

August 5, 2014

Newmarket Public Library 438 Park Avenue Newmarket, ON

Dear Joan Stonehocker, Chair Newmarket Public Library Board and Todd Kyle, CEO Newmarket Public Library:

I am writing you this letter on behalf of the board of the Ottawa Public Library to seek your assistance on a matter that impacts us all greatly.

All public libraries are feeling the impacts of the restrictive practices of publishers in making e-content available to public libraries. We are finding that these practices are having a detrimental impact on our collections budgets and will jeopardize our ability to provide equitable access to comprehensive and accessible collections going forward.

At the Ottawa Public Library demand for access to content in electronic formats continues to grow exponentially. OPL customers borrowed close to 600,000 eBooks in 2013, an increase of 560% from 2010. These formats not only provide choice to our customers to read in alternative formats, but also provide accessible formats for persons with disabilities who cannot utilize print based materials.

Restrictive practices employed by publishers vary but include unreasonably high eBook prices, caps on number of uses, time limits and the refusal of some publishers to make their e-content available are impacting our ability to fulfill our core mandate. The introduction of these models is negatively impacting our purchasing power; for example, in Ottawa a 78% increase in the eBook budget from 2012 to 2013 translated in only a 30% increase in the amount of titles for the same time period. Both Ottawa and Toronto Public Libraries are willing to pay appropriate institutional rates for e-content on reasonable terms, but the usage caps and inflated prices for libraries for some of these publishers is excessive. To illustrate this point, when consumers are charged \$9.99 for J.K. Rowling's *The Casual Vacancy* as an e-book, the Library has to pay \$115.11; customers purchasing Margaret Atwood's *MaddAddam* pay \$15.99 while the Library pays \$85.00.

We recognize publishing in Canada and around the world is undergoing great change, and that the publishing industry plays an important role in the development and expression of the Canadian identity and literary culture. It must also be recognized and acknowledged that public libraries also play an important role and are integral to the ecosystem of reading and learning. Imposing unreasonably high prices, other special conditions or not making e-content available for lending at public libraries does not support nor contribute to a healthy publishing industry.

In 2014 the Ottawa Public Library board passed a motion requesting that Federal, Provincial governments and the Competition Bureau of Canada investigate these restrictive processes and evaluate whether a legislative or regulatory remedy could be brought into force to help mitigate this problem. Sample letters sent on behalf of OPL which were adapted from the Toronto Public Library campaign are attached to this letter.

The OPL Board is requesting your assistance. We are asking that you pass a similar motion at your local board and participate in the letter writing campaign to ensure that the Ministries and the Competition Bureau understand that this is an important issue impacting all libraries and not just the Ottawa Public Library. This will be an important step to start off a campaign which we hope will extend to a national strategy through the joint efforts of other libraries through the CLA.

We thank you in advance for your participation in this effort. If additional information is required or there are any follow up questions, please feel free to contact myself Jan Harder, Chair Ottawa Public Library Board at <u>jan.harder@ottawa.ca</u> or 613-580-2473 or the Chief Executive Officer, Danielle McDonald at <u>danielle.mcdonald@biblioottawalibrary.ca</u> or 613-580-2424.

Sincerely,

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Jan Harder Chair Ottawa Public Library Board

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Danielle McDonald CEO Ottawa Public Library

Attach (3)



July 10, 2014

Mr. Michael Coteau Minister of Tourism, Culture & Sport Hearst Block Bay Street Toronto, Ontario M7A 2E1

Dear Mr. Coteau,

I want to take the time to congratulate you on your new position of Minister of Tourism, Culture & Sport for the Government of Ontario and to take the time to provide you with information on a serious issue for Ontario's public libraries.

I am writing to you on behalf of the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) about some publishers' restrictive practices in making e-content available to public libraries. These practices are having a detrimental impact on our collections budgets and will jeopardize our ability to provide equitable access to comprehensive and accessible collections going forward.

The Ottawa Public Library, Canada's largest bilingual library, is committed to equitable and accessible public library service that provides universal access to a broad range of human knowledge, information and ideas in all its forms, including electronic formats. Demand for access to content in electronic formats continues to grow. OPL customers borrowed close to 600,000 eBooks in 2013, an increase of 560% from 2010. These formats provide choice to our customers to read in alternative formats, but also provide accessible formats for persons with disabilities who cannot utilize print based materials.

