April 17, 2017

Dear [Redacted]

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 [Our File #: AESL/012/2017]

On April 6, 2017 the Department of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour received your request for access to the following records/information:

   All emails for AES Communications staff member John Tompkins for 2016 to present day 2017.

Per your email messages with Mr. David Moore from April 6, 2017 to April 10, 2017, you agreed to limit the scope of your request to emails related to the library review for January 1, 2016 to present.

I am pleased to inform you that your request for access to this information has been granted and the requested records are attached.

The Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 requires us to provide an advisory response within 10 days of receiving the request. As this request has been completed prior to day 10, this letter also serves as our Advisory Response.

Please be advised that responsive records will be published following a 72 hour period after the response is sent electronically to you or five days in the case where records are mailed to you. It is the goal to have the responsive records posted to the Completed Access to Information Requests website within one day following the applicable period of time. Please note that requests for personal information will not be posted online.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned at (709) 729-4276 or SharonSeaward@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

SHARON SEAWARD
ATIPP Coordinator

Attachment
Seaward, Sharon M.

From: Releases, News
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2016 2:13 PM
To: Releases, News
Subject: NLIS 4 - Public Advisory: Public Roundtable Consultations Continue on Review of Provincial Library System

NLIS 4
Education and Early Childhood Development
October 25, 2016

Public Advisory: Public Roundtable Consultations Continue on Review of Provincial Library System

To ensure the public has an opportunity to provide input on the review of the provincial library system, public roundtable consultation sessions will continue over the next couple of weeks. The remaining consultations will run from October 26 to November 8.

The public is invited to participate in the following sessions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 26</td>
<td>Rocky Harbour</td>
<td>Gros Morne Academy, 5 Parsons Lane</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 27</td>
<td>Stephenville</td>
<td>Days Inn, 44 Queen Street</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, November 2</td>
<td>Labrador City</td>
<td>Labrador City Public Library, 306 Hudson Drive</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[NEW] Tuesday, November 8</td>
<td>St. John’s</td>
<td>Comfort Inn Airport 106 Airport Road</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a complete listing of public roundtable consultation sessions, please visit www.nlpl.ca/home/review.
For individuals not able to attend a session, there is an option to complete a survey and/or make a submission online at www.nlpl.ca/home/review. The survey and online submissions will now be accepted until November 10, 2016.

- 30 -

Media contact:
Christopher Pickard
Director of Communications
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
709-729-1906, 687-9903
ChristopherPickard@gov.nl.ca

2016 10 25 2:10 p.m.
NLIS 2
Education and Early Childhood Development
October 19, 2016

Public Advisory: Public Roundtable Consultations Continue Tonight on Review of Provincial Library System

To ensure the public has an opportunity to provide input on the review of the provincial library system, public roundtable consultation sessions continue this evening and tomorrow. The public is invited to participate in the following sessions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 19</td>
<td>Grand Falls-Windsor</td>
<td>Grand Falls-Winsor Public Library, Arts and Culture Centre</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 20</td>
<td>Twillingate</td>
<td>United Church Hall</td>
<td>1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a complete listing of public roundtable consultation sessions, please visit www.nlpl.ca/home/review.

For individuals not able to attend a session, there is an option to complete a survey and/or make a submission online at www.nlpl.ca/home/review. The survey and online submissions will be accepted until November 4, 2016.

- 30 -

Media contact:
Michelle Hunt-Grouch
Media Relations Manager
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
729-1906, 725-1593
michellehuntgrouch@gov.nl.ca

2016 10 19 10:25 a.m.
NLIS 1
Education and Early Childhood Development
September 30, 2016

Working to Ensure a Sustainable Library System

The Public are Invited to Participate in the Review of the Provincial Library System

Over the coming weeks, public roundtable consultations will occur for the review of the provincial public library system. These consultations will run from October 5 to November 2, and will consist of 10 public roundtable engagement sessions, as well as online surveys and written submissions.

“Our government believes that libraries are important to communities and the people of this province. That is why we are undertaking a complete review that contemplates the full impact libraries have on communities. We want to improve library services for the people of this province, so residents are encouraged to participate in this review.”
- The Honourable Dale Kirby, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development

The consultations will be led by EY, an international consulting firm, in collaboration with a steering committee comprising six representatives from the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board and the Provincial Government. For individuals not able to attend a public roundtable consultation session, there is an option to complete a survey and/or make a submission online at www.nlpl.ca/home/review.

