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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,

David Allen  
Chief Executive Officer