



CITY of STRATFORD

Office of the Mayor

His Worship Dan Mathieson

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March 16th, 2018

Via e-mail:

Daiene.Vernile@ontario.ca

The Honorable Daiene Vernile
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport
9th Floor, Hearst Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2E1

Dear Minister Vernile:

At the February 26, 2018 Regular Council Meeting, Stratford City Council adopted a resolution in support of the joint Federation of Ontario Public Libraries/Ontario Library Association document that was submitted to the government as part of the 2018 budget process as follows:

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

WHEREAS the Stratford Public Library engages with the community and contributes to a culture of social good by sharing knowledge and resources; and

WHEREAS the Stratford Public Library continues to manage public resources with the utmost care and are committed to the sustainability of their services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Stratford 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 an acknowledgment to the services they offer to all residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Stratford urges the Province to reinstate adequate and appropriate funding for local libraries, increasing each year going forward in line with the consumer price index; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, to the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs, to the local MPP's, to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, to the Ontario Library Association, to the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries and to local area municipalities.

We support the concerns expressed by our local libraries, the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries and the Ontario Library Association. The 20 year funding freeze has had a negative impact on one of the community's most respected, high impact, trusted and highly used services – our local library.

Councillors

Brad Beatty - George Brown - Graham Bunting - Tom Clifford - Bonnie Henderson
Danielle Ingram - Frank Mark - Kerry McManus - Martin Ritsma - Kathy Vassilakos

I would be pleased to speak with you more fully about these concerns. Please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Daniel B. Mathieson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daniel" and last name "Mathieson" clearly distinguishable.

Daniel B. Mathieson, Mayor

/ja

c: Stratford Public Library CEO, Julia Merritt
K. Wynne, Premier of Ontario
V. Fedeli, Ontario PC Party
A. Horwath, Ontario NDP Party
B. Mauro, Minister of Municipal Affairs
I. Naidoo-Harris, Minister of Education and MPP
John Nater, Perth-Wellington MP
Randy Pettapiece, Perth-Wellington MPP
M. Turner, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
S. Paterson, Ontario Library Association
S. Abram, Federation of Ontario Public Libraries
Walter McKenzie, Warden - County of Perth Council
Al Strathdee, Mayor - Town of St. Marys