

EXC/16/5/1142

May 30, 2016

Alix-Rae Stefanko
President
Manitoba Library Association
606-100 Arthur Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1H3

Dear Ms. Stefanko:

Thank you for your letter regarding the recently announced changes to library services in Newfoundland and Labrador.

As a result of the province's current fiscal situation, many difficult decisions had to be made with a focus on long-term fiscal sustainability. With the implementation of the regional library model, the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board's budget will be reduced by just over \$1 million, with approximately \$652,000 being reinvested to enhance current services.

The regional library model implementation will occur over a two-year period resulting in 41 libraries remaining across the province and over 85 per cent of residents being within a 30 minute drive to the nearest library. There will be reinvestments into these 41 libraries for necessary capital improvements, additional library materials and program offerings; enhancements to the eBooks and books-by-mail services; and implementation of a minimum service standard and operating hours of no less than 30 hours per week. There will also be no change to the current library materials budget so that funding may be reinvested across the remaining libraries.

The Provincial Government will work with the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board to help it through this transition with a goal of transforming our library system into a more efficient one for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Sincerely,



DALE KIRBY, MHA
District of Mount Scio
Minister