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December 7, 2011

Honourable Michael Chan
Minister of Tourism and Culture
Hearst Block, 9th Floor
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2E1

Dear Minister Chan,

The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries wishes to congratulate you on so swiftly and emphatically reassuring Ontarians that the Public Libraries Act will not be changed to allow cities to charge fees for library use.

We refer to the article by Jonathan Jenkins posted on the Toronto Sun website yesterday, in which you are quoted as saying, "We're not going to entertain this possibility...Nobody has talked to me about this idea."

The government's commitment over 130 years through the Public Libraries Act to free and universal access to information is a fundamental requirement for an informed and democratic society. We are pleased that you share this view.

It is clear that you value the important work of public libraries. Thank you for your support.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Allen".

David Allen
Chief Executive Officer