

May 8, 2026

The Honourable Dan Williams
Minister of Municipal Affairs
320 Legislature Building,
10800 - 97 Avenue,
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Subject: Opposition to Bill 28 and Defense of Local Library Governance

Dear Premier Smith and Minister Williams,

On behalf of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries, I am writing to urge you to stand in defense of intellectual freedom and democratic local governance in the face of unprecedented provincial overreach occurring in Alberta. The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL) represents over 350 library systems in Ontario, with over 1100 branches in nearly every community in the province. We write to express our unwavering support for the position statements of the Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries (CAP Libraries) and the Canadian Federation of Library Associations-Federation canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) regarding Alberta's Bill 28.

As FOPL has strongly affirmed, local governance, trained library professionals, and community accountability are what make public libraries successful, and trust must be earned through consistency and transparency, not government overreach. This provincial legislation fundamentally undermines freedom of expression, local decision-making, and the privacy of citizens.

Granting a single provincial minister sweeping, discretionary authority, with insufficient safeguards, to bypass local library boards and deploy inspectors to examine library records is a direct threat to the democratic institutions that Canadians rely on.

From beyond Alberta's borders, we stand in solidarity with the Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries (CAP Libraries) in affirming that public trust is built through consistency and transparency — never through government overreach. We urge the Government of Alberta to

withdraw all provisions of Bill 28 that pertain to the Libraries Act. Public libraries must remain free from partisan interference and continue to serve as spaces where every person can freely access information and ideas without fear or restriction.

Sincerely,



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