

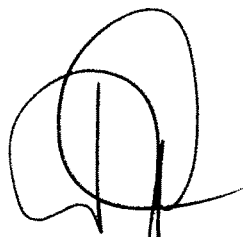
JUL 26 2010

MR TIM MERCER  
CLERK, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Petition 3-16(5) John Tsetso Memorial Library Funding**

Attached is the response to the petition presented to the house on May 12, 2010 by the Member for Nahendeh, Kevin Menicoche.

If you have any further concerns regarding the matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office.



Jackson Lafferty  
Minister  
Education, Culture and Employment

Attachment

c. Mr. Dan Daniels  
Deputy Minister  
Department of Education, Culture and Employment

Ms. Heather Riviere  
Legislative Officer



Petition tabled by Mr. Kevin Menicoche on May 12, 2010.

Response by the Honourable Jackson Lafferty  
Minister of Education, Culture and Employment

### John Tsetso Memorial Library Funding

The Department recognizes the concerns of the community of Fort Simpson regarding a permanent location of the John Tsetso Memorial Library. Over the past three years, since the announced closure of DehCho Hall, the Department has been involved with interested citizens, the Village Council and the MLA for Nahendeh in efforts to find a new location for the public library. This has included discussions with the District Education Authority and the Department of Public Works and Services regarding the possibility of utilizing space in either of the two Fort Simpson schools.

The only facility owned and operated by the Government of the Northwest Territories that is strictly for community library services is the Territorial Headquarters for Library Services in Hay River. All other stand alone libraries in the NWT are funded by and fall under the jurisdiction of local governments. The Government has provided support to the Fort Simpson library in different ways.

Each community can apply for up to a maximum of \$50,000 per year in Library Capital Funding. The Village of Fort Simpson received funding in this amount in 2008-09 for developing a new library site. A further application can be submitted in the current fiscal year, if required.

The Government also funds the Village of Fort Simpson through a contribution agreement for library operational costs such as salaries and promotion. This funding was increased from \$21,000 in 2008-09 to \$52,000 in 2009-10.

In addition, the Department's Library Services supported the John Tsetso Memorial Library in relocating to its temporary location. Staff will continue to be available to provide advice and operational support to the Fort Simpson library.