

NELSON MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

602 Stanley Street
Nelson, B.C. V1L 1N4
Phone: 250-352-6333
Fax: 250-354-1799

August 10, 2009

The Honorable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia
Box 9014
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Campbell,

The members of the Nelson Municipal Library Board would like to thank you and your government for the key role that you have played in supporting the effectiveness and continued collaboration of libraries in all regions of British Columbia.

During difficult economic times the role that libraries play is increasingly crucial. We offer safe and welcoming environments and provide high-quality and cost-effective programs for children, students, job seekers, employers, immigrants, the marginalized, senior citizens, and those with special needs. Our resources and services play a key role in citizen integration, job training and civic education.

Your continued support is critical and we would like to strongly recommend that British Columbia follow the example of the Alberta and N.W.T. governments who have increased funding to libraries. Nelson's library, like many libraries across North America, is experiencing an unprecedented increase in usage and circulation that is putting pressure on our budget.

As Mayor of Vancouver, you spearheaded the building of a new Vancouver Public Library main branch. In 2004, you initiated the first British Columbia Award for Canadian Non-Fiction. In 2005, the Liberal Party announced that one of its "Great Goals" for our province is to "make B.C. the best educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent." Libraries are cornerstones of literacy. We look forward to working with you to ensure appropriate funding for libraries, so that together we can strive to achieve that goal while continuing to serve B.C. communities when they need us the most.

Yours truly,



Sara Judith
Chairperson
Nelson Municipal Library Board

cc: Honorable Margaret MacDiarmid
Minister of Education

Andy Ackerman, President
British Columbia Library Trustees' Association

MLA Nelson-Creston, Michelle Mungall

MP B.C. Southern Interior, Alex Atamanenko

John Dooley, Mayor, City of Nelson

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www.nelsonlibrary.ca