



Township of McKellar

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May 7, 2019

Anne Potocnik, Chairperson
McKellar Public Library Board
P.O. Box 10
McKellar, ON P0G 1C0

Dear Ms. Potocnik

Re: Resolution 19-263 - Ford Government funding cuts to Southern Ontario Library Service and Ontario Library Service North

Please be advised that at its regular meeting held, Monday May 6, 2019 the Council of the Township of McKellar passed the following resolution:

19-263 **WHEREAS** the Ontario government has reduced by 50% the funding to Southern Ontario Library Service and Ontario Library Service North, resulting in the suspension of interlibrary loan service and postage subsidy, with further service cuts yet to be announced;

AND WHEREAS the users of small northern libraries such as the McKellar Public Library will be significantly negatively impacted by the loss of equitable access to materials and information;

AND WHEREAS the resulting increased costs of postage will not have been considered in the budget preparation for the current fiscal year and will require lending libraries to carefully consider whether to fill an interlibrary loan request;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of McKellar strongly urges the Ontario government to restore the funding to Ontario Library Service North and Southern Ontario Library Service *at a minimum* to the previous 2018 funding level;

AND FURTHER that this resolution be forwarded to the Michael Tibollo, Minister of Culture, Recreation and Sport; Norm Miller, MPP; Doug Ford, Premier; Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario municipalities.

Your consideration on the matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ina Watkinson', written in a cursive style.

Ina Watkinson
Administrative/Treasury Assistant
Township of McKellar

cc Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Honourable Mike Tobollo, Minister of Culture, Recreation & Sport
Norm Miller, M.P.P., Parry Sound - Muskoka
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Municipalities of Ontario

Premier Doug Ford
Michael Tibollo, Minister of Culture Recreation and Sport
Norm Miller, MPP , Parry Sound Muskoka

The recently announced budget cut to SOLS and OLS North has so far resulted in the suspension of interlibrary loans, courier service and subsidies for postage for interlibrary loan. The full impact of this outrageous funding reduction is not yet known, however the loss of readily accessible interlibrary loan service will have a significant impact on the users of small northern libraries such as McKellar Public Library. Larger libraries have substantially larger materials budgets and are more likely to own the resources required by their patrons. Small northern libraries rely on interlibrary loan service to provide their users with materials they do not have. The loss of this vital service leaves northern residents at a distinct disadvantage without readily available and equitable access to the range of materials and information they previously enjoyed. Electronic formats may be seen as a substitute however high speed broadband internet service is also not as readily available in northern or remote areas and not everyone owns a computer.

The Ontario Library Services also provide staff and trustee training and coordination of other services proving economies of scale and resource sharing.

We the board of the McKellar Public Library strongly urge the Ontario government to reverse this disastrous and short sighted funding reduction and to restore *at a minimum* the funding level provided to SOLS and OLS North in 2018.

Anne Potocnick, Chair, McKellar Public Library Board