



British Columbia
Library Trustees
Association

BC Library Trustees Association
108-9865 140th Street
Surrey, BC, V3T 4M4

October 16, 2019

Andrew Scheer, Federal Leader of the Conservative Party
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

RE: Canada's Libraries - critical support for social infrastructure

Dear Mr. Scheer,

I am writing to express my support for recommendations put forward by the Canadian Federation of Library Associations-Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) this election.

As the President of the BC Library Trustees Association and the Board Chair for the Prince George Public Library, I know that millions of Canadians depend on their local library as a welcoming space for learning, creativity, and community connections. Public libraries embrace inclusivity, diversity, privacy and intellectual freedom and contribute to reconciliation, support research and business development, welcome newcomers, and foster life-long learning and creativity.

Libraries play a critically important and unique role in providing equitable access to the resources and information necessary for a democratic society. Libraries are vital in communities where Canadians lack services, such as robust high-speed broadband, and enable Canadians to fully participate in the 21st century digital economy and digital society.

Libraries are social infrastructure that anchor communities and connect Canadians.

This election, the CFLA-FCAB is asking parties to commit to supporting:

- A renewed investment in social infrastructure;
- Promotion of Indigenous Ways of Knowing and language preservation;
- Responsible and balanced copyright law for Canada; and
- Support for the production and delivery of accessible formats of books and other materials

I encourage you to visit votelibraries.ca to find out more about these CFLA recommendations.

I hope that libraries can count on your support if you are elected on October 21st.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike P. Gagel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mike Gagel
President, BC Library Trustees Association

cc: Board of Directors, BCLTA