“This steering committee will collaborate with EY to ensure all of the information required is available and that this is a thorough and well-balanced review of our library system. I am confident this review will steer us in the right direction as we take next steps.”
-Minister Kirby

The steering committee has been working with EY to develop these public roundtable consultation sessions, ensuring residents and stakeholders have an opportunity to voice their opinions, which will help influence final recommendations from EY.

“We are pleased to work with the Provincial Government as members of the steering committee, as we collaborate to determine the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for our provincial library system. In the end, with input from residents and stakeholders, the result will be a better and more efficient system.”
- Calvin Taylor, Chair, Provincial Information and Library Resources Board
The scope and format of the review and the public roundtable consultations schedule is included in the below Backgrounder, as well as the list of members of the steering committee.

QUICK FACTS
- Over the coming weeks, public consultation sessions will occur for the organizational review of the provincial public library system.
- The consultation sessions will run from October 5 to November 2.
- Information on the review process, including the link to complete the public survey and to submit written submissions, is available at www.nlpl.ca/home/review
- The steering committee, comprising members from the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board and the Provincial Government, will oversee the review process

- 30 -

Media contacts:
Lauren Wiseman
Director of Communications
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
729-0048, 691-7668
laurenwiseman@gov.nl.ca

Andrew Hunt
Executive Director
Provincial Information and Library Resources Board
709-643-0902
ahunt@nlpl.ca

BACKGROUNDER
Schedule for Public Consultations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 5</td>
<td>Bay Roberts</td>
<td>Amalgamated Academy</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 6</td>
<td>St. John's</td>
<td>A.C. Hunter Library</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 11</td>
<td>Marystown</td>
<td>Sacred Heart Elementary School</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 13</td>
<td>Clarenville</td>
<td>Clarenville High School</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 18</td>
<td>Springdale</td>
<td>Riverwood Inn</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 19</td>
<td>Grand Falls-Windsor</td>
<td>Grand Falls-Windsor Public Library, Arts and Culture Centre</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 20</td>
<td>Twillingate</td>
<td>United Church Hall</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 26</td>
<td>Rocky Harbour</td>
<td>Gros Morne Academy</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 27</td>
<td>Stephenville</td>
<td>Kindale Public Library</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, November 2</td>
<td>Labrador City</td>
<td>Labrador City Public Library</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Information on the format of the roundtable consultation and the review process, including the link to complete the public survey and to submit written submissions, is available at www.nlpl.ca/home/review.

The format of the public roundtable consultation sessions will include the following:

- Participants will be organized into smaller groups to answer a series of questions;
- A facilitator will be assigned to each group;
- Questions will focus on the role and use of local libraries and identifying opportunities for improvement; and
- The results from each group will be discussed with the broader group.

Scope of the Library System Review

This review will consider the overall purpose of the library system in Newfoundland and Labrador, in that universal access to improved library services should be available to all citizens. Key components of the review are:

- Provincial consultations, including:
  - Public consultation sessions held across the province;
  - Public survey;
  - Internal staff survey; and
  - Acceptance of written submissions.

- Analysis of the current service delivery landscape, including:
  - Locations;
  - Types of services currently offered;
  - Service delivery methods;
  - Service standards; and
  - Usage.

- Review of the current governance structure
- Research of innovations and leading practices from other jurisdictions

EY will deliver a final report to the Provincial Government and the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board to provide recommendations and considerations to inform decision-making of the future of the provincial public library system.

Steering Committee Members

Steering committee members for the provincial library system review are:

- Calvin Taylor, Provincial Information and Library Resources Board (Co-chair)
- Janet Vivian-Walsh, Provincial Government (Co-chair)
- Andrew Hunt, Provincial Information and Library Resources Board
- Gillian Noonan, Provincial Information and Library Resources Board
- Brian Evans, Provincial Government
- Tracy King, Provincial Government

2016 09 30 9:05 a.m.
Potential copyright material

If you wish to obtain a copy please contact the ATIPP Office at (709) 729-7072 or atippoffice@gov.nl.ca.
Ensuring a Long-Term and Sustainable Library System

Organizational and Service Review to Inform Future of Provincial Library Resources

The Honourable Dale Kirby, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, has requested that the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board suspend its decision to implement a regional library model while a complete organizational and service review of libraries is conducted.