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OPL recognizes publishing in Canada and around the world is undergoing great change, and that the publishing industry plays an important role in the development and expression of the Canadian identity and literary culture. It must also be recognized and acknowledged that public libraries also play an important role and are integral to the ecosystem of reading and learning.

Imposing unreasonably high prices, other special conditions or not making e-content available for lending at public libraries does not support nor contribute to a healthy publishing industry.

The Ottawa Public Library Board has endorsed the important role of public libraries in making content available to all Canadians and encourages publishers to make eBooks and eMagazines available to public libraries on fair and reasonable terms. At its May 12, 2014 Library Board meeting, the Ottawa Public Library Board passed the following motion:

WHEREAS the Ottawa 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 Ottawa 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 Ottawa Public Library's ability to purchase these materials for public use, resulting in an inequity of access to electronic content, significant constraints on the Ottawa Public Library budget, and an undermining of the Ottawa Public Library's ability to fulfill its role;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ottawa 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.

We are asking for your assistance in helping us to investigate what legislative remedies exist to assist with this problem. We have provided background material in the form of a chart on this important issue, and have attached it to this letter. If additional information is required or there are any follow up questions, please feel free to contact the Chief Executive Officer, Danielle McDonald at <u>danielle.mcdonald@biblioottawalibrary.ca</u> or 613-580-2424 X32189.

Sincerely,

SThe Donald

Danielle McDonald CEO Ottawa Public Library

cc. Jan Harder, Chair, Ottawa Public Library Board

Attach: Overview of Canadian Public Library Access to E-Content

Attachment

Overview of Canadian Public Library	Access to E-Content
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Publisher	Terms	Prices	Notes
Random House	One copy per use; no	\$85 for new hard	In February 2011, it is
Canada	cap or time limit on	covers	announced that
	use		Random House
			Canada and a number
		\$30-\$60 for	of independent
		paperbacks	Canadian publishers
			are making their
			content available.
			In March 2012, Random House (U.S.) announced 300% price increase for e- books available to public libraries.
HarperCollins	One copy per use; 26	\$25 (approx.) for	HarperCollins (U.S.)
Canada	use cap per copy	new hard covers	announced in March
			2011 the introduction
			of a 26 use cap per
		\$4-\$16 (approx.)	сору.
		for paperbacks	
			In December 2012,
			HarperCollins Canada
			content became
			available to public
			libraries.

Publisher	Terms	Prices	Notes
Hachette Group	One copy per use; no	\$80-\$90 for new	In October 2012,
	cap or time limit on	hard covers	Hachette announced
	use		100-200% price
			increase for its
		\$10-\$40 for	backlist e-books
		paperbacks	available to public
			libraries.
			Hachette made over
			5,000 current and
			back-list titles
			available to libraries in
			May 2013.
Macmillan	One copy per use; 52	\$40 for most	Macmillan announced
	use cap per copy or	content – hard	in January 2013 it is
	24 months, whichever comes	cover,	starting to make its
	first	paperbacks & e-	backlist e-books
		book original	available; more
	0	shorts	content became
	One year embargo on		available as the year
	making current content available		progressed.
Penguin	One copy per use; re-	\$23 (approx.) for	In December 2013,
Penguin Canada	purchase copies after	new hard covers	U.S. content from
	one year		Penguin became
			available; In April
		\$8-\$16 (approx.)	2014, Penguin Canada
		for paperbacks	content became
			available.
Simon & Schuster	Pilot projects with a	Prices are not	Content is available
Canada	few libraries are underway; not widely	confirmed at this	for pilot through the
	available to public	time.	BiblioDigital and 3M
	libraries.		platform.
	libraries.		

Publisher	Terms	Prices	Notes
Independent Canadian Publishers	One copy per use; no cap or time limit on use	\$16-\$25 for new hard covers \$8-\$15 for paperbacks	These publishers have willingly worked with libraries to make content available and to find mutually beneficial solutions.
Rogers Publishing Group	Withdrew access to Rogers' e-magazines for public libraries via Zinio (a platform for loaning e-magazines) in Fall 2013 when Rogers launched its own digital subscription service <i>Next Issue Canada</i> .	Subscriptions comparable to consumer prices; platform fee for Zinio: \$40,000	Zinio offers libraries unlimited simultaneous access to e-magazines just as it does in its consumer model. With Rogers' withdrawal from Zinio, many Canadian e-magazines are no longer available while access continues for e-magazines from the U.S. and the U.K.
Magazine Canada	Withdrew access to Rogers' e-magazines for public libraries via Zinio in spring 2014.	Subscriptions comparable to consumer prices	Zinio offers to libraries unlimited simultaneous access to e-magazines just as it does in its consumer model. With Rogers and Magazine Canada withdrawal from Zinio, many Canadian e-magazines are no longer available while access continues for e-magazines from the U.S. and the U.K.
Scholastic	One copy per use ; re-purchase copies after 24 months.	\$6-\$20	Content available for loan through OverDrive

