



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Newmarket Public Library Board

**From:** Todd Kyle

**Date:** September 17, 2014

**Re:** **eContent Equitable Pricing Advocacy Campaign**

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The Ottawa Public Library Board has requested other public libraries in Ontario participate in their campaign to ask the federal and provincial governments to investigate the pricing of eContent for libraries, including books and magazines. Their request letter, as well as copies of letters sent to government ministers, is attached.

I am recommending that the motion put forward by the Ottawa Public Library Board be repeated by this Board.

The following motions are recommended:

**WHEREAS the Newmarket Public Library is committed to providing equitable access to information and services regardless of format and customer demand for eBooks and eMagazines is increasing; and**

**WHEREAS Newmarket Public Library staff are working together with publishers to find mutually beneficial solutions so that public library customers have access to the wide range of eBooks and eMagazines they have available to them in a physical printed copy; and**

**WHEREAS the specialized market terms for libraries provided by some publishers for the purchase of eBooks and eMagazines restrict the Newmarket Public Library's ability to purchase these materials for public use, resulting in an inequity of access to electronic content, significant constraints on the Newmarket Public Library budget, and an undermining of the Newmarket Public Library's ability to fulfill its role;**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Newmarket Public Library Board:**

- 1. request that the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport investigate publishers' restrictive practices in making eBooks and eMagazines available to public libraries, including the higher prices charged to public libraries; and**
- 2. request staff bring the issues faced by libraries in obtaining access to eBooks and eMagazines to the attention of the Competition Bureau of Canada.**

**AND THAT the Ottawa Public Library Board be informed of this resolution and copied on letters sent to this effect.**