



May 1, 2019

The Honourable Kaycee Madu, MLA  
 Minister of Municipal Affairs  
 Alberta Legislature Building  
 132-10800 97 Ave NW  
 Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

*(sent via email)*

Dear Minister Madu:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Municipal Affairs.

The Alberta Government's goals of **strengthening our economy, seeking a smarter approach to innovation, welcoming and supporting newcomers and creating a better place for Albertans to raise their families** are supported through the work of public libraries across Alberta.

Public libraries are vital to Alberta communities, providing a neighborhood hub where everyone is welcome, demonstrating a return on investment, connecting, educating and inspiring citizens to build a strong Alberta.

- **Libraries strengthen our economy by:**
  - Enabling job seekers to create resumes, prepare for interviews and find jobs.
  - Preparing children for school with early literacy programs, services and collections.
  - Providing spaces outside of school hours for children to support healthy childhood development.
  - Offering life-propelling skills training, allowing Albertans to develop new competencies.
  - Assisting entrepreneurs with business startup information, resources and advice.
- **Libraries support innovation by:**
  - Reducing the digital divide by providing access to high speed internet, free public computing and access to millions of digital resources including online classes. For many Albertans their local library is their only access to the internet.
  - Preparing Albertans for the digital economy with digital literacy training and access to IT tools, resources and expertise. Alberta libraries have digital labs and recording studios and offer classes in 3D modelling, podcasting and coding.
  - Working as a network across Alberta to provide all Albertans, wherever they live, with access to quality information, knowledge, technology and expertise.
- **Libraries welcome and support newcomers by:**
  - Facilitating newcomers' language training, conversation circles and literacy and ESL support.
  - Offering digital literacy programs to ensure everyone has an equal opportunity to thrive.
  - Providing connections to agencies and businesses through settlement services workers.
- **Libraries create a better place for Albertans to raise their families by:**
  - Providing spaces where people can connect with neighbours – combatting social isolation.
  - Supporting seniors with outreach services, materials in accessible formats, and programs.
  - Supporting lifelong learning and literacy in all forms, from print literacy to financial literacy to media literacy to wellness literacy to digital literacy.
  - Filling gaps in services that support mental health, housing and addiction.
  - Supporting vulnerable people by providing connections to local social services agencies.

Libraries are one of the most effective and impactful uses of public funding. Working in partnership, municipalities provide the majority of the funding, but Provincial operating grants are critical. The Provincial investment of under \$35 million dollars a year enables hundreds of libraries in large and small communities across Alberta to offer

services needed in their communities as well as supports resource sharing between public libraries to ensure equitable access to all Albertans to public library resources.

Together we can help ensure that all Albertans have access to the information, technology, tools and services needed to help our province thrive. Wishing you success in your position.

Yours sincerely,

The Libraries of the Alberta Provincial Public Library Network:

*Avnish Mehta*

Chair Avnish Mehta, Calgary Public Library



Chair DeVar Dahl, Chinook Arch Regional Library System



Chair Brian Heidecker, Edmonton Public Library

*Mark Evans*

Chair Mark Evans, Grande Prairie Public Library

*Allan Quinton*

Chair Allan Quinton, Lethbridge Public Library



Chair Lynda Lyster, Marigold Library System



Chair Rick Redmond, Medicine Hat Public Library

*Larry Tiedemann*

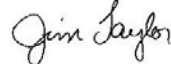
Chair Larry Tiedemann, Northern Lights Library System



Chair Debra Smith, Parkland Regional Library



Chair Carolyn Kolebaba, Peace Library System



Chair Jim Taylor, Red Deer Public Library

*Dwight Kilpatrick*

Chair Dwight Kilpatrick, Shortgrass Library System

*Janice Marschner*

Chair Janice Marschner, St. Albert Public Library



Chair Anna Pandos, Strathcona County Library

*Amanda MacPherson*

Chair Amanda MacPherson, Wood Buffalo Regional Library



Chair Hendrik Smit, Yellowhead Regional Library