



June 17, 2009

The Honourable Gordon Campbell  
Premier of British Columbia  
PO Box 9041  
STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Campbell:

We are writing to request a meeting with you to discuss our serious concerns with provincial funding for public libraries in British Columbia. As you may or may not know, our libraries have not received their 2009 grants from the Province. Libraries across our province use this funding to support a myriad of cooperative programs and services – from interlibrary loans to collaborative reference, from leveraging cooperative purchasing to province-wide reciprocal borrowing through the BC OneCard.

While we are fully aware of the fiscal challenges you and your government are facing, we feel that any reduction of support in these key areas will not only significantly affect the operations of all libraries, but will in fact be a step backward in achieving your government's literacy goals. Any savings to be had from short-term cutbacks will only result in higher long-term costs – both financial and social.

We would like to meet with you and with the Minister responsible, Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid, as soon as possible to review the significance of provincial funding to the invaluable province-wide library services enjoyed by all citizens of BC. In this meeting we will clearly outline why we believe this to be such a critical issue.

Errin Morrison, Executive Director of the British Columbia Library Trustees Association, will be in touch with your office and will work with your staff to coordinate a meeting with our delegation.

Sincerely,

**Andy Ackerman**, President  
British Columbia Library Trustees Association

**Ken Cooley**, President  
British Columbia Library Association

**Ursula Brigl**, President  
Association of BC Public Library Directors

**Mayor Peter Fassbender**, Chair  
Fraser Valley Regional Library Board

**Chair Robert Hobson**, President  
Union of British Columbia Municipalities

CC: The Honourable Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Education  
Jacqueline van Dyk, Director, Public Library Services Branch