“Our government wants the best for the residents of Newfoundland and Labrador. At this point in our history we are faced with a challenging fiscal situation that we must address. We do have to make tough choices, but we are also open to listening to residents. We have heard from very strong voices about the future of our libraries and we feel that before moving forward with any closures we should have an external assessment that contemplates the full impact a library has on its community. We still contend that we need to improve library services to meet the changing needs of users. At the end of this review, we want to have a clear and transparent overview of our library system to inform the next steps in our decision-making process.”

- The Honourable Dale Kirby, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development

A steering committee will be formed including members from the Provincial Government and Provincial Information and Library Resources Board. The review will include:

- Provincial stakeholder consultations;
- Analysis of the current service delivery landscape including locations, types of services offered, usage and service delivery methods;
- Review of the governance structure;
- Review of library service standards including operating hours, programs and types of services offered; and
- Research of trends and leading practices from other jurisdictions.

The review will also consider broader governmental objectives that focus on the use of innovation, modernized service delivery and alternative use of buildings and service locations.

“We are pleased to work with the Provincial Government to help conduct a review of the provincial library system. This approach will provide a complete and full assessment of our resources, strengths and areas that need improvement. The report, with input from the library system and communities, will help lead us to a better overall system for library users.”
The resulting report will provide an overview of the current state of the library system, relevant research and the information gathered during consultations. The report will be used to assist the Provincial Government with future decision making related to the province’s library system. Further details of the consultation process will be released in the coming weeks.

QUICK FACTS

- The Provincial Government has requested that the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board suspend its decision to implement a regional library model until an external review of the library system is conducted.
- A steering committee will be formed including members from the Provincial Government and Provincial Information and Library Resources Board.
- The review will examine the current library system, governance structure, service standards, best practices and conduct stakeholder consultations.
- The review is expected to be finished this fall and will assist the Provincial Government with future decision making.

Media contacts:
Blair Medd
Director of Communications
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
709-729-0048, 631-8465
blairmedd@gov.nl.ca

Andrew Hunt
Executive Director
Provincial Information and Library Resources Board
709-643-0904
ahunt@nlpl.ca

2016 06 30 12:35 p.m.
Potential copyright material

If you wish to obtain a copy please contact the ATIPP Office at (709) 729-7072 or atippoffice@gov.nl.ca.
Seaward, Sharon M.

From: Medd, Blair
Sent: Friday, June 03, 2016 3:28 PM
To: Donnan, Hugh
Cc: O'Connor, Nancy; Barfoot, Scott; Curran, Erin; Tompkins, John
Subject: Re: FYI - LTE - CBS Library

Thanks Hugh.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: Donnan, Hugh
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2016 3:27 PM
To: Medd, Blair
Cc: O'Connor, Nancy; Barfoot, Scott; Curran, Erin; Tompkins, John
Subject: Fw: FYI - LTE - CBS Library

See attached. Only other thing was switching back and forth between CBS and conception bay south. Maybe after first use of CBS keep it consistent and keep using it.

Anyhow good to go.
Hugh

From: Medd, Blair
Sent: Friday, June 03, 2016 8:53 AM
To: O'Connor, Nancy; Barfoot, Scott; Donnan, Hugh; Curran, Erin; Tompkins, John
Subject: FYI - LTE - CBS Library

Good morning, there has been some recent articles and comments in the Shoreline on government’s and the town’s commitment to the library in CBS. The Minister suggested sending a letter to the editor.

Please find attached a draft I would like to send by end of day if possible. Please let me know if you have any suggestions or questions.

Thank you,

Blair
Blair Medd

Director of Communications

Education and Early Childhood Development

W: 729-0048 C: 631-8465

blairmedd@gov.nl.ca
Seaward, Sharon M.

From: Donnan, Hugh
Sent: Friday, June 03, 2016 3:27 PM
To: Medd, Blair
Cc: O'Connor, Nancy; Barfoot, Scott; Curran, Erin; Tompkins, John
Subject: Fw: FYI - LTE - CBS Library
Attachments: Letter to the Editor - CBS Library (HD).docx

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To: O'Connor, Nancy; Barfoot, Scott; Donnan, Hugh; Curran, Erin; Tompkins, John
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Thank you,

Blair

Blair Medd
Director of Communications
Education and Early Childhood Development
blairmedd@gov.nl.ca
Letter to the Editor  
Re CBS Library  
June 2016

Dear editor,

I wanted to take a moment to reaffirm for your readers and the residents of Conception Bay South that our government is committed to library services in the CBS region.

We are all well aware of the dire fiscal circumstances that this province is currently facing. We are at a place in our history where we either do nothing, to the detriment of future generations as we pass on more debt, or take action and put our province back on track. Our government has chosen to act.

