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# 2018 PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION

## CANADIAN FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES ASSOCIATIONS DE BIBLIOTHÈQUES

Submitted: August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA-FCAB) is the united, national voice of Canada's library community. Our member associations represent over 10,000 library workers in every province and territory. In its second year of operation, our national federation has grown to include new library associations and expanded its efforts to ensure more people, from more diverse backgrounds, have access to the knowledge products, tools, information, and data they need to succeed and innovate.

In 2017, the federal government demonstrated its understanding that libraries make peoples lives better and our country more productive through investments to support IT infrastructure, cultural spaces, enabling accessibility and digitization of archival materials. The Standing Committee on Finance has again asked groups to consider the ways in which the 2018 federal budget can make Canadians more productive and our businesses more competitive. The Canadian Federation of Library Associations believes these goals cannot be achieved without ensuring Canadians' personal development is supported and that they suffer from no undue limitations when engaging with institutions and publications that offer a public good.

The recommendations that follow seek to improve Canadians' ability to access and use important cultural products and historical records and up-to-date knowledge from the world's leading researchers. Our nation's libraries fuel the knowledge economy by nurturing curiosity and empowering creativity. The activities they enable lay the foundation for innovation that is a key objective of this government. By ensuring these institutions and the people who make them run have crucial resources at their disposal the government will ensure that Canadians can reach their fullest potential. Specifically, CFLA-FCAB recommends that the Government of Canada:

- 1. Invest \$50 million over 5 years in a targeted Library Upgrade Investment Fund, which will allow libraries of all formats in all communities to improve their facilities and services, and be welcoming places where all Canadians can find the resources they need to contribute to our society and to the economy.**
- 2. Fund the Library Materials Service to ensure Canada Post can maintain existing services without further increases and that restrictions on**

**library's ability to create automatic accounts in the Electronic Shipping Tool be eliminated.**

3. **Invest \$30M over the next five years (2018-2022) to support a coordinated national initiative to digitize content and to build the digital infrastructure required to make Canada's rich documentary heritage available to all Canadians.**
4. **Invest \$250,000 in 2018 to support the creation and establishment of a National Indigenous (First Nations, Metis and Inuit) Association of Archives, Libraries and Cultural Memory.**

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### LIBRARY UPGRADE INVESTMENT FUND

Libraries are spaces that work toward universal access. Their programming teaches basic digital skills to vulnerable groups, this is an area where services should be improved and expanded. Whether old or new, libraries are public utilities whose collections and services support personal and community needs and provide a communal space for discussion and exploration. They are centres of knowledge where Canadian culture is discovered, used, and shared in all manner of formats so that people with diverse needs can access a wide range of artefacts from our society. Libraries have balanced the costs of new technologies and growing collections with the need to provide more community oriented programming, while promoting the values of curiosity and literacy that make Canada a well-educated and productive country.

Libraries nurture the potential of everyone in the communities they serve. It is troubling then that thousands of library facilities across Canada are deteriorating and many are at risk of falling into disrepair. Library systems and branches that were founded decades ago continue to serve the needs of growing populations that have much higher expectations for collections, services, and access to new technologies. This means that as budgets tighten and obligations increase capital maintenance is regularly deferred. In Ontario alone the capital infrastructure obligation stood at \$1.4 billion in 2011.<sup>1</sup> Supporting infrastructure upgrades for libraries will also support Canada's research and innovation agenda. We applaud the commitment made in the 2017 Federal budget to invest \$29.5 million over 5 years in the Digital Literacy Exchange Program, and \$77 million over 10 years in the Enabling Accessibilities Fund, but believe that greater investment is needed to spur innovation and productivity across Canada.

CFLA-FCAB is calling on the federal government **to invest \$50 million over 5 years in a targeted Library Upgrade Investment Fund, which will allow libraries of all formats in all communities to improve their facilities and services, and be welcoming places where all Canadians can find the resources they need to contribute to our society and to the economy.** Making this investment will encourage

<sup>1</sup> <http://fopl.ca/media/2013/06/Capital-Needs-Analysis-Final-Report-19DEC2011.pdf>

matching from provincial governments and local communities to have an even broader impact.

## REMOVE RESTRICTIONS ON LIBRARIES ABILITY TO CREATE ACCOUNTS IN CANADA POST'S ELECTRONIC SHIPPING TOOL

Publicly funded libraries of all types depend on the ability to grow networks between institutions to encourage borrowing and maximize the impact of their collections. Further, persons that are home bound or living in remote areas often rely on library materials mailed through Canada Post. One of the most valuable tools advancing resource sharing and access has been the Library Rate provided through the library-administered Library Materials Service. This service is accessible to recognized public libraries, university libraries, or other libraries maintained by non-profit organizations or associations and which are for public use in Canada. It is available for mailed materials, including books, magazines, records, CDs, CD-ROMs, audiocassettes, videocassettes, DVDs and other audiovisual materials and other similar library materials.

In 2017 Canada Post imposed severe restrictions on Libraries ability to create accounts in the Electronic Shipping Tool. All Libraries doing volumes of less than 5,000 items a year were told they would not be allowed to create an account that enables monthly invoicing. This leaves the vast majority of libraries with two options to process payment.

