

Petition to reverse cuts to Saskatchewan Libraries

We, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring to your attention the following:

- Whereas, the Saskatchewan Government has cut funding for regional libraries in half, or by \$3.5 million, and eliminated funding for libraries in Regina and Saskatoon. This drastic funding cut will have a devastating impact on libraries, especially regional libraries, and the many people who depend on them.
- Whereas, libraries are a vital part of communities across Saskatchewan, and the services they provide enrich the lives of many. The drastic cuts imposed on libraries will lead to branch closures, programs cuts and reductions in hours, which will hurt the many people who use library services and the hard working and dedicated public servants who work in libraries.
- Whereas, libraries are about more than just borrowing books. Meeting rooms are used by community groups, library staff host education programs and clubs, and the publicly accessible computer terminals are essential to many. There are services for seniors, children, employment support, language and reading groups, citizenship test preparation, and help for newcomers to build their resumes;
- Whereas, these cuts will have a disproportionate impact on rural communities, where libraries are vital community spaces. Potential closures or reductions in services will severely impact our communities.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan:

Renew its commitment to the invaluable programming, education opportunities, and public spaces our libraries provide across this province, and restore the \$4.8 million in funding for public libraries that was cut in the 2017-2018 budget.

Name (Print)

Address (Print)

Signature

Email

Please note: the name and address of the persons who sign this petition may be made available to the public if the petition is in proper form to be presented in the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly.

**To ensure this petition is tabled in the Legislature, please return to:
NDP CAUCUS OFFICE: Room 265 Legislative Building, Regina, Sk S4S 0B3 (306) 787-7388**