



Manitoba Library Association

May 13, 2016

The Honourable Dale Kirby, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Re: Announcement to Close 54 Public Library Branches in Newfoundland and Labrador

Dear Minister Kirby,

On behalf of the Manitoba Library Association, I implore you to reconsider the drastic cuts to Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries. Public libraries are part of the social and economic infrastructure of our communities, and enable people of all ages and backgrounds to become informed citizens and build strong communities. Public libraries provide our youth and vulnerable populations with access to information, technology and services which are essential to ongoing development, prosperity and growth.

Public libraries are open and accessible community hubs with a focus on partnerships, creativity, learning and development of all citizens. Libraries are an integral part of the cultural and creative industries, and play an important role in ensuring the economic and social development of our communities.

We ask that you reconsider the decision to close 54 public library branches, so that the people and communities of Newfoundland and Labrador can retain access to the information services that they rely upon. We hope that you will reaffirm the value of public libraries and protect them as a basis for informed citizenry and resilient communities.

We look forward to your response on this matter.

Respectfully,

Alix-Rae Stefanko
President
Manitoba Library Association