The Honourable Charles Sousa
Minister of Finance
Frost Building South, 7th Floor

7 Queen's Park Crescent

Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

February 26, 2018

Re: Provincial Government Funding Support for Ontario’s Public Libraries

Dear Minister Sousa:

At its meeting on February 22, 2018, the Ajax Public Library Board approved the following resolution:

“WHEREAS public libraries provide safe, inclusive, and vibrant community hubs where residents of all backgrounds are welcome to learn, work, connect, and collaborate; and

WHEREAS, the Ajax Public Library actively partners with the community to deliver valued services and contributes to a culture of social good by sharing knowledge and resources; and

WHEREAS, the Ajax Public Library continues to evolve its services to meet the changing needs of a growing community, including a new generation of residents who think, learn, read, and collaborate in new ways; and

WHEREAS, the Ajax Public Library continues to manage public resources with the utmost care and is committed to the sustainability of its services in a context of increased use and frozen provincial support; and

WHEREAS, the Ajax Public Library continues to deliver services that support provincial initiatives, such as lifelong learning and skills development, local economic development, health literacy, and provides equitable access to provincial government web sites and services;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

1. that the Ajax Public Library urges the Province of Ontario to recognize the contribution of, and services offered by, local libraries within their communities and to cease the 20 year budget freeze to local public libraries;
2. that the Ajax Public Library urges the Province of Ontario to reinstate adequate and appropriate funding for local public libraries, increasing each year going forward in line with the consumer price index; and
3. that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Tourism, Culture, and Sport, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the MPP for Ajax/ Pickering, the Ontario Library Association, the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries, and to the Council of the Town of Ajax for its endorsement.”

We respectfully request that the Ministry of Finance work with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport to find solutions that allow for the provision of sustainable, stable funding support to help Ontario’s libraries deliver the array of services that assist Ontarians to be successful in the twenty first century.

Thank you.

Sincerely

Matthew Tapscott

Matthew Tapscott, Chair

Ajax Public Library Board