



2017 PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION

August 5th 2016

Canadian libraries operate with different resources in different environments, but all have in common the mission of preserving and disseminating Canada’s knowledge and heritage—a crucial component of an innovative, productive and forward-looking country. Our members also provide free access to the information and resources that many Canadians—especially those who face socioeconomic barriers—need to maximize their contributions to the economy, and to their personal development and wellbeing.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA-FCAB) is the united, national voice of Canada’s library community, and is the successor organization to the former Canadian Library Association (CLA). Although the CFLA-FCAB is a new body, the legacy of library advocacy in Canada is strong. As a result, our country has made steps recently under successive governments that improved the capacity of libraries to deliver greater results in the communities they serve. The Copyright Modernization Act established education as a category of fair dealing, which supports the sharing of works needed for learning while allowing public institutions like universities, schools/school boards, and governments with tight budgets to develop innovative resources for the classroom and study. The Act also preserved the vital measure of maintaining the term of copyright at life of the author plus 50 years, a made-in-Canada approach that balances the rights of content creators with the enrichment of the public domain, and supports the preservation of works. More recently, the government took the positive step of acceding the Marrakesh Treaty, and reintroduced the long-form census, which will allow for the continuation of a tradition of excellent record keeping that enables the development of well-informed public policy and lays the foundation for our nation’s archival record. This measure ensures that effective services can be provided where they are needed most.

Our recommendations for the 2017 federal budget will create opportunities for the people and communities who need support the most. At the same time, these recommendations will fuel the innovative growth from research and knowledge networks that is an increasingly important pillar of Canada’s economic growth. In short, libraries make Canadians’ lives better and our country more productive. We hope that you will consider adopting the following recommendations to do the same.

In the 2017 Federal Budget the federal government should:

1. Improve broadband internet service and access in rural and indigenous communities where libraries exist at the centre of communities and offer invaluable services and resources.
2. Celebrate Canada’s 150th anniversary by investing in library services and infrastructure through a Library Upgrade Investment Fund.
3. Support indigenous education in library services to protect and preserve indigenous knowledge(s) in a variety of mediums.

4. Support the recommendations of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries and National Reading Campaign endorsed by CFLA-FCAB.

EXPANDING RURAL AND REMOTE BROADBAND

The digital age has made a wealth of knowledge and resources available to people on a scale impossible to imagine just a few decades ago. Not only has our collective technological progress made these resources more accessible, our ability to interact with that information and people around the globe has increased tremendously. The possibilities presented by this new reality are immense, but unfortunately people living in many of Canada's rural and remote communities have been left out. This is especially troubling given that people who live furthest from population centres stand to benefit most from the interconnected world that broadband access facilitates.

In Canada today many new job postings are found exclusively on webpages rather than bulletin boards, supplementary health and wellness information can be found online, and many course materials for college classes exist only in unique digital web-based formats. It is easy to see how essential broadband internet access is for Canadians in all communities, and especially for newcomers to Canada and vulnerable persons who lack institutionalized supports to find employment and access programming. The Standing Committee on Finance has asked for submissions that will ensure rural and remote communities can enable residents to make desired economic contributions and for businesses to expand and prosper, expanding broadband internet access is a crucial step in realizing this goal for many rural and remote communities. Further, it has asked for recommendations that will help individual Canadians, and Indigenous persons in particular, to maximize economic contributions in the manner of their choosing. We know that access to broadband will help achieve this goal, while also supporting the success of many of the educational priorities of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. In fact, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada has emphasized that it is imperative for the "majority of Canada's Aboriginal communities [to] have access to reliable high-speed internet."¹

Universal access to residential broadband is a laudable goal but in underserved communities creating access points to high-speed internet is an important action to take immediately. Bridging the 'digital divide' is crucial for libraries that serve as community hubs in rural and remote communities. By providing more broadband support the federal government will be contributing not only access to educational and cultural resources, but also to information and services that enable job-searches, entrepreneurial activities, and innovation. A key pillar of broadband access is fibre-optic equipment, but laying fibre-optic networks, and even providing wireless access across a country as large as Canada is a costly and time consuming endeavour, particularly for rural areas where dwellings and businesses are located farther apart. A cost-effective solution that will support more immediate access to the highest speed connections available would be to connect libraries in rural communities with fibre-optic and wireless connections. Taking this step would allow the federal government to **improve broadband internet service and access in rural and**

¹ Connectivity and Partnerships. *Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada*. <https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1343229993175/1343230038242>. August 16, 2012.

northern, and indigenous communities where libraries exist at as critical resources that offer invaluable services and resources.

