

May 12, 2016

Honourable Dwight Ball  
Premier  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
Confederation Building, East Block  
P.O. Box 8700  
St. John's, NL  
A1B 4J6

Dear Premier Ball:

**RE: Open Letter in Response to the Closure of Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries**

The closure of more than half of the public libraries in Newfoundland has been met with shock and incredulity by members of the Acadia University Faculty Association (AUFA). In the wake of such a drastic decision, we ask that you re-examine the closure of 54 of the 95 public libraries in the province and consider the devastating consequences the impacted communities will face in their absence.

We acknowledge the need for adaptation and adjustment in difficult financial times. Making challenging decisions is necessary in the face of unfavorable economic circumstances. This being said, eliminating vital and vibrant facilities cannot be worth the dollars saved. Libraries have been celebrated since their beginnings for their immeasurable contributions to the intellectual, social, and creative health of their communities. Eliminating safe and inclusive spaces in small communities will surely result in significant costs down the road related to educational deficiencies, financial support for those employed by these libraries, the destruction of community networks, and the overall health and wellbeing of the citizens who rely on their library for social interaction, personal growth, education, and entertainment.

By severing your communities' access to library programming, educational materials, internet access, social engagement, and leisure reading, you are stunting these communities' ability to support active and engaged citizens, let alone raise them. This decision cuts across all existing generations and those to come. As educators, researchers, mentors and active community members, AUFA urges you to reconsider this drastic decision and reflect upon the incredible disservice these library closures are to the communities that depend on them.

Sincerely,

The Acadia University Faculty Association (AUFA) Executive

CC: Members of the House of Assembly



Wolfville, Nova Scotia, B4P 2R6, Canada

Telephone: (902) 585-1422 | Facsimile: (902) 585-1153 | Email: [aufa@acadiau.ca](mailto:aufa@acadiau.ca) | Website: <http://acadiafaculty.ca>