With the recent announcement by the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board to adopt a regional library model, the board has set a course that will lead to better resourced libraries and with longer operating hours for libraries in hub communities throughout the province.

Conception Bay South is a region that is growing and serves a large population. The library in this community is certainly a significant part of the provincial regional library model.

As has been indicated in the public, the town of Conception Bay South, the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board and the Provincial Government have committed to working together to find the best way forward for library services in CBS.

These are challenging times for our province, there is no doubt. However, collectively we will all find our way through this to better days.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and please feel free to contact my office or the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board if you have any further comments or questions on the regional library model.

Sincerely,

Dale Kirby  
MHA for Mount Scio  
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development
Seaward, Sharon M.

From: Medd, Blair
Sent: Friday, June 03, 2016 8:53 AM
To: O Connor, Nancy; Barfoot, Scott; Donnan, Hugh; Curran, Erin; Tompkins, John
Subject: FYI - LTE - CBS Library
Attachments: Letter to the Editor - CBS Library.docx

Good morning, there has been some recent articles and comments in the Shoreline on government’s and the town’s commitment to the library in CBS. The Minister suggested sending a letter to the editor.

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Blair

Blair Medd
Director of Communications
Education and Early Childhood Development
W: 729-0048 C: 631-8465
blairmedd@gov.nl.ca
Letter to the Editor
Re CBS Library
June 2016

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We are all well aware of the dire fiscal circumstances that this province is currently facing. We are at a place in our history where we either do nothing, to the detriment of future generations as we pass on more debt, or take action and put our province back on track. Our government has chosen to act.

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Thank you for taking the time to read this and please feel free to contact my office or the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board if you have any further comments or questions on the regional library model.

Sincerely,

Dale Kirby
MHA for Mount Scio
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development
Potential copyright material

If you wish to obtain a copy please contact the ATIPP Office at (709) 729-7072 or atippoffice@gov.nl.ca.
Seaward, Sharon M.

From: Barfoot, Scott
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2016 12:37 PM
To: Medd, Blair
Cc: Donnan, Hugh; Tompkins, John
Subject: A rural town in Newfoundland is losing its only library. What will Fogo Island do when it's gone?

fyi


Scott Barfoot
Director of Strategic Communications (Planning)
Communications Branch – Executive Council
709-729-4864
Potential copyright material

If you wish to obtain a copy please contact the ATIPP Office at (709) 729-7072 or atippoffice@gov.nl.ca.
Seaward, Sharon M.

From: Robinson, Lynn
Sent: Monday, May 09, 2016 12:55 PM
To: Medd, Blair; Marnell, Debbie
Cc: Tompkins, John
Subject: RE: Library and AES Closures

Thanks Blair.

From: Medd, Blair
Sent: Monday, May 09, 2016 12:46 PM
To: Robinson, Lynn; Marnell, Debbie
Cc: Tompkins, John
Subject: RE: Library and AES Closures

Please see attached messages.

From: Robinson, Lynn
Sent: Monday, May 09, 2016 10:50 AM
To: Medd, Blair; Marnell, Debbie
Cc: Tompkins, John
Subject: Library and AES Closures

Hi Blair,

As a follow up to our chat this morning, Minister would like to know if communities that are losing both their AES office and public library (Bell Island and Norris Point) will have access to internet at another public building.

There is a school on Bell Island (is that an option for the public?) and what about Norris Point?

Thanks for your help.
Lynn

Lynn Robinson
Media Relations Manager
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
lynnrobinson@gov.nl.ca
709-729-1795
Seaward, Sharon M.

From: Medd, Blair
Sent: Monday, May 09, 2016 12:46 PM
To: Robinson, Lynn; Marnell, Debbie
Cc: Tompkins, John
Subject: RE: Library and AES Closures
Attachments: KM_Regional Library Model - Analysis.doc; Regional Library Model - General.docx; KM_Reorganization of Libraries May 9.docx

Please see attached messages.

From: Robinson, Lynn
Sent: Monday, May 09, 2016 10:50 AM
To: Medd, Blair; Marnell, Debbie
Cc: Tompkins, John
Subject: Library and AES Closures

Hi Blair,

As a follow up to our chat this morning, Minister would like to know if communities that are losing both their AES office and public library (Bell Island and Norris Point) will have access to internet at another public building.

There is a school on Bell Island (is that an option for the public?) and what about Norris Point?

