March 22, 2018

Honourable Daiene Vernile
MPP, Kitchener Centre
Minister of Tourism, Culture, and Sport
Hearst Block, 9th Floor
900 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2E1

Dear Minister:

The Collingwood Public Library Board passed the following motion on March 22, 2018, regarding the need for increased funding to public libraries.

Whereas public libraries provide safe, inclusive, and vibrant community spaces where everyone is welcome to learn, work, connect, and have fun; and,

Whereas the Collingwood Library strives to meet and deliver services to all regardless of ethnicity, affiliation, language and age; and,

Whereas the Collingwood Public Library continues to manage public resources with the utmost care and is committed to the sustainability of its services; and,

Whereas Collingwood Public Library continues to seek funding opportunities to increase its services and expand programming outside of their core funding; and,

Whereas the use of the Collingwood Public Library continues to grow (e.g. 85% growth in program attendance since 2013) despite a limited resource budget;

Therefore be it resolved that the Collingwood Public Library Board 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 acknowledgement of the services they offer all residents; and,

Be it further resolved the Collingwood Public Library Board 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,
Be it further resolved that the Collingwood Public Library Board urges the Province of Ontario to commit funds to a shared and efficient Ontario Digital Library in order to provide equitable online services to all Ontarians; and,

Be it finally resolved that a copy of this resolution and a request for support be sent to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, to the local MPP, to the Ontario Library Association, to the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries and to the Town of Collingwood Council.

Carried

Yours sincerely,

Ken Haigh, CEO

cc. Collingwood Public Library Board
   Stephen Abram, Federation of Ontario Libraries
   Shelagh Paterson, Ontario Library Association