Publisher	Terms	Prices	Notes
Société de gestion de l'Association nationale des éditeurs de livres (SOGANEL)	Has recently made available its content to libraries outside of Québec.	Same as price charged to individual consumers	

June 2014



July 10, 2014

Ms. Shelley Glover Canadian Minister of Heritage Room 532-N Centre Block House of Commons Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

Dear Ms. Glover,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) about some publishers' restrictive practices in making e-content available to public libraries. These practices are having a detrimental impact on our collections budgets and will jeopardize our ability to provide equitable access to comprehensive and accessible collections going forward.

The Ottawa Public Library, Canada's largest bilingual library, is committed to equitable and accessible public library service that provides universal access to a broad range of human knowledge, information and ideas in all its forms, including electronic formats. Demand for access to content in electronic formats continues to grow. OPL customers borrowed close to 600,000 eBooks in 2013, an increase of 560% from 2010. These formats provide choice to our customers to read in alternative formats, but also provide accessible formats for persons with disabilities who cannot utilize print based materials.

Restrictive practices employed by publishers vary but include unreasonably high eBook prices, caps on number of uses, time limits and the refusal of some publishers to make their e-content available. The introduction of these models is negatively impacting our purchasing power; for example, a 78% increase in the eBook budget from 2012 to 2013 translated in only a 30% increase in the amount of titles for the same time period. The Ottawa Public Library is willing to pay appropriate institutional rates for e-content on reasonable terms, but the usage caps and inflated prices for libraries for some of these publishers is excessive. To illustrate this point, when consumers are charged \$9.99 for J.K. Rowling's *The Casual Vacancy* as an e-book, the Library has to pay \$115.11; customers purchasing Margaret Atwood's *MaddAddam* pay \$15.99 while the Library pays \$85.00.

OPL recognizes publishing in Canada and around the world is undergoing great change, and that the publishing industry plays an important role in the development and expression of the Canadian identity and literary culture. It must also be recognized and acknowledged that public libraries also play an important role and are integral to the ecosystem of reading and learning.

Imposing unreasonably high prices, other special conditions or not making e-content available for lending at public libraries does not support nor contribute to a healthy publishing industry.

The Ottawa Public Library Board has endorsed the important role of public libraries in making content available to all Canadians and encourages publishers to make eBooks and eMagazines available to public libraries on fair and reasonable terms. At its May 12, 2014 Library Board meeting, the Ottawa Public Library Board passed the following motion:

WHEREAS the Ottawa 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 Ottawa 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 Ottawa Public Library's ability to purchase these materials for public use, resulting in an inequity of access to electronic content, significant constraints on the Ottawa Public Library budget, and an undermining of the Ottawa Public Library's ability to fulfill its role;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ottawa 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.

We are asking for your assistance in helping us to investigate what legislative remedies exist to assist with this problem. We have provided background material in the form of a chart on this important issue, and have attached it to this letter. If additional information is required or there are any follow up questions, please feel free to contact the Chief Executive Officer, Danielle McDonald at <u>danielle.mcdonald@biblioottawalibrary.ca</u> or 613-580-2424 X32189.

Sincerely,

SThe Donald

Danielle McDonald CEO Ottawa Public Library

cc. Jan Harder, Chair, Ottawa Public Library Board

Attach: Overview of Canadian Public Library Access to E-Content

Attachment

Overview of Canadian Public Library Access to E-Content

Publisher	Terms	Prices	Notes
Random House	One copy per use; no	\$85 for new hard	In February 2011, it is
Canada	cap or time limit on	covers	announced that
	use		Random House
			Canada and a number
		\$30-\$60 for	of independent
		paperbacks	Canadian publishers
			are making their
			content available.
			In March 2012,
			Random House (U.S.)
			announced 300%
			price increase for e-
			books available to
			public libraries.
HarperCollins	One copy per use; 26	\$25 (approx.) for	HarperCollins (U.S.)
Canada	use cap per copy	new hard covers	announced in March
			2011 the introduction
			of a 26 use cap per
		\$4-\$16 (approx.)	сору.
		for paperbacks	
			In Desemble 2012
			In December 2012,
			HarperCollins Canada content became
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			libraries.
			noranes.

