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March 8, 2018

Ms. Julia Munro

Member of Provincial Parliament

York Simcoe Riding

45 Grist Mill Road

Holland Landing, Ontario L9N 1B5

Dear Ms. Munro:

On behalf of the Ontario Library Association (OLA) and the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL), thank you for taking the time to meet with us on March 2, 2018. We appreciated the opportunity to discuss the critical role libraries play in the lives of Ontarians across the province and to outline the challenges facing libraries.

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 resources for empowering positive change in education, poverty and community economic development.

Ontario’s support for libraries must reflect the need for a modern, innovative library system that is responsive to diverse and evolving communities. Libraries need sustainable, predictable and flexible funding to plan for and deliver real impacts as local change agents in communities.

We acknowledge that a commitment to sustainable funding is difficult to achieve, and appreciate your willingness to bring these concerns forward in your discussions with your colleagues where possible.

We thank you for your interest, support and passion for Ontario’s libraries. We hope that we can rely on your support for the priority recommendations included in OLA and FOPL’s Ontario Pre-Budget submission, enclosed with this email, which will ensure the sustainability of local public and school libraries in communities across Ontario. We would greatly appreciate you raising these issues with the Minister of Tourism, Culture & Sport and the Minister of Education as they consider Ontario’s upcoming Budget.

I have enclosed a sample of the comment forms we receive regarding the impact of library programs and services on our residents’ lives, along with an article from the Bradford Topic regarding the library as a community hub. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Terri Watman

Chief Executive Officer