



:. ontario library association

March 12, 2020

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**RE: ERO 019-1406 - Proposed regulatory matters pertaining to community benefits authority under the Planning Act, the Development Charges Act, and the Building Code Act**

As the oldest continually-operating non-profit library association in Canada, the Ontario Library Association represents more than 2,500 members who work in or govern public libraries across Ontario.

We are writing to express our support for the Ontario Government's proposed regulatory changes pertaining to the Development Charges Act, specifically adding public library capital costs to those eligible for development charges.

In our joint August 2019 submission with the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL), we expressed our support for the Ontario government's objective of providing municipalities with a transparent, predictable model to fund growth-related capital infrastructure for community services. At the same time, we expressed concern that including public libraries under the new Community Benefits Charge framework would create risks for the ongoing sustainability of local public libraries.

In listening to feedback from the public library sector and proposing to move forward with including public library capital costs as an eligible service under the Development Charges Act, and by making these costs fully recoverable, the Ontario Government is taking an important step towards ensuring that Ontario's public libraries will be able to meet the increased demand in our growing communities. It will help ensure that libraries

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in municipalities of all sizes can continue to respond and adapt to the priorities of the people and the communities they serve, both today and in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this important matter. We look forward to continuing to work with the Ontario Government and our municipal partners throughout the province to ensure the continuing stability and sustainability of locally-focused public libraries across Ontario.

Regards,

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