



Date: February 22, 2018
To: Stephen Abrams, FOPL
From: Paul Takala, Chief Librarian/CEO
Subject: **Hamilton Council Resolution in Support of Funding**

I am pleased to report that on February 14, 2018 Hamilton City Council passed the following motion:

WHEREAS, public libraries support the goals of the Province of Ontario Culture Strategy to promote cultural engagement and inclusion, strengthen culture in communities, fuel the creative economy, and promote the value of the arts;

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Public Library is a source of pride in the community, contributing to social and cultural well-being by providing safe, inclusive, and vibrant community spaces where everyone is welcome to learn, work, connect, and have fun;

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Public Library continues to seek funding opportunities through grant programs, donor development and community support;

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Public Library continues to manage resources with the utmost care and is committed to the sustainability of its services;

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Public Library continues to have a limited operating budget which is 94% funded by the City of Hamilton; and,

WHEREAS, the annual provincial operating grant received by the Hamilton Public Library has remained fixed at \$949,451 per year since amalgamation, while consumer price inflation has increased by more than 35% during this time;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

(a) That the Mayor correspond with the Honourable Daiene Vernile, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, to urge the Province to recognize the contribution of public libraries within their communities by:

(i) Ceasing the budget freeze to public libraries, in acknowledgement to the services they offer to all residents; and,

(ii) Providing adequate and appropriate funding for public libraries, with increases each year going forward, in line with the consumer price index; and,

(b) That a copy of the Council approved resolution be sent to the to the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs, to local MPs and MPPs, to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, to the Ontario Library Association, and to the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries.