



Northwest Territories Library Association

February 18, 1997

The Honourable Mr. Charles Dent
Minister of Education, Culture and Employment
Government of the Northwest Territories
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9



Dear Mr. Dent:

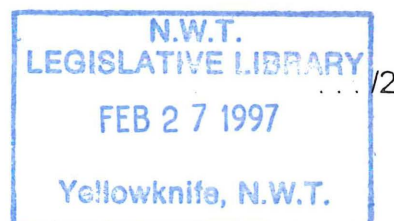
RE: PUBLIC LIBRARY REVIEW

The NWT Library Association was established in 1981 to promote and facilitate the exchange of ideas, problems and solutions among people concerned with library service in all geographic areas of the NWT. It is a non-profit society whose members include professional librarians and paraprofessionals. The Association's objectives include recommending policies for the development and provision of library services to the appropriate official bodies and providing professional advice and assistance to all those engaged in the dissemination of information. The recent discussions in the Legislative Assembly regarding the community public libraries have come to our attention, and we would like to offer our services and expertise in the library field.

The discourse on the public library situation in the House is certainly proving controversial. Access to library materials for all communities in the NWT and the method of providing it is a challenge which we assume the public library review is attempting to address. Since you stated that public consultation is or will be part of this process, the NWT Library Association is one organization that should be consulted.

We expressed an interest in acquiring a copy of the draft public library review to which you made reference in the House on January 30, 1997. When we contacted your office to receive a copy, we were disappointed to discover that the draft is indeed not a public document as stated in the Hansard. The NWT Library Association can make a positive contribution to the public library review if afforded the opportunity.

The NWT Library Association is interested in helping to find an appropriate and affordable solution to the public library situation that takes into account users' needs in every community, whether they are for print or electronic resources. Qualified librarians in the NWT, who deal with patrons on the front lines, know information needs first-hand, and are familiar with library automation and new technology, should be consulted.



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The NWT Library Association strongly urges you to include us in the review process. We look forward to working with you on this and any future endeavours of your Department.

Thank you.

Yours truly,



Susan Baer
President
NWT Library Association

cc: Levi Barnabas, MLA High Arctic
Tommy Enuaraq, MLA Baffin Central
Mark Evaloardjuk, MLA Amittuq
Michael Miltenberger, MLA Thebacha
John Todd, Minister of Finance
Kevin O'Brien, MLA Kivallivik
Edward Picco, MLA Iqaluit
NWT Public Library Services