1. Libraries may use stamps to pay for the postage. The main problem with this approach is it is difficult to effectively monitor expenditures.
2. The other option is to use the Easy Entry system which requires a credit card number to be entered for each transaction. Limiting access to the Easy Entry tool increases the costs for libraries and creates significant work to monitor expenditures.

In addition to the restrictions on setting up accounts in January 2017, Canada Post announced that it would be increasing rates for shipping library materials by a weighted average of 5%.

CFLA-FCAB requests ***that the federal government contribute funding to support the Library Materials Service to ensure Canada Post can maintain existing services without further increases and that restrictions on library's ability to create automatic accounts in the Electronic Shipping Tool be eliminated.***

We ask that the Library Materials Service, administered by the Canadian Urban Libraries Council, be allowed to administer these subsidy funds.

## SUPPORT FOR DIGITIZATION OF ARCHIVAL MATERIALS

CFLA-FCAB supports and echoes CARL-ABRC's call for support of the National Heritage Digitization Strategy (NHDS):

*The directions contained in this strategy contain a roadmap for the development of the shared standards, tools and infrastructure required so that users from jurisdictions across Canada are able to easily access their documentary heritage, and so that our memory institutions are able to properly preserve it. While the directions put forward in the NHDS Strategy are encouraging, sufficient and sustained federal investment is now required to build a coordinated national digitization program.*

*A coordinated approach to the digitization of Canadian memory institutions' collections should consider access, discovery and preservation of collections, including published and archival materials, and addressing collections housed in all types of memory institutions located in regions across the country.*

- *By supporting a national digitization program, the Government of Canada would:*
- *Promote cultural literacy by providing increased access to Canadian cultural material;*
- *Remove barriers to knowledge by providing equal access to heritage content for all Canadians;*
- *Contribute to a feeling of shared Canadian identity, based on diversity and inclusion;*
- *Create greater educational opportunities to promote research and understanding of Canadian culture;*
- *Encourage innovation and creativity by inviting artists and entrepreneurs to engage with Canada's cultural content and to use and reuse it to create new works with value to Canadians and the economy;*
- *Provide global perspective on Canada's culture by connecting national collections with international ones; and,*
- *Support sound democracy by providing easy access to credible information.*

**CFLA-FCAB requests that the Government of Canada invest \$30M over the next five years (2018-2022) to support a coordinated national initiative to digitize content and to build the digital infrastructure required to make Canada's rich documentary heritage available to all Canadians.**

## SUPPORT FOR LIBRARY SERVICES TARGETED AT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

CFLA-FCAB welcomed the 2017 Federal budget's nearly \$90 million investment in support of Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, and Inuit) languages and cultures, an important part of reconciliation efforts.

For many years much of the historical, cultural, linguistic and material knowledge of Indigenous peoples' was held by libraries, archives, museums, and records centres. This has created barriers to access and legal issues concerning ownership.<sup>2</sup> Indigenous knowledge should be preserved and protected in a variety of media for use by current and future generations in a respectful and sensitive manner. Consulting Indigenous communities with respect for proper protocols to access and care for their culturally sensitive records is paramount to this goal. By developing such support with Indigenous groups, this measure will help the federal government to act on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action, which urges the government to develop a joint strategy to “eliminate educational and employment gaps between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Canadians.”

Further, the government of Canada has recognized that every Indigenous child deserves the best start in life and this includes quality education and learning environments for their youth. Many Canadians assume everyone has equal access to a public library and its services. This is not true for a significant number of Indigenous peoples. Public libraries provide services and benefits, which many Indigenous people are currently missing. These include:

- Skilled trade jobs with the establishment and maintenance of libraries, and steady staff employment (Research confirms that the public libraries provide a positive economic impact in communities).
- Programming to grow abilities (i.e. storytelling, technology training, crafts, Aboriginal Head Start).
- Language classes which can preserve a cultural identity.
- A safe environment and community hub to support volunteer initiatives.
- Improved literacy rates.
- Cultural gathering places

Currently, less than one in ten reserves have a library. The Canadian Library Community recognizes that a planned, inclusive, and practical approach to establishing a network of public libraries in Indigenous Communities across Canada will take time. Specifically, the Canadian Library Community requests funds to support the development of a national business case for the development of federally supported library services in indigenous communities across Canada.

CFLA-FCAB recommends that the Government of Canada **invest \$250,000 in 2018 to support the creation and establishment of a National Indigenous (First Nations, Metis and Inuit) Association of Archives, Libraries and Cultural Memory** that will “...advocate for, inspire and collaborate with First Nation, Inuit and Métis individuals and communities to reach their full potential by facilitating increased access to Indigenous knowledge through resources, training, and by developing and sustaining

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<sup>2</sup> Camille Callison, “Indigenous Peoples' New Canoe,” in *Aboriginal and Visible Minority Librarians: Oral Histories from Canada*, ed. Deborah Lee and Mahalakshmi Kumaran (Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2014), 144.

those knowledges in cultural memory institutions.” NALA – Three Year Business Plan. This organization will develop a plan to support the creation, growth and sustainability of public libraries on First Nation, Inuit, and Metis communities, ensuring that future funds are wisely and effectively used.

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