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December 21, 2016

Honourable Rochelle Squires  
Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage  
118 Legislative Building, 450 Broadway  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister Squires,

On behalf of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), thank you for the opportunity to provide some comments in accordance with the provincial government's review of libraries and the services they provide across Manitoba.

As many libraries are evolving into community hubs that foster community relations and partnerships, the provincial contribution rate to the Rural Library Operating Grant Program has remained constant at \$8.50 since 2004. In effect, this 13-year stagnation has resulted in additional burdens as municipalities are addressing these financial shortfalls through greater municipal contributions in order to not cut programming available to residents. Moreover, the stagnant level of funding combined with accessibility standards mandated by the Province of Manitoba with no funding support further compounds the challenges facing community libraries.

Therefore, the AMM strongly encourages the Province of Manitoba to immediately take steps to increase the maximum provincial grant amount to better ensure libraries are able to keep their doors open in local communities. The AMM also urges the Province of Manitoba to consider implementing a mixed-funding model which includes both base funding and per capita funding.

In regard to improving access to public libraries, the AMM continues to support a universal, province-wide library card system to increase efficiencies and facilitate library use. The AMM believes all library cards issued in Manitoba should be valid at any library that receives provincial funding. Precedents such as the "One Province, One Library Card" initiative in Saskatchewan have proven successful while library patrons are now able to receive faster, more convenient and more equitable access to public library services and materials.

For your consideration, please also see the enclosed active AMM resolutions regarding libraries as they identify priorities and opportunities for efficiency.

Sincerely,



Chris Goertzen  
President





# AMM Resolution #47-2016

## Library Funding - SP

**Sponsor(s)**

Grandview, Municipality (Parkland)

**Department(s)**

Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage

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WHEREAS libraries provide valuable services to all Manitobans; and

WHEREAS libraries are faced with ever increasing costs to provide these services; and

WHEREAS the Rural Library Operating Grant matches municipal funding up to a maximum amount that hasn't been increased since 2004;

**Therefore Be It Resolved That**

the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to increase the maximum funds available to libraries to reflect the increasing costs libraries have seen in the last 12 years and in the years ahead.

**\* Standing Policy Note: This resolution is consistent with AMM policy and will not be brought forward to the Convention floor unless requested by delegates.**

**AMM Resolution #15-2011 requests the Province of Manitoba to increase the per capita base rate funding for libraries as well as to re-evaluate the funding formula for library boards to better reflect the actual cost of delivering library services.**



## AMM Resolution #42-2012

# Exempt Public Libraries from Education Levies and Taxes

**Sponsor(s)**

Stonewall, Town (Interlake)  
Rockwood, RM (Interlake)

**Department(s)**

Manitoba Indigenous and Municipal Relations  
Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage

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WHEREAS there are ninety-two public libraries in the Province of Manitoba formed under The Public Libraries Act and funded by the Province and member municipalities;

AND WHEREAS public library properties are subject to the other property provincial education support levy and the local school division education levy;

**Therefore Be It Resolved That**

the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to amend *The Municipal Assessment Act* to exempt public library properties from provincial and local school division education levies and taxes.



# AMM Resolution #15-2011

## Increase Per Capita Base Rate for Library Funding

### Sponsor(s)

North Cypress, RM (Western)  
Carberry, Town (Western)

### Department(s)

Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage

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WHEREAS the current provincial maximum per capita levy amount for library funding is \$8.50 and was last raised in 2003;

AND WHEREAS funding for many libraries has been at this maximum rate for years;

AND WHEREAS the provincial funding falls short of the current financial requirements to operate libraries and increases to municipal levies are required annually just to sustain existing services;

### Therefore Be It Resolved That

the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to increase the per capita base rate funding for library boards to \$10.00.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to re-evaluate the funding formula for library boards annually or bi-annually to better reflect the actual cost of delivering the services.



# AMM Resolution #22-2008

## Library Cards

<b>Sponsor(s)</b>	<b>Department(s)</b>
Morris, RM (Central)	Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage

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WHEREAS each library system in Manitoba has its own identification cards for members;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba provides major funding to all libraries;

AND WHEREAS some residents may live closer to a library in a neighbouring district;

**Therefore Be It Resolved That**

the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to mandate that all library cards issued in Manitoba be valid at any library that receives provincial funding.