

**Ministry of Tourism,
Culture and Sport**

Minister

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**Ministère du Tourisme,
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May 4, 2018

Dear partners,

This morning I announced that our government has committed to [improving access to digital services](#) and ensure that people stay connected at public libraries in towns, cities and First Nation communities across the province.

To improve access to technology and digital information, the 2018 Budget committed \$28 million over three years to create a province-wide digital public library. The digital public library would be a virtual hub providing all people in Ontario, including those living in rural, First Nation and remote communities, with direct access to high-quality digital content such as eBooks, audiobooks, research databases, learning resources and special collections.

In addition, we are investing \$51 million over three years to public library operating funding, including First Nation public libraries.

These investments build on the Ontario [Culture Strategy](#) commitments to build the capacity of libraries serving rural and remote communities, improve supports for First Nation libraries and support public libraries as essential spaces for access to cultural experiences, technology, and community life. They will also help ensure libraries across Ontario can respond to the needs of their communities with innovative services and help develop the talent and skills of people in Ontario.

To see highlights from today's announcement, I encourage you to visit our pages on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and consider sharing these posts with your community.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daiene Vernile".

Daiene Vernile
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport