



July 22, 2009

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

Dear Premier Campbell:

On June 17, the Presidents of BC's three major library associations, the Chair of the Fraser Valley Regional Library Board and the President of the Union of BC Municipalities wrote to request a summer meeting with you and with the Minister of Education to discuss our serious concerns with provincial funding for public libraries due to the non-receipt of annual per capita grants. A meeting has now been scheduled with Minister MacDiarmid for the afternoon of Tuesday, July 28th in Victoria.

While we are pleased to have this opportunity to meet with the Minister, we must nevertheless advise that we will be contacting the media to help us inform the public that provincial per capita grants to libraries have been frozen. Libraries count on these grants to support essential cooperative programs and services, such as interlibrary loans, collaborative reference, cooperative purchasing, and province-wide reciprocal borrowing. Library budgets are passed early in the year, meaning that this freeze has serious implications for public library operations for the remainder of this fiscal year – not to mention next. We feel it is our obligation to inform library patrons of the dire situation facing public libraries in BC, and to that end we will be issuing a full press release and backgrounder to both the major provincial and local media next Monday, July 27th.

We expect our press package to be ready this Friday, July 24th and will ensure that a copy is forwarded to your office and to Minister MacDiarmid in preparation for our meeting next week.

Sincerely,

Andy Ackerman
President, BCLTA

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