

Ministry of Culture

Minister

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Ministère de la Culture

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Ms. Susanna Hubbard Krimmer
CEO and Chief Librarian
Mr. David Winninger
Chair
London Public Library
251 Dundas Street
London, ON N6A 6H9

Dear Ms. Hubbard Krimmer and Mr. Winninger:

Thank you for your letter expressing your support for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) Library. A copy of your letter was also forwarded to me by Steve Peters, MPP for Elgin-Middlesex-London. I appreciate your interest in this matter and apologize for the delay in responding.

My Ministry supports public libraries established by municipalities, local services boards and First Nations bands under Ontario's *Public Libraries Act*. Funding for the CNIB Library is a priority the Ministry has been working on this summer and I wanted to provide you with specific information in my response.

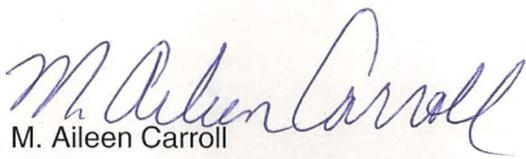
Earlier this year, I met with representatives and volunteers from the CNIB Library to discuss their needs. I am pleased to advise that the Ministry is providing the CNIB with one-time funding in the amount of \$3,567,000. This investment will help ensure that all Ontarians benefit from free and open access to information through our public library system.

Our government is committed to improving accessibility for people with disabilities. The Ministry of Culture continues to work with its partners and agencies to ensure that public and First Nations libraries are able to provide a range of services so that all Ontarians get the most out of their community libraries.

Participating public and First Nations libraries have service arrangements with the CNIB Library through its Partners Program, providing access to CNIB materials to persons with all forms of print disability, not just vision loss. My Ministry wholeheartedly supports this partnership and other efforts by Ontario's public libraries to provide equitable service to communities.

Thank you again for writing to me about this important matter.

Yours truly,


M. Aileen Carroll
Minister

c: Steve Peters, MPP
Elgin-Middlesex-London

Chris Bentley, MPP
London West

Deb Matthews, MPP
London North Centre

Khalil Ramal, MPP
London Fanshawe