

VIA EMAIL

August 20, 2009

Mr. Ken Cooley,
President, British Columbia Library Association
Email: kcooley@uvic.ca

Dear Mr. Cooley:

I am writing to follow up on our recent telephone contact with BCLA regarding public library funding for this year.

This government set a clear budget plan in February that focuses on government's priorities of health care and education. To support this focus, government undertook a comprehensive review of discretionary grants and had to make some difficult decisions.

Available funding for the public library sector is constrained for this fiscal year, totalling \$13.7 million. With the funding available, we will endeavour to address the greatest need and to preserve vital public library infrastructure. Staff will communicate funding details and aim to distribute available funds by the end of September.

Grant decisions are part of the \$1.9 billion in administrative and other savings announced in February. We recognize these are challenging times for many organizations, including valued public library partners.

I would like to take this opportunity to share my appreciation for your organization's work.

Yours sincerely,



Paige MacFarlane
Assistant Deputy Minister

pc: Alane Wilson, Executive Director (execdir@bcla.bc.ca)
Jacqueline van Dyk, Director, Public Library Services Branch