Thanks for your help.

Lynn

Lynn Robinson  
Media Relations Manager  
Department of Advanced Education and Skills  
lynnrobinson@gov.nl.ca  
709-729-1795
Regional Library Model
April 29, 2016

- The Regional Library Model results in 85.4% of the population being within a 30 minute drive to the nearest library. Alternatively, this results in 14.6% of the population being further than a 30 minute drive to the nearest library location.

- Using 30 minutes of driving time as the maximum distance a patron would travel to access library services, library locations were prioritized based on their ability to service the highest number of patrons within the closest proximity to a library.

- Each of the existing 95 library sites were tested against each other to produce the maximum population coverage and minimum driving time. (Note: driving time was calculated from distances acquired from the provincial roads database with actual speed limits and census information derived from 2011 Census data)

- The locations were further evaluated within the Regional Library Model based on the following criteria:
  - Physical location/regional proximity to another location;
  - Ability of library to support regional service delivery model; and
  - Library usage statistics.
Regional Library Model – General
May 2016

- The Provincial Information and Library Resources Board met on Tuesday, April 26, to discuss changes to library services.

- Through Budget 2016 the annualized budget for the board has been reduced by $1 million. The board voted in favour of adopting a regional library model which will see the closure of a number of libraries and a strategic reinvestment by the Provincial Government into library resources.

- The implementation of a regional library model is a collaborative effort between the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board and Provincial Government and will occur over a two-year period resulting in:
  - Over 85 per cent of residents being within a 30 minute drive to the nearest library;
  - The closure of 54 libraries over two years, with 41 libraries remaining open;
  - A reinvestment of $652,000 into libraries for necessary capital improvements, additional library materials and program offerings;
  - Enhancements to the eBooks and books-by-mail services;
  - Implementation of a minimum service standard and operating hours of no less than 30 hours per week;
  - No change to the current library materials budget so that funding may be reinvested across the remaining libraries;
  - Continued access to library resources for students in schools with public libraries identified for closure; and
  - Municipalities, where feasible, will be offered the opportunity to assume responsibility for libraries located in municipal buildings.

- Through the budget process the Provincial Government identified savings of over $1.7 million for library operations.

- With the implementation of the regional library model, the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board's budget will be reduced by just over $1 million, with approximately $652,000 being reinvested to enhance current services.
Reorganization of Libraries
May 9, 2016

- The libraries of tomorrow are significantly different than the libraries of yesterday. We recognize that we have to do something different when it comes to library services and we want the implementation of the regional library model to go as smooth as possible.

- We are seeing an increased shift towards e-resources with a 25% increase in e-Book and audio book borrowings between 2013-14 and 2014-15. These are trends that we expect to continue and we need our library system to be responsive to these changes.

- For libraries identified to close in 2016-17, a period of 6 months to facilitate closure, ending October 31, has been established.

- Inquiries from municipalities or community groups regarding libraries slated for closure should be forwarded to the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board or English School District as appropriate.

- No student libraries will be closing as a result of any of these changes. Students will continue to have access to library resources.
Ok thanks.

From: Medd, Blair
Sent: Monday, May 09, 2016 10:59 AM
To: Robinson, Lynn; Marnell, Debbie
Cc: Tompkins, John
Subject: RE: Library and AES Closures

Just getting some clarity on your questions. Will get back to you shortly.

Blair

From: Robinson, Lynn
Sent: Monday, May 09, 2016 10:50 AM
To: Medd, Blair; Marnell, Debbie
Cc: Tompkins, John
Subject: Library and AES Closures

Hi Blair,

As a follow up to our chat this morning, Minister would like to know if communities that are losing both their AES office and public library (Bell Island and Norris Point) will have access to internet at another public building.

There is a school on Bell Island (is that an option for the public?) and what about Norris Point?

Thanks for your help.

Lynn

Lynn Robinson
Media Relations Manager
Department of Advanced Education and Skills
lynnrobinson@gov.nl.ca
709-729-1795
Potential copyright material

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NLIS 1
Education and Early Childhood Development
May 2, 2016

Media Advisory: Minister Kirby to Provide Update on Regional Library Model

The Honourable Dale Kirby, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, will be available to the media today (Monday, May 2) to provide an update on the Regional Library Model, discuss timelines and the implementation process. This will take place in front of the House of Assembly, Confederation Building, beginning at 11:00 a.m.

