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May 28, 2019

Premier Doug Ford
Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
via e-mail doug.ford@pc.ola.org

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: **Resolution to Oppose Funding Cuts to Ontario Library Services - North**

At the recent meeting of Council held on Monday, May 27, 2019, the following resolution was approved:

“WHEREAS:

- The Town of Fort Frances considers Public Libraries a vital service to communities across the province, particularly in smaller rural communities like Fort Frances;
- Public Libraries offer much needed assistance to every demographic in our community but in particular the most vulnerable members – including children, seniors, newcomers, unemployed residents, the homeless, lower-income citizens, and individuals from other equity-seeking groups;
- Ontario Library Services – North (OLS-N) provides essential services and support to all Public Libraries in the North, but in particular smaller stand-alone libraries and First Nation Libraries;
- The services provided by OLS-N allow Northern Libraries – including the Fort Frances Public Library Technology Centre – to leverage the funding that they receive from their municipalities, to realize efficiencies, and offer extra services in fulfillment of their mandate;
- The Ontario Government without notice, consultation, or rationale cut the budget of OLS-N by 50 percent;
- This drastic budget cut will dramatically reduce the services that OLS-N are able to offer Public Libraries in Northern Ontario;
- This cut will cause either a reduction in local Library services or an increase in the funding that already financially challenged municipalities must provide to maintain the same level of services by their Public Library;
- This cut will disproportionately affect small Northern communities; whose size and geographic distance create challenges in the delivery of resources and programming and

- This cut is a form of downloading of additional Library costs to Municipalities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- The Council of the Town of Fort Frances strongly urges the Ontario Government to restore funding to OLS-N, at a minimum to the previous 2018 funding level in order for this agency to continue its day-to-day support of Northern Ontario's public libraries, and to continue to maintain the base funding for Ontario Libraries; and
- This resolution be forwarded to Minister Greg Rickford, MPP for Kenora-Rainy River, Minister Michael Tibollo, Premier Doug Ford, Ontario Library Services-North, CUPE, The Association of Municipalities of Ontario, The Northern Ontario Municipal Association, The Rainy River District Municipal Association, and all Ontario Municipalities.”

Yours very truly,

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE DIVISION



Elizabeth Slomke, Clerk

/es

- c.c. Hon. Greg Rickford, MPP Kenora-Rainy River
(greg.rickford@pc.ola.org)
Hon. Michael Tibollo, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport
(michael.tibollo@pc.ola.org)
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