



# REGIONAL DISTRICT OF EAST KOOTENAY

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File: Shh 065 008

August 12, 2009

~~The Honourable Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid  
Minister of Education  
and Minister Responsible for Early Learning and Literacy  
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2~~

Honourable Minister:

**Re: Public Library Funding**

At their August 7, 2009 meeting, the RDEK Board of Directors resolved to send letters to both yourself and the Premier stressing the importance of maintaining provincial support for public libraries.

The Provincial Government has legislated how libraries are created and how they will work together to create a province-wide resource for the citizens of BC. Provincial funding pays for the cooperative programs that create the provincial resource and provides equity for very small rural and remote libraries to have equitable access to resources across BC. Public libraries have received provincial grants for many years and have come to depend on them. If the grants are cut, programs such as interlibrary loans, online reference services and resources, and literacy programming, which are currently funded through provincial grants, will cease to exist.

Library programs give every BC resident access to the entire collection and resources of all BC libraries. It is imperative that provincial support for public libraries be maintained. We understand the state of the economy and the somewhat difficult financial situation the government is faced with; however, libraries are an essential service to all age groups in every community in this province. They help with ensuring that our citizens are literate and employable and provide a haven in times of economic difficulty.

We strongly urge you to maintain funding for our public libraries; a precious resource to all residents of British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Norman Walter  
Chair

✓pc: BC Library Trustees Association

Resolution 40887

MUNICIPALITIES

CITIES: Cranbrook, Fernie, Kimberley; DISTRICTS: Elkford, Invermere, Sparwood; VILLAGE: Radium Hot Springs

ELECTORAL AREAS

"A" Elkford Rural, Elk Valley, Fernie Rural, Flathead, Hosmer, Sparwood Rural, West Fernie; "B" Baynes Lake, Elko, Galloway, Grasmere, Jaffray, Newgate, Rosen Lake, Tie Lake; "C" Bull River, Cranbrook Rural, Fort Steele, Mayook, Monroe Lake, Moyie, Wardner, Wycliffe; "E" Kimberley Rural, Meadowbrook, St. Mary's Lake, Sheep Creek, Skookumchuck, Ta Ta Creek, Wisa; "F" Canal Flats, Columere Park, Fairmont Hot Springs, Invermere Rural, Panorama, Windermere; "G" Brisco, Edgewater, Radium Rural, Spillimacheen, Wilmer



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August 12, 2009

~~The Honourable Gordon Campbell  
Premier of British Columbia  
Box 9014 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E1~~

Honourable Premier:

## Re: Public Library Funding

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