- 30 -

Media contact:
Blair Medd
Director of Communications
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
709-729-0048, 631-8465
blairmedd@gov.nl.ca

2016 05 02 10:00 a.m.
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If you wish to obtain a copy please contact the ATIPP Office at (709) 729-7072 or atippoffice@gov.nl.ca.
April 28, 2016

For Immediate Release

Liberals Who Promised Literacy, Reading and Rural Strategies
Are Instead Cutting 54 Rural Libraries and 60 Library Professionals

David Brazil, Education Critic for the Official Opposition, said, “The Ball Liberals—who came to office promising a literacy strategy, improved reading achievement and sustainable rural communities—have instead brought the blade down on rural libraries, closing 54, firing 60 library professionals and placing reading and online resources even further out of reach of people in rural communities.”

“This is not the policy the Liberals were elected to deliver,” said Brazil. “Instead of growing rural communities and improving literacy as they promised, the Ball Liberals are taking a hatchet to rural services while closing their ears to the feedback of rural residents who do not agree with what they are doing. The Liberals do not want to hear it.”

The Liberal policy red book had an entire section on the need to improve achievement in reading (s.5.3.1), another section promising a comprehensive education action plan in areas including literacy (s.5.1.2), another section promising an adult literacy strategy (s.5.4.4), and another section on the importance of making communities sustainable (s.5).

“How do you improve literacy, reading achievement and rural sustainability by putting books and online resources further out of reach of rural youth and seniors?” Brazil asked. “Rural libraries are not just places to access reading materials but centres for accessing computers, where skilled librarians can guide people to find what they are seeking and to use online resources, such as government e-services. This giant leap backwards for library access is an attack on rural Newfoundland and Labrador. Is this what rural residents told the Ball Liberals and their government caucus members they wanted?”

Brazil said, “The gutting of library services coupled with the tax on books is an attack on literacy by a government that promised to make improving literacy and reading achievement among its top priorities. This whittling away of rural services is a direct attack on community sustainability by a government that said it had a plan to make our communities more sustainable, but clearly doesn’t.”
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From: Releases, News  
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2016 12:02 PM  
To: Releases, News  
Subject: NLIS 1 - Provincial Information and Library Resources Board: Regional Library Model to be Adopted

NLIS 1  
Education and Early Childhood Development  
April 27, 2016

The following is being distributed at the request of Provincial Information and Library Resources Board:

Regional Library Model to be Adopted

The Provincial Information and Library Resources Board met on Tuesday, April 26, to discuss changes to library services. Through Budget 2016 the annualized budget for the board has been reduced by $1 million. The board voted in favour of adopting a regional library model which will see the closure of a number of libraries and a strategic reinvestment by the Provincial Government into library resources.

"The Provincial Information and Library Resources Board has voted to implement a regional library model. While it is a difficult decision to close a significant number of libraries, we do feel the implementation of the regional model, along with a strategic reinvestment back into libraries will allow residents to continue to have access to our many library resources. These changes are not easy, but we feel that in the long term they will provide an improved library system."
- Calvin Taylor, Chair, Provincial Information and Library Resources Board

The implementation of a regional library model is a collaborative effort between the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board and Provincial Government and will occur over a two-year period resulting in:
- Over 85 per cent of residents being within a 30 minute drive to the nearest library;
- The closure of 54 libraries over two years, with 41 libraries remaining open. The Provincial Information and Library Resources Board is currently notifying impacted employees and will release the list of libraries identified for closure once this process is complete;
- A reinvestment into libraries for necessary capital improvements, additional library materials and program offerings;
- Enhancements to the eBooks and books-by-mail services;
- Implementation of a minimum service standard and operating hours of no less than 30 hours per week;
- No change to the current library materials budget so that funding may be reinvested across the remaining libraries;
- Continued access to library resources for students in schools with public libraries identified for closure; and
- Municipalities, where feasible, will be offered the opportunity to assume responsibility for libraries located in municipal buildings.
“The decisions that had to be made during Budget 2016 were difficult, but focus on the long-term goal of fiscal sustainability for our province. We recognize that the implementation of a regional library model will see changes to library services. The Provincial Government will work with the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board to help it through its transition and transformation of our library system into a more efficient one for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.”

- The Honourable Dale Kirby, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development

Through the budget process the Provincial Government identified savings of over $1.7 million for library operations. With the implementation of the regional library model, the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board’s budget will be reduced by just over $1 million, with approximately $652,000 being reinvested to enhance current services.

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2016 04 27 12:00 p.m.