

Ministry of Tourism and Culture

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Ministère du Tourisme et de la Culture

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April 14, 2011

Dear Library Board Partner:

As the Ontario economy turns the corner and we continue to advance in a knowledge economy, public libraries are crucial to our future. This is why the McGuinty government is investing \$2.85 million in one-time funding to strengthen Ontario's public library system. Our government recognizes the challenges that public libraries face with increasing demand for services and meeting the needs of diverse communities, businesses and entrepreneurs among others with limited funding resources.

The McGuinty government recognizes the immeasurable impact that public libraries have on making our communities socially and economically stronger. We value the great work that you do – as important partners in promoting literacy and life-long learning and creating an environment where Ontarians feel welcome and connected.

In recognition of your important contributions, the province is providing \$1.9 million to public libraries in support of your efforts to build collections and programs that strengthen community services. This investment is a step forward in addressing the needs of public libraries.

I have asked the Southern Ontario Library Service, in collaboration with Ontario Library Service – North, to administer the funding to public libraries on our behalf. Agency staff will be in contact with you shortly to deliver the funding.

In addition, we are investing a combined \$950,000 in the Southern Ontario Library Service and Ontario Library Service – North. This funding will help our agencies to maintain the delivery of important services, including Inter-Library Loan, on which you rely.

On behalf of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, I look forward to continue working with you to address your future needs. Ontario is proud to support public libraries in providing equitable access to information and delivering innovative programs that are strengthening Ontario's economic prosperity.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Chan".

Michael Chan
Minister

c: Ms. Laurey Gillies, CEO, Southern Ontario Library Service
Ms. Leanne Clendening, CEO, Ontario Library Service – North
Mr. Steven Davidson, Deputy Minister (A)