



April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development  
Dear Minister Dale Kirby,

On behalf of the British Columbia Library Association Board of Directors and 900 members I urge you to reconsider the devastating cuts to Newfoundland and Labrador public libraries.

We understand the seriousness of this decision and the many factors that must have been examined before publically announcing this choice. We hope that reconsidering the decision will present an opportunity to reflect on the unique role public libraries play in our society, from coast to coast.

Libraries support and inform citizens. They are a cornerstone of democracy providing access to information for all community members regardless of economic, social, political, or cultural position. Libraries are open to all, serve all, and support all.

Public libraries play a unique role in our communities. They provide a portal to the past, ensure that all community members understand the present, and engage all Canadians in building a future. Without an adequate and broad number of libraries Canadians lose the strength that grows from shared and accessible knowledge.

We ask that you reconsider your decision and instead look for ways to strengthen libraries so they can continue to be transformative institutions that build citizens, communities, provinces and the country. We ask you to reconsider this decision so Newfoundlanders and Labradorians continue to have the same access to information that other Canadians have.

We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Caroline Daniels", written in a cursive style.

Caroline Daniels  
President  
British Columbia Library Association