



October 7, 2009

Hon. Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid
Minister of Education and
Minister Responsible for Early Learning and Literacy
East Annex, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Email: Margaret.Macdiarmid.mla@leg.bc.ca

Dear Minister MacDiarmid:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with our delegation to discuss issues of importance to the public library sector last week; and for attending and speaking at our annual BC Libraries Reception the following evening.

We very much appreciate the opportunity to share with you our concerns regarding library funding challenges in the current economic climate. As you know, it is our collective hope and expectation that these challenges will be overcome as the provincial financial picture improves. Indeed, we look forward to restored and enhanced library funding in the years to come...funding which will enable us to continue developing partnerships, cooperative initiatives, and economies of scale that foster better library service and save money in the long-term. The 2003 Strategic Plan for Public Libraries was a visionary document that, with adequate provincial financial and staff support, enabled libraries to work together to make great strides in library service. It is essential that this initial investment be continued. Libraries are a crucial support to British Columbians – especially in times such as these – and provide a high return on investment for provincial dollars. We are confident you understand this and will continue to lend your strong support to BC's public libraries – as well as to the associations which support them with training, information, resources and assistance, and to the Public Library Services Branch, which supports us all.

In closing, as we move forward in partnership with the Ministry over the coming months, we would appreciate being kept apprised of developments relating to Neighbourhood Learning Centres, the pending Library Act Review and Strategic Plan renewal.

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We are happy to work with the Public Library Services Branch on these and other projects that may arise, and we look forward to a continued positive working relationship with the Ministry of Education.

Sincerely,



Andy Ackerman
President, BCLTA



Ken Cooley
President, BCLA



Ursula Brigl
President, ABCPLD

CC: *James Gorman, Deputy Minister of Education*
Jacqueline van Dyk, Director, Public Library Services Branch