Hachette Group	One copy per use; no cap or time limit on use	\$80-\$90 for new hard covers	In October 2012, Hachette announced
	•	hard covers	Hachette announced
	use		
			100-200% price
			increase for its
		\$10-\$40 for	backlist e-books
		paperbacks	available to public
			libraries.
			Hachette made over
			5,000 current and back-list titles
			available to libraries in
			May 2013.
Macmillan	One copy per use; 52	\$40 for most	Macmillan announced
	use cap per copy or	content – hard	in January 2013 it is
	,	cover,	starting to make its
	first	• •	
		-	
	One year amharra an	shorts	
	-		progressea.
-			,
renguin Canada	• •	new hard covers	
	one year		-
		69 616 (annay)	2014, Penguin Canada
			content became
			available.
Simon & Schuster	Pilot projects with a	Prices are not	Content is available
Canada		confirmed at this	for pilot through the
		time.	BiblioDigital and 3M
	libraries.		platform.
Penguin Penguin Canada Simon & Schuster Canada	24 months, whichever comes first One year embargo on making current content available One copy per use; re- purchase copies after one year Pilot projects with a few libraries are underway; not widely available to public	cover, paperbacks & e- book original shorts \$23 (approx.) for new hard covers \$8-\$16 (approx.) for paperbacks Prices are not confirmed at this	starting to make it backlist e-books available; more content became available as the ye progressed. In December 2013 U.S. content from Penguin became available; In April 2014, Penguin Car content became available. Content is availab for pilot through t BiblioDigital and 3

Publisher	Terms	Prices	Notes
Independent Canadian Publishers	One copy per use; no cap or time limit on use	\$16-\$25 for new hard covers \$8-\$15 for paperbacks	These publishers have willingly worked with libraries to make content available and to find mutually beneficial solutions.
Rogers Publishing Group	Withdrew access to Rogers' e-magazines for public libraries via Zinio (a platform for loaning e-magazines) in Fall 2013 when Rogers launched its own digital subscription service <i>Next Issue Canada</i> .	Subscriptions comparable to consumer prices; platform fee for Zinio: \$40,000	Zinio offers libraries unlimited simultaneous access to e-magazines just as it does in its consumer model. With Rogers' withdrawal from Zinio, many Canadian e-magazines are no longer available while access continues for e-magazines from the U.S. and the U.K.
Magazine Canada	Withdrew access to Rogers' e-magazines for public libraries via Zinio in spring 2014.	Subscriptions comparable to consumer prices	Zinio offers to libraries unlimited simultaneous access to e-magazines just as it does in its consumer model. With Rogers and Magazine Canada withdrawal from Zinio, many Canadian e-magazines are no longer available while access continues for e-magazines from the U.S. and the U.K.

Publisher	Terms	Prices	Notes
Scholastic	One copy per use ; re-purchase copies	\$6-\$20	Content available for Ioan through
	after 24 months.		OverDrive
Société de gestion de l'Association nationale des éditeurs de livres (SOGANEL)	Has recently made available its content to libraries outside of Québec.	Same as price charged to individual consumers	

June 2014



July 10, 2014

Mr. John Pecman Commissioner of Competition Industry Canada Competition Bureau Canada 50 Victoria Street Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0C9

Dear Mr. Pecman,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) about some publishers' restrictive practices in making e-content available to public libraries. These practices are having a detrimental impact on our collections budgets and will jeopardize our ability to provide equitable access to comprehensive and accessible collections going forward.

The Ottawa Public Library is committed to equitable and accessible public library service that provides universal access to a broad range of human knowledge, information and ideas in all its forms, including electronic formats. Demand for access to content in electronic formats continues to grow. OPL customers borrowed close to 600,000 eBooks in 2013, an increase of 560% from 2010. These formats provide choice to our customers to read in alternative formats, but also provide accessible formats for persons with disabilities who cannot utilize print based materials.

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We have been following with interest the Competition Bureau's recent announcement that eBook prices for consumers are part of an ongoing investigation, and that a Consent Agreement has been entered into with some publishers, and believe that the scope needs to be broadened to include the prices provided to Canadian public libraries.

