



Naturally Yours

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July 24, 2025

Honourable Dave Ritcey  
Minister of Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage  
1741 Brunswick St., Third Floor  
P.O. Box 456, STN Central  
Halifax, NS B3J 2R5

Dear Minister Ritcey,

On behalf of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne, I write to you to express our concerns over the delay in the Library Funding Review Process and to call on the Province of Nova Scotia to update the library funding formula, which is no longer sustainable or reflective of the growing needs of our public libraries. We ask that this process be completed no later than November, 2025.

In times of economic uncertainty, public libraries play an increasingly critical role in supporting individuals and families. They not only serve as access points for books, information and technology, they offer everything from learning programs and digital literacy training to newcomer support. They also support provincially driven initiatives such as the rapid test kit distribution during the COVID-19 pandemic and food security programs. Equally important, they provide physical public spaces for community engagement and connection. These are especially needed in rural areas where opportunities for people to gather, socialize and learn from each other are limited.

Despite the growing demand for these services, funding for public libraries has remained stagnant. Rising costs have steadily eroded the purchasing power of public dollars year over year. The funding formula that expired March 31, 2025 does not account for current economic pressures or the evolving role of libraries in our communities. As a result, library systems are strained, threatening the sustainability of their services.

We appreciate the support the Province has shown to libraries in the past, and we recognize that public resources are limited. However, maintaining a flat or outdated funding model in the face of the increasing public needs risks undermining the very goals that we share: healthy and vibrant communities.

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Warren MacLeod, CAO

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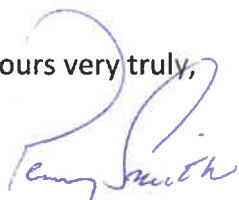
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Penny Smith, Warden

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We urge the Province to engage in meaningful consultation with municipalities and regional library boards to develop a fair, modern and responsive funding formula. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further and look forward to working collaboratively with your department to ensure that libraries continue to thrive as essential public institutions in our province.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Penny Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "S".

Warden Penny Smith