



January 5, 2018

The Honorable Eleanor McMahon
Minister of Tourism, Culture & Sport
Hearst Block 9th Flr
900 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7E 2A1

2018 Pre-Budget Submission - Ontario Library Association/Federation of Ontario Public Libraries

Dear Minister McMahon:

On behalf of the Ontario Library Association (OLA) and the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL), please find our joint 2018 Pre-Budget Submission attached for your review and consideration.

As you know, OLA and FOPL are focused on ensuring that public and school libraries are sustainable and can continue to be Ontario's farthest-reaching, most cost-effective resource for empowering positive change in education, poverty reduction and community economic development. As outlined in the attached submission, Ontario's current funding approach is threatening the long-term viability of libraries across the province. Ontario's support for libraries must reflect the need for a modern, innovative library system that is responsive to diverse and evolving communities.

The three recommendations included in this submission represent a fiscally-responsible approach addressing both school and public libraries that will ensure that all Ontarians will benefit from equitable, world-class resources in their local community – including the tens of thousands of Ontario students and First Nations communities who currently lack access to libraries and library services.

We look forward to your consideration of our proposal, and for continuing this important conversation on the sustainability of Ontario's libraries. We are available at your convenience to answer any questions or provide any further clarification that you

require. Your interest, support and passion for Ontario's libraries and their future is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

Stephen Abram

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*The **Ontario Library Association (OLA)** is the oldest continually-operating non-profit library association in Canada, with over 5,000 members comprised of library staff and supporters from public, school, academic, and special libraries.*

*The **Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL)** represents all public library systems in Ontario, as well as 45 First Nations public libraries, in communities throughout the Province.*

Together, OLA & FOPL are committed to ensuring that libraries are able to continue to play a critical role in the social, education, cultural and economic success of our communities and schools.