



Honourable Michael Tibollo
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport
6th Floor, 438 University Avenue
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

May 21st, 2019

Dear Minister Tibollo,

The Bruce County Public Library Board would like to express its deep disappointment with the recent funding reduction to the Southern Ontario Library Service (SOLS) and Ontario Library Services-North (OLSN), along with the cessation of SOLS' Interlibrary Loan Service.

As a rural library system, the Bruce County Public Library has relied on SOLS' Interlibrary Loan Service to provide our residents with access to information and resources. In 2018, the Bruce County Public Library borrowed 5,925 items, and shared 3,915 materials with other public libraries across Ontario. Through this service, we have been able to offer our patrons access to materials we do not have the space to house or the financial capacity to purchase. The termination of this much needed and well-used service has disproportionately impacted residents of rural Ontario and smaller municipalities such as Bruce County.

Although it has been indicated that SOLS' and OLSN's reduction in funding will not impact the daily operation of public libraries, unfortunately this claim is inaccurate. Without SOLS' Interlibrary Loan Service, our library system would not have the budgetary capacity to absorb the postage costs accrued through shipping library materials. In addition, potential staffing consequences exist. Many library systems across Ontario have dedicated staff involved in the coordination of local Interlibrary Loan Services. The loss of this service impacts the longevity of these front-line positions.

Since its inception, the Bruce County Public Library has provided cost-effective library services to its residents. It has also supported the County's economic development and small business initiatives. While we understand the value of an efficient public sector, the continued operation of a provincial Interlibrary Loan Service is essential – without accruing additional costs to municipal library systems.

We entreat the Government to reinstate a provincial Interlibrary Loan Service and ensure that all Ontarians – regardless of geographic location - have equal access to the information, knowledge and materials provided through public libraries.

Respectfully,

Councilor Luke Charbonneau
Chair, Bruce County Public Library Board

CC: Doug Ford, Premier
Lisa Thompson, MPP, Huron-Bruce
Bill Walker, MPP, Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
Barbara Franchetto, CEO, Southern Ontario Library Service
Melissa D'Onofrio Jones, CEO, Ontario Library Services-North
Shelagh Paterson, Executive Director, Ontario Library Association