

Minister of Canadian Heritage
and Official Languages



Ministre du Patrimoine canadien
et des Langues officielles

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0M5

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

SEP 17 2009

Dear Ms. Hubbard Krimmer and Mr. Winninger:

Thank you for your correspondence of August 12, 2009, regarding the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) proposal to fast-track Library and Archives Canada's (LAC) Initiative on Equitable Library Access (IELA). This proposal has also been forwarded to me by Ms. Cathy Moore, National Director of Consumer and Government Relations, CNIB. Please excuse the delay in my reply.

I appreciate being advised of your support for the CNIB initiative. The Government of Canada has shown its support for equitable library access by providing LAC with \$3 million over three years to develop the IELA. Over the last two years, LAC has been working on facilitating timely production and delivery of materials in multiple formats, such as Braille, large text, audio books, electronic media, as well as the dissemination of information about such materials to Canadians with disabilities and stakeholders.

LAC has been asked to develop the national strategy and costing model for library services for Canadians with print disabilities and is currently defining options related to this initiative, which I will carefully review. I am informed that LAC is also in regular contact with the CNIB to discuss options.

Please be assured that I share your sense of the importance of providing library services to all Canadians, including those with print disabilities. Our Government is committed to offering Canadians with disabilities what they need to maintain their well-being and facilitate their participation in society.

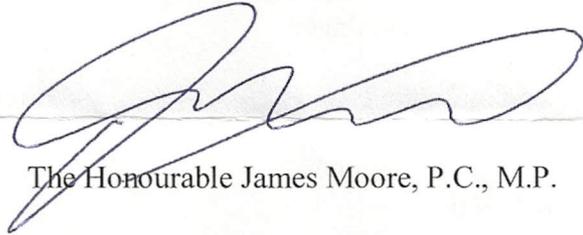
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I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of our correspondence to Dr. Daniel J. Caron, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, so that he too is aware of your support for this initiative.

I trust that this information is useful. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'James Moore', written over a horizontal line.

The Honourable James Moore, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: Dr. Daniel J. Caron