



Western Counties Regional Library

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March 31, 2021

Chris Frotten, CAO
Municipality of Barrington
2447 Highway 3, PO Box 100
Barrington, NS B0W 1E0

Dear Chris Frotten,

On April 1, 2021, Nova Scotia Public Libraries will enter year two of the new funding formula for public libraries. The provincial government and municipal units across the province have renewed their commitment to fund library service and some municipal units will be funding public libraries at the new funding level for a second year. It is still unclear at this time however, from a regional library standpoint, whether municipalities will be required to provide the increase in funding this year as prescribed by the new formula. It is for this reason that we write to you and your council, as you prepare your budgets for 2021-22, to ask that you consider funding libraries at the new funding rate as prescribed by the new funding formula for public libraries.

The new funding formula, when implemented for municipalities, will see municipal units in the tri-counties increase their funding to libraries (collectively) by 74,300. For the Municipality of Barrington, the new municipal unit contribution will be \$53,900, an increase of \$9,129.

Municipal funding to regional libraries for public library service has been stagnant for more than a decade. During this time, Western Counties Regional Library has worked diligently to streamline its operations and remove redundancies, all while improving services to library users across the region. Our priorities continue to be to provide full and equitable service to all while supporting our employees with living wages and benefits. We hope that your municipality considers budgeting the increase in library funding to help us achieve these goals.

To that, the Western Counties Regional Library Board requests that this matter be added on an agenda of Councils/ Committees of the Whole for review and consideration.

Please feel free to contact me should you want to discuss this request further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Erin Comeau".

Erin Comeau, Executive Director

On behalf of Shaun Hatfield, Board Chair