

BCLTA

To develop and support library trustees to advance public library service in British Columbia.



October 26, 2006

<<Name>> , Board Chair
<<Address>>

Dear <<First Name>>:

We need your help.

Our organization meets with the Minister in person at least once per year to discuss topics of concern to the public library and trustee community. This year's meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 27th.

During our meeting I will be asking the Minister to increase operating grants to public libraries. At a minimum, we will be asking that the \$2 million in one-time funding that was granted in the spring of this year to help individual libraries cover the cost of the OneCard and "every school-age student a card" programs become part of permanent operating grants. This would include any special funding grants to cover "out of service area" or hardship transportation costs associated with these programs.

In addition to making these special 2006 grants permanent, we will also be asking for an increase in the base operating grants to libraries. We are aware that especially in rural communities, the funding situation is extremely tight and it is an on-going challenge to meet the needs of the community with the current level of provincial operating grants.

For BCLTA's efforts to be most effective we need to add the voices of all library boards around BC to our request to the Minister. Therefore, we strongly encourage you to write to the Minister directly and tell her how the 2006 grants have helped your library to make OneCard and a card for "every school-age student" a reality in your community. Additionally, we urge you to take the time to describe how an increase in operating grants would be used in your library. What type of need could these dollars fill – hours, staff, outreach, internet access and training, literacy programs? We need specific and compelling stories from all around the province that not only describe the use of the dollars, but more importantly, talk about the *benefits* for your community.

These letters should preferably be sent to the Minister before November 30th, 2006. (Address information can be found at the end of this letter.) BCLTA would appreciate receiving a copy of your letter so we can use this information in our on-going advocacy efforts with the government.

A copy of the written Brief that we will present to the Minister during this meeting can be found on our website www.bclta.org – go to the "Advocacy" tab and click on "BCLTA's Advocacy Work".

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Thank you for your participation and support.

Sincerely,



Lawrence Lavender
President - BCLTA

Address information

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