



## Library Association of Alberta

80 Baker Cres. NW, Calgary, AB T2L 1R4  
403-284-5818 | [www.laa.ab.ca](http://www.laa.ab.ca) | [info@laa.ca](mailto:info@laa.ca)

March 30, 2017

Hon. Brad Wall  
233 Central Avenue North  
Swift Current SK S9H 0L3  
[bradwallmla@sasktel.net](mailto:bradwallmla@sasktel.net)

Dear Premier Wall,

On behalf of the Library Association of Alberta, I urge the Government of Saskatchewan to reconsider its devastating cuts to public library funding and recognize that investing in libraries is investing in the people of your province.

In 2017 libraries aren't about bricks and mortar. They aren't about print or digital either. They're about people. And that's who will be negatively impacted by these cuts: people all over Saskatchewan who rely on library services to live their daily lives.

Libraries support and inform people. They are a cornerstone of democracy providing access to information for all community members regardless of economic, social, political, or cultural position. Libraries are open to all, serve all, and support all. Public libraries play a unique role in our communities. They provide a portal to the past, ensure that all community members understand the present, and engage everyone in building a future.

As your next-door neighbours, Alberta libraries have admired the leadership of Saskatchewan. From province-wide access to digital resources to a single provincial library catalogue to the one provincial library card, Saskatchewan libraries have shown libraries across Canada how to cooperate to build an innovative, cost-effective and equitable library system that serves everyone, wherever they live. The budget reductions to regional library systems and the Regina and Saskatoon public libraries cut out the heart of this system, and endanger the system's existence.

I urge you to reconsider your decision and instead look for ways to strengthen libraries so they can continue to be transformative institutions that build citizens, communities, provinces and the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P. Bailey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Peter Bailey, President  
Library Association of Alberta

cc: Hon. Don Morgan, Minister of Education [minister.edu@gov.sk.ca](mailto:minister.edu@gov.sk.ca)