

SASKATOON AREA OFFICE

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November 30, 2018

Dear Library Board Members,

The Canadian Union of Public Employees has recently learned that the provincial government has initiated a review of the library system in Saskatchewan.

We are alarmed and dismayed to learn that this Libraries Review is reportedly occurring in the absence of consultation with the public, library workers and the unions that represent these workers.

It is our position that excluding input and consultation from the public and library workers during the review of a publicly funded library system is diametrically opposed to the fundamentally democratic ideals that we all share in Saskatchewan. As such, **we urge all Saskatchewan Library Boards to insist that the government allow workers and the public to contribute to the review process** by way of direct participation on the Review Panel as well as to include and consider our briefs, letters, thoughts and ideas.

Library workers have an important role to play in this review. Front line workers, both unionized and non-unionized, have valuable input to contribute to the review process because they are the ones who fully understand the day-to-day needs of their patrons and their workplaces. These workers have a unique understanding of the impact of implementing certain changes to library structures, governance and systems. Their feedback should be included.

Public libraries are one of the rare equalizers of society, offering services to all residents no matter their gender, income, class, living situation, or marginalization. Saskatchewan's libraries serve as bastions of democracy. Any decision-making process related to Saskatchewan library systems must include input and participation from Saskatchewan residents.

MARK HANCOCK

National President/Président national

CHARLES FLEURY

National Secretary-Treasurer/Secrétaire-trésorier national

DENIS BOLDUC, FRED HAHN, JUDY HENLEY, DANIEL LÉGÈRE, MARLE ROBERTS

General Vice-Presidents/Vice-présidences générales

In our democratic society, the library stands for hope, for learning, for progress, for literacy, for self-improvement and for civic engagement. The library is a symbol of opportunity, citizenship, equality, freedom of speech and freedom of thought, and hence, is a symbol for democracy itself... - Vartan Gregorian

Sincerely and on behalf of over 700 Saskatchewan CUPE Library Workers in,

Regina
Saskatoon
Lakeland (North Battleford area)
Palliser (Moose Jaw area)
Parkland (Yorkton area)
Southeast (Weyburn area)
Wapiti (Central Saskatchewan)
John M. Cuelenaere (Prince Albert)



Rhonda Heisler
Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Saskatchewan Libraries Co-ordinator
& National Servicing Representative

RH:kmd/cope 491

cc: CUPE Saskatchewan Library Locals
CUPE Saskatchewan Division
CUPE Saskatchewan National Research Representative
CUPE National Libraries Co-ordinator
CUPE Saskatchewan National Communications Representative