



Hon. Al Hawkins  
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development  
P.O. Box 8700  
St. John's, NL  
A1B 4J6

Friday April 12, 2019

Dear Minister Hawkins,

On behalf of all members of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association, I would like to acknowledge the Newfoundland & Labrador provincial government's investment of \$500,000 in school libraries as announced on March 28, 2019.

Having read the comprehensive report *Extending the Classroom: The Library Learning Commons*, June 15, 2018, we see that 40 schools spanning the entire province and serving kindergarten to Grade 6 will benefit from this new funding. The learning commons model anchored in school and post-secondary libraries has indeed proven to strengthen student engagement and learning. APLA is hopeful to see learning commons strategies and plans for Grades 7-12 in the near future. Your department's investment will undoubtedly improve learning and literacy outcomes as intended.

We would also like to acknowledge the government's continued interest in developing a more resilient public library system for the province. Equipped with the EY authored *Organizational and Service Review of the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Library System*, May 2017, the Public Library produced its *Future State Plan*. We understand that the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development accepted the *Plan* and we are interested to learn about funding for phase one implementation. The members of APLA believe the phase one improvements are an excellent complement to the Education Action Plan for learning commons in schools, and we look forward to the detailed funding announcement in the upcoming provincial budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Trecia Schell'.

Trecia Schell, BSc(Hon), MSc, PhD, MLIS  
Vice-President/President-Elect, 2019-2020  
Atlantic Provinces Library Association