nechako and the Village of Burns Lake face increasing budget challenges in the current economy and will not be able to cover any additional support for our library should provincial funding be cut. I urge you to consider the enormous loss to our community should our library not receive the provincial funding it has come to rely on, and to remember your promise to make British Columbia "the best educated and most literate jurisdiction in North America".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Filipkowski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Filipkowski, Trustee  
Burns Lake Public Library

cc: The Honourable Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Education and Minister Responsible for  
Early Learning and Literacy  
Andy Akerman, President, British Columbia Library Trustees Association  
Elaine Wiebe, Library Director, Burns Lake Public Library  
Amy Dash, Board Chair, Burns Lake Public Library