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Northwest Territories Library Association
March 23, 1995

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The Honourable Mr. Richard Nerysoo
Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, GNWT

RE: CULTURE AND HERITAGE DIVISION LIBRARY
PRINCE OF WALES NORTHERN HERITAGE CENTRE

Dear Mr. Nerysoo:

The NWT Library Association is concerned about the status of the Culture and Heritage Division Library at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.

The Culture and Heritage Division Library has been developed over a number of years by a professional librarian, and has attained a reputation of being a world class facility. The government must be proud of this accomplishment.

It is therefore perplexing to see that support for the library has now changed and there will no longer be a librarian to manage the collection and its services. Libraries need qualified staff to function properly. Users have grown to expect certain levels of organization and accessibility to a library's collection. A professional librarian possesses a combination of education, training, and experience to obtain, interpret, organize, and disseminate information for the library's clientele. Using the knowledge and skills of a professional librarian should be the most appropriate way of delivering library services.

The NWT Library Association is concerned that the Culture and Heritage Division Library will cease to exist in a useable form without the specialized knowledge and dedication of a librarian, and the original commitment by the government for this facility will have been wasted. We are interested in the plans the Minister has for managing this collection and providing the same quality and level of library services, including selection, acquisition, cataloguing, and reference services.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours truly,

Susan Baer
President, NWT Library Association

cc: Dr. Charles Arnold, Director
Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre

Mr. Brian Lewis, MLA, Yellowknife Centre



