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The Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia
Box 9014
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Campbell,
As chairperson of the Friends of the Pemberton Library board and a trustee of the Pemberton & District Public Library, I am writing to express concern about the possibility that provincial funding of essential services for libraries across the province will be withdrawn, or at best reduced.

Rural libraries such as ours struggle to provide a comparable service to our smaller and more isolated communities to those offered in the larger centers. Provincially funded programs such as BC OneCard, the interlibrary loan program - InterLink, the interlibrary integrated database systems and support for a variety of literacy programs are vital to our achieving this goal. This funding has allowed our library to become a vibrant center for literacy and information for our growing community.

Our community recently raised considerable funding to establish a new library. Since opening our doors July 2008, library use has soared and a variety of programs, addressing the literary needs of all demographic groups, are being well attended. It would be devastating if, through lack of government funding, these programs and the enhanced library services would have to be cut.

To impede the groundswell of participation and interest in literary growth in our diverse library district is surely inconsistent with your election promise to make BC the most literate province in Canada.

We urge you to choose literacy as a high priority when making your budget choices.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marnie Simon".

Marnie Simon
Chairperson Friends of the Pemberton Library Board
Trustee of the Pemberton & District Library Board.

cc:

The Honourable Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid
Minister of Education and
Minister Responsible for Early Learning and Literacy
East Annex, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Mayor Jordon Sturdy.
Village of Pemberton
7400 Prospect St.
Pemberton, BC. V0N 2L0

The Honourable Joan MacIntyre
MLA West Vancouver, Sea to Sky
300 – 2232 Marine Drive
West Vancouver BC V7K 1K4

Jacqueline van Dyk
Director Public Library Services Branch
PO Box 9831 Stn. Provincial Government
Victoria, BC. V8W 9T1
Re: Provincial Funding to Public Libraries

Andy Ackerman. President BC Library Trustees Association
PO Box 4334, Station Terminal
Vancouver, BC. V6B 3Z7

Alane Wilson Executive Director, British Columbia Library Association
150-900 Howe St.
Vancouver, BC. V6Z 2M4