INVEST IN LIBRARY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH A TARGETED *LIBRARY UPGRADE INVESTMENT FUND*

Libraries improve communities. Whether old or new, they are public utilities whose collections and services support personal and community needs and provide a communal space for discussion and exploration. They are centres of knowledge where Canadian culture is discovered, used, and shared in all manner of formats so that people with diverse needs can access a wide range of artefacts from our society. Libraries have balanced the costs of new technologies and growing collections with the need to provide more community oriented programming, while promoting the values of curiosity and literacy that make Canada a well-educated and productive country. Beyond simply providing access to resources, libraries make it possible for individuals and groups to meet and interact, they are places where ideas are born and opportunities are seized. This is especially true for vulnerable populations, for whom libraries can serve as community anchors.² In Canada's effort to fight issues like homelessness libraries are an important venue of engagement. Many public libraries encourage use by the homeless who must access information resources to improve their lives, but also to find enjoyment and connect with the community.³

It is obvious that libraries nurture the potential of everyone in the communities they serve. It is troubling then that thousands of library facilities across Canada are deteriorating and many are at risk of falling into disrepair. Library systems and branches that were founded decades ago continue to serve the needs of growing populations that have much higher expectations for collections, services, and access to new technologies. This means that as budgets tighten and obligations increase capital maintenance is regularly deferred. In Ontario alone the capital infrastructure obligation stood at \$1.4 billion in 2011.⁴ This funding is desperately needed in order to ensure that library facilities are updated to meet accessibility requirements, modernize aging buildings and infrastructure, and add additional space to support the needs of a growing population and a increasingly diverse and rich community. Supporting infrastructure upgrades for libraries will also support Canada's research and innovation agenda. Our nation's research libraries ensure that information is not only stored and archived, but used to support new ideas, advances in technology and new inventions, to learn from the past, and shape better public policy. These

² Abbas, J.M.; Moxley, D.P. *Envisioning Libraries as Collaborative Community Anchors for Social Service Provision to Vulnerable Populations*. Practice: Social Work in Action.

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/09503153.2015.1135891>. Accessed August 3, 2016.

³ Brimacombe, K. "Public Libraries and the Homeless" in *The Information Policy Blog*.

<https://bclainfopolicycommittee.wordpress.com/2012/04/30/public-libraries-and-the-homeless/>. April 30, 2012.

⁴ <http://fopl.ca/media/2013/06/Capital-Needs-Analysis-Final-Report-19DEC2011.pdf>

facilities preserve documents, records, and digital media and find ways in which to better catalogue and share these products to increase productivity in Canada's research and development hubs.

The government has committed to a host of infrastructure support for educational institutions and municipalities, but libraries are a uniquely accessible destination where all members of a community can benefit from targeted funding. To celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary the CFLA-FCAB is calling on the federal government **to invest \$50 million in a targeted Library Upgrade Investment Fund, which will allow libraries of all formats in all communities to improve their facilities and services, and be welcoming places where all Canadians can find the resources they need to contribute to our society and to the economy.** Making this investment will encourage matching from provincial governments and local communities to have an even broader impact.

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION IN LIBRARY SERVICES TO PRESERVE INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE IN A RESPECTFUL WAY

For many years much of the historical, cultural, linguistic and material knowledge of Indigenous peoples' was held by libraries, archives, museums, and records centres. This has created barriers to access and legal issues concerning ownership.⁵ Indigenous knowledge should be preserved and protected in a variety of mediums for us by current and future generations in a respectful and sensitive manner. By providing Indigenous people with scholarships for education in library services, whether at the graduate (MLIS) or undergraduate level, more Indigenous peoples will have access to this knowledge in an environment that is welcoming and respectful of customs and traditions. Consulting Indigenous communities with respect for proper protocols to access and care for their culturally sensitive records is paramount to this goal. This process will have implications for copyright policies, but will inevitably create opportunities for employment for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples at library and archival facilities across Canada. By developing such support with Indigenous groups, this measure will help the federal government to act on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action, which urges the government to develop a joint strategy to "eliminate educational and employment gaps between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Canadians."

Indigenous people should be provided with support to train as professionals in all areas that control the interpretation and preservation of their culture, history, language and arts.⁶ For Indigenous communities, being involved in the process and supporting the education of other members of the community to access their cultural artefacts and knowledge is vital. This approach is based in community and rooted in a tradition that enables sharing, literacy and research, which will promote pride and understanding. Support for training Indigenous professionals in library

⁵ Camille Callison, "Indigenous Peoples' New Canoe," in *Aboriginal and Visible Minority Librarians: Oral Histories from Canada*, ed. Deborah Lee and Mahalakshmi Kumaran (Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2014), 144.

⁶ Ibid.

services and archival methods will equip them to retrieve and store information and materials for the community's use and enjoyment. We recommend that the federal government ***fund Indigenous education in library services to preserve indigenous knowledge in a respectful way.***

ENDORSEMENTS

The CFLA-FCAB would like to endorse positive policy options that have been submitted to the committee by the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) and the National Reading Campaign (NRC). The entire library community will benefit from CARL's recommendations to enable increased access to research data, ***digitize Canada's documentary heritage through a nationally coordinated, collaborative program led by Library and Archives Canada, and to invest in the growth of the Federal Science Library to support Canada's open science commitment.*** Further, we support NRC's Indigenous Libraries Appeal to ***provide the Department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada with \$90 million in new funding over three years to support the creation, growth and sustainability of public libraries on First Nation, Inuit, and Métis communities.*** This will ensure that many of the 500 Indigenous communities across Canada with no public library will be able to build a facility that meets the needs of their community. We believe additional funding to ensure each newly established library is serviced with broadband Internet access is a necessary complement to this request.