February 22, 2018

Hon. Kathleen Wynne, MPP
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Legislative Building
Queen’s Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Wynne,

RE: Local Library Funding Request
Resolution from Cambridge Council – February 20, 2018 Council Meeting

Please be advised that at the Council meeting held on February 20, 2018, Cambridge City Council considered and approved the following resolution regarding a request to increase local library funding from $33 million to $50 million for 2018 with subsequent increases in line with the Consumer Price Index as recommended by the Ontario Library Association:

Motion: 20-18
Moved By: Councillor Wolf
Seconded By: Councillor Adshade

THAT public libraries provide safe, inclusive, and vibrant community hubs that offer digital inclusion, cultural programming and lifelong learning opportunities and where everyone is welcome to learn, work, connect, and collaborate;

AND THAT the Cambridge Public Library engages with the community and contributes to a culture of social good by sharing knowledge and resources;

AND THAT the Cambridge Public Library continues to evolve its services to meet the needs of the community, including the opening of a new digital library this summer that will offer tech skill development and digital literacy to residents who collaborate and learn in new ways;

AND THAT the Cambridge Public Library continues to seek funding opportunities through donor development and sponsorships to increase services and expand programming outside of their core funding;
AND THAT the Cambridge Public Library currently continues to have a limited resource budget despite between the years 2015 and 2017, implementing a 20% increase in service hours, realizing a 37% increase in wifi usage and a 31% increase in program attendance, within their existing budgets;

AND THAT the Cambridge Public Library continues to manage public resources with the utmost care and are committed to the sustainability of their services;
AND THAT the City of Cambridge urges the Province of Ontario to recognize the contribution of local libraries within their communities and to cease the 20 year budget freeze to local libraries in an acknowledgement to the services they offer to all residents;

AND THAT the City of Cambridge urges the Province of Ontario to reinstate adequate and appropriate funding for local libraries, increasing each year going forward in line with the consumer price index;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Tourism, Culture, and Sport, to the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs, to the local MPP’s, to the Association of Municipalities Ontario, to the Ontario Library Association, to the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries, and to the Region of Waterloo and local area municipalities.

CARRIED

If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly.

Yours truly,

Michael Di Lullo, MPA, CMM III
City Clerk

cc: V. Fedeli, Leader, Official Opposition
A. Horwath, Leader, Ontario NDP Party
Hon. B. Mauro, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Hon. D. Vernile, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport
Hon. I. Naidoo-Harris, Minister of Education
Hon. K. McGarry, MPP Cambridge
M. Turner, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
S. Paterson, Ontario Library Association
S. Abram, Federation of Ontario Public Libraries
Helen Kelly, CEO, Idea Exchange
K. Fletcher, Region of Waterloo
Waterloo Region Municipalities