

NWT LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY



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Memo To: Levi Barnabas
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Legislative Assembly
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Hello Levi

Re: Layoff of Regional Librarians

I was shocked to learn today of the layoffs of the Regional Librarians for the Baffin, Kitikmeot and Keewatin regions, including Yvonne Earle in Iqaluit.

I have known and worked with Ms. Earle for the past eight years. She has played a vital part in developing the library services in our region, including the Borrower - by-Mail service. It will interest you to know that Arctic Bay borrows more books by mail than any other community in the Baffin, mainly because we get such good service from the Regional Librarian in Iqaluit. To have this service handled from Hay River is not feasible nor will Hay River be able to provide the same service.

How does this move to Hay River help in developing and maintaining a library service for Nunavut which, it seems to me, is one of the essentials for the new territory? How does removing professionally trained librarians from the regions promote literacy, in either language, in Nunavut? Surely literacy and learning are two of the requirements for the new territory, and the foundation for these is a solid library system, headed by people who know what they are doing.

These are important questions that should be answered before our library service is gutted. Thank you for your help, attention and support.

Best regards

Berry Tibbitt

