

Ministry of Tourism,  
Culture and Sport

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Ministre

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NEWMARKET  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

October 18, 2016

Ms. Joan Stonehocker  
Board Chair  
Newmarket Public Library Board  
438 Park Avenue  
Newmarket, ON L3Y 1W1

Dear Ms. Stonehocker:

Thank you for your letter regarding my ministry's Internet Connectivity Grant. I appreciate the Newmarket Public Library's work in providing library services for your community and I have noted your concerns about changes to the grant.

Our government values the contributions of public libraries in building strong, vibrant communities across the province. Our libraries support lifelong learning, provide resources for students and newcomers, and help small businesses and entrepreneurs.

We are working closely with our partners to build a stronger culture sector, and are committed to making investments to help drive innovation, create jobs and provide a better quality of life for Ontarians – while building a stronger economy by achieving a fiscal balance by 2017-18.

As part of Ontario's first Culture Strategy, my ministry will be reviewing and updating our funding programs to build the capacity of libraries serving rural and remote communities and to improve digital services and support. As part of the review, ministry staff will be reaching out to you and other library stakeholders for input and advice.

It is important to note that this program has been underspent in recent years, which means that it may not be working as effectively as it should.

Our government is committed to continuing its support for the library sector. Thank you again for writing.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eleanor McMahon'.

Eleanor McMahon  
Minister