



OCT 18 2005

Kimberlee Howland, President
British Columbia Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils
202-1545 8th Ave W
Vancouver BC V6J 1T5

Dear Ms. Howland: *Kim:*

Thank you for your letter of September 22, 2005, regarding the British Columbia Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils' resolutions concerning teacher-librarian staffing and funding.

The Ministry of Education is committed to promoting development of key literacy skills for all students throughout British Columbia. As you may know, in an announcement made earlier this year, the Ministry committed \$150 million in funding to support three Kindergarten to Grade 12 education priorities, including school library services and quality learning resources.

Each school board consulted with their local community to decide how best to distribute the additional funds. Within the library services priority, school districts determined their optimal approach, identifying the resources and services needed to support literacy and other education goals.

Ultimately, any decision to fund individual school libraries or the hiring of teacher-librarians remains the exclusive responsibility of each respective school district, due to its understanding of local education needs. School boards are in the best position to determine how much funding is allocated to school libraries and where funding and resources should be best directed to improve student literacy.

Thank you for writing and for your interest in supporting improved literacy in British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Shirley Bond
Minister
Deputy Premier