



The Best Place on Earth

Our Ref: 129574

FEB 10 2009

Andy Ackerman, Chair
Fort St. John Public Library
10015-100th Ave
Fort St. John BC V1J 1Y7

Dear Mr. Ackerman: *Andy:*

Thank you for your letters to the Honourable Gordon Campbell, Premier, and me expressing appreciation for recent program support for public libraries and drawing our attention to the importance of public libraries in tough economic times. The Premier has asked me to respond on his behalf.

As Minister of Education and Minister Responsible for Early Learning and Literacy, I am aware of the important role public libraries play in communities across British Columbia. Public libraries provide invaluable services and programs for people of all ages and actively encourage lifelong learning through their programming and through collaboration with other community agencies.

Premier Campbell recognized the key role public libraries play in a knowledge-based economy when he requested the development of a Strategic Plan for Public Libraries. I think you will agree that *Libraries Without Walls* has resulted in expanded, more efficient library service province-wide. It has generated an overall increase of \$18 million in provincial support for public libraries since implementation of the Strategic Plan began in 2005.

Thank you for your continued vigilance on behalf of public library services in British Columbia and for keeping us apprised of developments in the public library community.

Sincerely,

Shirley Bond
Minister
Deputy Premier

pc: His Worship Bruce Lantz, Mayor, City of Fort St. John
Karen Goodings, Director, Area B
Arthur Hadland, Director, Area C
British Columbia Library Trustees Association
Jacqueline van Dyk, Director, Public Library Services Branch