

April 12, 2024

Hon. Neil Lumsden
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport
438 University Avenue, 6th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

Minister Lumsden,

RE: Ontario Budget 2024 – First Nations Public Libraries

On behalf of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL) and Ontario Library Association (OLA), we would like to express our thanks and gratitude for the Ontario Government's commitment to enhance funding to help ensure the ongoing stability of on reserve First Nations Public Libraries in Ontario. We further acknowledge and appreciate your leadership on this important matter, which we believe was instrumental in achieving this historic investment.

Through this investment – an additional \$3.75 million over 3 years – nearly 40 public libraries on reserve will be significantly assisted in continuing to perform their unique role: preserving their communities' collective memory, revitalizing First Nations languages, assisting community members in preparing for job skills and entrepreneurship, and providing a place to nurture important social connections. This enhanced funding is a critical important step towards sustainability for public libraries on reserve – an important priority identified by our members across the province.

We want to thank you, your office, and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport for your support for public libraries. We look forward to continued discussions on key sector priorities that can further enhance access to critical library resources in communities across Ontario.

Sincerely,



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