



**Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage
Office of the Minister**

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July 9, 2025

Eleanor Roulston Warden
terikitola@easthants.ca

Dear Eleanor Roulston:

Thank you for your email of June 19, 2025, expressing concern regarding library funding across the province, in particular how it impacts the Colchester-East Hants Public Library (CEHPL).

As I'm sure you can appreciate, the significant economic uncertainty we are facing is impacting decision making and budget allocation. I understand this environment weighs heavily on government and our partners in community, including public libraries. I appreciate having a better understanding of the specific pressures the libraries in your area are facing in 2025/26.

Like you and your colleagues, I believe that public libraries are important community assets. They have demonstrated their strategic position and willingness to assist government in getting resources and information to Nova Scotians. Their contributions to their communities are significant.

I am also aware of the benefits of and concerns for libraries that you have identified in your email. Communities, Culture, Tourism & Heritage staff have a strong working relationship with all nine library regions and are in regular communication with the senior staff, including Jeff Mercer, CEHPL's Chief Executive Officer.

I am pleased to inform you that in 2024-25 we were able to provide \$800,000 in bridge funding to help mitigate some of the immediate challenges currently being faced by Nova Scotia's public libraries. We are giving due consideration to the Council of Regional Librarians' current request of \$1.6 Million in bridge funding for 2025-26.

We will continue the work needed to develop a fair and equitable funding formula for libraries. I have been well briefed on the report provided by the Library Funding Review Committee and recognize the challenges identified through this important work. I can assure you that the committee's recommendations have been brought forward for government's consideration. We know how valued libraries are to Nova Scotians.

Thank you again for your letter and for your ongoing commitment to Nova Scotia's public libraries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Ritcey'.

Hon. Dave Ritcey
Minister
Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

cc Christopher Shore, Deputy Minister
Sara Halliday, Associate Deputy Minister
Stephanie Smith, Executive Director, Museums and Libraries