OPL recognizes publishing in Canada and around the world is undergoing great change, and that the publishing industry plays an important role in the development and expression of the

Canadian identity and literary culture. It must also be recognized and acknowledged that public libraries also play an important role and are integral to the ecosystem of reading and learning. Imposing unreasonably high prices, other special conditions or not making e-content available for lending at public libraries does not support nor contribute to a healthy publishing industry.

The Ottawa Public Library Board has endorsed the important role of public libraries in making content available to all Canadians and encourages publishers to make eBooks and eMagazines available to public libraries on fair and reasonable terms. At its May 12, 2014 Library Board meeting, the Ottawa Public Library Board passed the following motion:

WHEREAS the Ottawa 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 Ottawa 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 Ottawa Public Library's ability to purchase these materials for public use, resulting in an inequity of access to electronic content, significant constraints on the Ottawa Public Library budget, and an undermining of the Ottawa Public Library's ability to fulfill its role;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ottawa 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.

We have provided background material in the form of a chart on this important issue, and have attached it to this letter. If additional information is required or there are any follow up questions, please feel free to contact the Chief Executive Officer, Danielle McDonald at <u>danielle.mcdonald@biblioottawalibrary.ca</u> or 613-580-2424 X32189.

Sincerely,

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Danielle McDonald CEO Ottawa Public Library

cc. Jan Harder, Chair, Ottawa Public Library Board

Attach: Overview of Canadian Public Library Access to E-Content

Publisher	Terms	Prices	Notes
Random House	One copy per use; no	\$85 for new hard	In February 2011, it is
Canada	cap or time limit on	covers	announced that
	use		Random House
			Canada and a number
		\$30-\$60 for	of independent
		paperbacks	Canadian publishers
		F - F	are making their
			content available.
			In March 2012, Random House (U.S.) announced 300% price increase for e- books available to public libraries.
HarperCollins	One copy per use; 26	\$25 (approx.) for	HarperCollins (U.S.)
Canada	use cap per copy	new hard covers	announced in March
			2011 the introduction
			of a 26 use cap per
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		for paperbacks	
			In December 2012,
			HarperCollins Canada
			content became
			available to public
			libraries.

Attachment Overview of Canadian Public Library Access to E-Content

Publisher	Terms	Prices	Notes
Hachette Group	One copy per use; no	\$80-\$90 for new	In October 2012,
	cap or time limit on	hard covers	Hachette announced
	use		100-200% price
			increase for its
		\$10-\$40 for	backlist e-books
		paperbacks	available to public libraries.
			Hachette made over
			5,000 current and
			back-list titles
			available to libraries in
			May 2013.
Macmillan	One copy per use; 52	\$40 for most	Macmillan announced
	use cap per copy or	content – hard	in January 2013 it is
	24 months,	cover,	starting to make its
	whichever comes	paperbacks & e-	backlist e-books
	first	book original	available; more
		shorts	content became
	One year embargo on		available as the year
	making current		progressed.
	content available		
Penguin	One copy per use; re-	\$23 (approx.) for	In December 2013,
Penguin Canada	purchase copies after	new hard covers	U.S. content from
	one year		Penguin became
			available; In April
		\$8-\$16 (approx.)	2014, Penguin Canada
		for paperbacks	content became
			available.
Simon & Schuster	Pilot projects with a few libraries are	Prices are not	Content is available
Canada	underway; not widely	confirmed at this	for pilot through the
	available to public	time.	BiblioDigital and 3M
	libraries.		platform.

Publisher	Terms	Prices	Notes
Independent Canadian Publishers	One copy per use; no cap or time limit on use	\$16-\$25 for new hard covers \$8-\$15 for paperbacks	These publishers have willingly worked with libraries to make content available and to find mutually beneficial solutions.
Rogers Publishing Group	Withdrew access to Rogers' e-magazines for public libraries via Zinio (a platform for loaning e-magazines) in Fall 2013 when Rogers launched its own digital subscription service <i>Next Issue Canada</i> .	Subscriptions comparable to consumer prices; platform fee for Zinio: \$40,000	Zinio offers libraries unlimited simultaneous access to e-magazines just as it does in its consumer model. With Rogers' withdrawal from Zinio, many Canadian e-magazines are no longer available while access continues for e-magazines from the U.S. and the U.K.
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