



**VILLAGE OF MYRNAM
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November 1, 2023

NLLS Executive Board and Mr. James MacDonald
~sent via email to: jmacdonald@nlls.ab.ca
~sent via email to: jennifer.anheliger@morinville.ca

Dear Executive of NLLS and Mr. James MacDonald,

On October 24, 2023, at an FCSS Board meeting, a fellow board member told me that it was announced at a Myrnam Parent Council meeting that our librarian was to be dismissed and that our library could be terminated.

We respect that Mr. J. MacDonald was not available to respond for a week. We appreciate that his intention, as he stated, was not to cause the confusion and frustration that ensued. That Mr. J. MacDonald thinks that we may see terminating our librarian as "retaliatory" is a startling disappointment. We do not and never have viewed our lack of a library board as "retaliation". The system, as is, is simply a modus operandi that to this point has worked in the best interests of our residents.

We have always had great respect and appreciation for the immense support NLLS has given us. It's ironic that the extreme satisfaction of our library patrons has resulted in the apathy shown in trying to establish a local library board. The prevalent response to the proposal is "why?" reminiscent of shades of "it ain't broke, why fix it?"

After a 3-month long recruitment drive we have (hooray!) one definite prospective member. Another person posted "Interested" on our social media page but there was unfortunately no follow up. James, we would appreciate it so much if you could please forward the names of "at least 4 local people that indicated they'd written letters", as you stated in your email dated September 14, 2023, so we could explore these avenues.

Elsie has sent information to Kerry Anderson, Assistant Director of Alberta Municipal Affairs, Public Library Services Branch, to confirm that the financial numbers are accurate. This is critical as we need solid facts to present to our Council. Having previously explored forming an intermunicipal board with the County of Two Hills and the Town of Two Hills, we learned it was disadvantageous to the Town of Two Hills. We intend to explore forming an intermunicipal board with the County of Two Hills. It would certainly expand our much-needed volunteer base.

There are other options we have discussed such as:

- Having a drop box installed at the school,
- Having an alternate pickup/drop-off location within the village,
- Hiring a part-time employee for afterschool hours at a negotiable rate
- Partnering with FCSS to sponsor, plan, and implement programs based on interest/participation.

We are constantly striving to maintain our excellent library services by bringing forth new ideas and appreciate so much any ideas the executive may suggest in the interim while we continue our desperate board recruitment efforts.

In light of the above, we require assistance with establishing a library board. Therefore, we will be contacting the Alberta Municipal Affairs, Public Library Services Branch to assist us. We realize that this process of establishing a board will require time. We understand that NLLS services at the Myrnam Library will be partially terminated as of December 22, 2023. We are respectfully requesting NLLS to reconsider terminating the librarian and library services while we go through the necessary process of establishing a library board for the first time in Myrnam history.

In closing, we reiterate that we have never harbored any “retaliatory” feelings towards NLLS regarding a library board. We sincerely will continue to endeavor to be a productive member of NLLS. We have willingly paid any extra money, followed all news, emails, attended training sessions, meetings, and encouraged and voted in favor of the many exemplary motions brought forward by NLLS to continue enhancing Alberta public libraries.

Thank you for your time and understanding.

Respectfully,
VILLAGE OF MYRNAM

Donna Rudolf
Mayor

cc. Terri Hampton, Executive Director of NLLS (sent by email)
Jessie Morris, Manager of NLLS (sent by email)