



Kootenay Library Federation

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Hon. Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid
Minister of Education and
Minister Responsible for Early Learning and Literacy
East Annex
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC - V8V 1X4
24 July 2008

Dear Dr. MacDiarmid,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Kootenay Library Federation and the public libraries of the Federation, I write to encourage you to maintain provincial funding for library services and programs.

For the past several years, the overarching direction for public library service has been, and continues toward, coordinated programs across the province which improves efficiencies and equitable access to service. Library boards and staff have embraced these directions knowing that this better serves the citizens of our province and our society. Provincial funding enables libraries to participate in this direction.

In our communities, public libraries are tangible evidence that our society supports citizens to empower themselves with knowledge and through self improvement. Public libraries are open to every member of our society and the service therein is the same for each individual. Libraries are key access points to literacy services for new immigrants. Through programs such as the Summer Reading Club and youth and children's programming, libraries enable our young people to retain and improve skills gained in our schools. Library staff are trained to assist our citizens access reliable information. They help people seeking training and employment opportunities, or in learning how to assist themselves or family members with an illness. Library federations, like the Kootenay Library Federation enable public libraries to work together effectively and to achieve efficiencies in serving our communities.

Public libraries are the accessible, front line workers for Premier Campbell's aspiration of making the Province of British Columbia the most literate jurisdiction on the continent. Library staff, trustees and volunteers understand the limitation that poor literacy

skills impose on the individual and on our society. Public libraries work effectively and efficiently to assist people to overcome this barrier.

The members of the Kootenay Library Federation believe that the people of British Columbia value equitable access to library service that meets the needs of all our residents.

Yours truly,

Jane Hayes,
Chair, Board of Trustees,
Kootenay Library Federation

Copies to:
The Honourable Gordon Campbell,
Premier of British Columbia

Jacqueline van Dyk,
Director, Public Library Services Branch

Andy Ackerman,
Chair, BC Library Trustees Association