



MEMORANDUM

To: Newmarket Public Library Board

From: Todd Kyle

Date: December 16, 2015

Re: Provincial e-resources funding

As pointed out during the development of the Library's 2016 operating budget request, additional funding is being requested due to the loss of provincial funding for a common suite of e-resources. This funding was provided for three years and will be discontinued after December 2015.

The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries has called on member libraries including Newmarket Public Library to pass a motion and send a letter to the Minister responsible calling for re-instatement of this funding.

A draft letter is attached.

The following motion is recommended:

THAT the Library Board calls on the Province of Ontario to re-instate provincial funding and purchasing of the existing core suite of online electronic resources;

AND THAT the Library Board sends the attached letter to the Minister of Tourism, Culture, and Sport.

Honorable Michael Coteau
Minister
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport
9th Floor, Hearst Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2E1

Dear Minister Coteau:

RE: e-Resources Funding for Libraries

On behalf of the Newmarket Public Library Board, and as a member of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries, I would like to thank you for your support of Ontario's public libraries. The ongoing Public Library Operating Grant (PLOG) and the current Ontario Libraries Capacity Fund (OLCF) grants are greatly appreciated.

We do, however, wish to note our disappointment at the sunsetting of the three-year e-Resources funding as of this month. With this funding, all Ontario public libraries were able to offer the same suite of subscription-based research databases, affording all Ontarians access to tools for education, literacy, and career development, no matter whether they live in a large southern urban centre or a remote northern village or reserve.

While we appreciate the goal of deficit reduction, we would like to point out that the pan-provincial licensing that this common funding afforded was an extremely efficient use of public fund, less than \$2 million per year. Without this funding, libraries are left scrambling to find ways to pay individually for access under a consortium arrangement that lowers the overall purchasing power.

The cost of the loss of this funding is roughly \$25,000 per year for Newmarket Public Library, which has had to add this to an already-crowded municipal funding request for 2016, leaving continued access in doubt. While we appreciate that the OLCF criteria have been broadened to include this type of expense, we wish to point out that services such as e-Resources are paid annually on an ongoing basis and are not one-time costs.

Furthermore, we would like to suggest that in order to maintain this access, an alliance with other provincial Ministries (specifically the Ministry of Education) could create an even more cost-efficient, equitable, and seamless system to provide all Ontarians with these valuable tools.

As community hubs providing access to information, literacy, learning, and discovery for Ontarians, we believe Ontario's public libraries are cost-efficient, equitable, and ubiquitous infrastructure that can aid in the development of Ontario's competitiveness and quality of life. Ontario's public libraries are always a great investment, and we call on you to maintain the investments that create so much value.

Sincerely,

Joan Stonehocker, Chair

Newmarket Public Library Board

Tel: 905 953-5110 • 438 Park Ave., Newmarket, ON L3Y 1W1 • Fax 905-953-5104 • www.newmarketpl.ca