



City of Kimberley

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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

Dear Dr. MacDiarmid,

On behalf of the citizens of Kimberley, I write to encourage you to maintain provincial funding for public library services and programs.

Provincial direction for public library services has emphasized the importance of coordinated programs for libraries throughout B.C. Our municipal Library has embraced these directions knowing that this better serves the citizens of our community, our province and our society. Provincial funding is essential to these initiatives.

Public libraries are open to every member of our society for the purpose of encouraging literacy and education as well as providing access to information. Thereby, they are a means of reaching Premier Campbell's objective of making the Province of British Columbia the most literate and best educated population on the continent. Library staff, trustees and volunteers especially, understand the limitation that poor literacy skills impose on the individual, our communities and on our society. Public libraries work effectively and efficiently to assist people to overcome this barrier.

Recently others, notably U.S. President Barack Obama, have strongly emphasized the importance of literacy and learning in order to remain competitive in the 21st Century.

The City of Kimberley will continue to fund the library to the best of our ability, but without the continued support from the Provincial Government, key services will inevitably be interrupted or discontinued.

Sincerely,

Jim Ogilvie
Mayor