



Hon. Joël Lightbound, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Government Transformation, Public Works and Procurement
Public Services and Procurement Canada
11 Laurier St
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0S5
joel.lightbound@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Lightbound,

I am writing on behalf of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries in relation to changes to the Canada Post Corporations Act in Bill C-15, An Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on November 4, 2025. I write to you today to support the work of our colleagues at the Canadian Urban Libraries Council who have brought this issue to our attention.

The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries represents more than 350 public library systems in Ontario. Our member libraries serve more than 16 million people in Ontario who visit the 1100+ library branches and utilize their virtual services across the province.

FOPL is concerned with the amendment to the Canada Post Corporations Act included within C-15. C-15 repeals Paragraphs 19(1)(d) to (g.1) of the Act. This section was the result of a Private Members' Bill (Bill C-321) which received Royal Assent in 2013 and was supported by all parties in the House of Commons. C-321 specifically amended the Canada Post Corporations Act to provide for a reduced rate of postage for library materials lent by a library to a borrower, including by means of an interlibrary loan. C-15 eliminates the provisions agreed to by the House of Commons and Senate in Bill C-321.

At the time C-321 was introduced, its sponsor, former M.P. Merv Tweed (Brandon-Souris), said during debate in the House of Commons that the Bill was intended to 'protect libraries from any other rate increases without a debate in the House to verify how much and when it should take place.' We fully agreed with Mr. Tweed when his legislation was introduced and passed and continue to support his rationale now.

This change, if it is allowed to stand, will have a significant negative impact on libraries and the more than 8 million active library users across the country. Libraries in Canada have historically worked collaboratively to provide Canadians with timely, important intellectual and scholarly information. To achieve this, publicly funded libraries of all types depend on their ability to build networks among institutions to encourage borrowing and maximize the impact of their collections. In addition to sharing resources amongst libraries, individuals who are homebound or living in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities often rely on library materials being mailed through Canada Post.

Together. Strong.

admin@fopl.ca www.fopl.ca
P.O. Box 3285, Meaford Stn Main, ON N4L 1A5



Interlibrary loans are an essential part of how libraries in Canada operate and rely on the provisions of the Canada Post Corporation Act to provide access to materials for the millions of library users in Canada. If Canada Post can increase rates without any oversight from Parliament

or the Government of Canada – as C-15 would permit - libraries across Canada will be devastated, put a strain on already surging library budgets and threaten their ability to offer this essential service for access, equity and literacy for all.

To ensure that library products remain accessible for all of Canada through interlibrary loans, it is paramount that the amendment to the *Canada Post Corporations Act* does not pass. I am happy to meet with you to discuss these amendments and support the work of our colleagues at the Canadian Urban Libraries Council.

Yours sincerely,

Dina Stevens, MLIS

Executive Director

Federation of Ontario Public Libraries

Copies: Rt. Hon. Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
pm@pm.gc.ca

Hon. François-Philippe Champagne, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Finance and National Revenue
minister-ministre@fin.gc.ca

Hon. Jenna Sudds, P.C., M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Government Transformation, Public Works and Procurement
Jenna.sudds@parl.gc.ca

Hon. Karina Gould, P.C., M.P.

Together. Strong.

admin@fopl.ca www.fopl.ca
P.O. Box 3285, Meaford Stn Main, ON N4L 1A5

Chair, Standing Committee on Finance

Karina.gould@parl.gc.ca

Kelly McCauley, P.C., M.P.

Chair, Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates

Kelly.McCauley@parl.gc.ca

Kelly Block, M.P.

Conservative Shadow Minister for Government Transformation, Public Works and Procurement

Kelly.block@parl.gc.ca

Marie-Hélène Gaudreau, députée

Vice-Chair, Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates

MH.Gaudreau@parl.gc.ca

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