

December, 2023

Government of Alberta
Hon. Ric Mclver
Minister of Municipal Affairs
#320, 10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Mclver,

The Northern Lights Library System (NLLS), has been unable to ascertain the status, timelines, or potential outcomes of the government's consultations on the Libraries Act and Regulations. Public consultations were held in 2019 and again in 2021. We understood the consultations on the Act were part of the Red Tape Reduction initiative. We have not had a meaningful update on this process since 2021. Several items were put forward in those consultations that would have a tangible impact on the delivery of library services. Some examples include but are not limited to:

1. The need to reduce the minimum number of required members for a library board. A village council can be run with 3 people but a library requires 5.
2. The formula determining the number of professional librarians a library system is required to employ. Systems with the smallest budgets and serving the most rural populations must employ the most professional staff.

We are asking that the provincial government please provide a meaningful update on the status of the work around the Library Act and Regulations. We are now approaching two years since the last consultations and five years since the beginning of the process.

We are grateful for the continued support and partnership of the provincial government as we continue to provide excellent library services to all Albertans.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Anheliger
Board Chair
Northern Lights Library System

cc: Hon. Brian Jean, Fort McMurray - Lac La Biche. FortMcMurray.LacLaBiche@assembly.ab.ca
Mr. Garth Roswell, Vermillion - Lloydminster - Wainwright. Vermillion.Lloydminster.Wainwright@assembly.ab.ca
Hon. Dale Nally, Morinville - St. Albert. Morinville.StAlbert@assembly.ab.ca
Hon. Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, Fort Saskatchewan - Vegreville. FortSaskatchewan.Vegreville@assembly.ab.ca
Mr. Scott Cyr, Bonnyville - Cold Lake - St. Paul. Bonnyville.ColdLake.StPaul@assembly.ab.ca
Mr. Glenn van Dijken, Athabasca - Barrhead - Westlock. Athabasca.Barrhead.Westlock@assembly.ab.ca
Dir. Diana Davidson, Public Library Services Branch, diana.davidson@gov.ab.ca