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# Manitoba Library Association

October 10, 2018

Minister Cathy Cox  
Sport, Culture and Heritage  
118 Legislative Building  
450 Broadway  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

RE: Public Libraries

Dear Minister Cox:

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you as the new Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage. Manitoba Library Association (MLA) looks forward to working with you in our mandate to promote, develop, and support library and information services throughout the province. We have recently merged with the Manitoba Association of Library Technicians (MALT) and the Manitoba Library Trustees Association (MLTA), forming a single organization.

I write on behalf of MLA's board and members regarding the release of the *Public Libraries Review*, undertaken by Public Library Services in 2017. Public libraries understood the *Review* would be released in the fall of 2017, and later that it would be released at the 2018 MLA Conference. As you are aware, the *Review's* recommendations and conclusions hold great significance for public libraries and the communities they serve. We would be very grateful if your Ministry could provide information on the *Review's* current status. MLA remains interested in discussing the Review with you, in accordance with the invitation extended to the then MLTA in your letter of Dec 12, 2017.

We are hopeful that because of the *Review* the Province will recommend an increase in the Rural Library Operating Grant. This annual grant has remained static for 14 years (2004 levels of \$8.50 per capita). Taking into account inflation and the increased demands for services offered by public libraries, an increase in grant funding is vital to the success of library services in the province.

Another issue that has been raised by public libraries is an apparent shortage of consultants at Public Library Services; these positions provide essential support to public libraries across the Province.

We thank you for your consideration and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the future of libraries in Manitoba.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kerry Macdonald".

Kerry Macdonald  
President  
Manitoba Library Association

cc: Danielle Hubbard, Advocacy Director, Manitoba Library Association