

August 8, 2013

Ms. Martha Bucci
Executive Director
Hachette Book Group Canada
2 Bloor Street West, Suite 1702
Toronto, ON M4W 3E2

Dear Ms. Bucci,

We are writing to you as the largest public library in Canada about increasing the availability and reducing the cost of e-books for Canadian public libraries.

The Toronto Public Library Board is committed to equitable and accessible public library service that provides universal access to a broad range of human knowledge, information and ideas in all its forms. This is the cornerstone of the Library's mission and mandate. Despite the proliferation of new enabling technologies and the rapidly growing popularity of digital content – and of e-books in particular – the ability for libraries to provide this universal access has been challenged as many major publishers have placed special conditions or are not yet making their e-books available to public libraries in Canada.

This is not just about access to the popular books and current bestsellers that customers want. It is about ensuring that libraries can continue to deliver on the core principles and values that have contributed to the public good for centuries. It is about bridging the digital divide so all children have access to cultural and educational materials so they can succeed in a global knowledge-based economy. It is about meeting accessibility standards for people with disabilities by making alternate formats easily and freely available – a necessity in a free and democratic society. It is about allowing libraries to not just license but also own books and materials, to ensure the preservation of our written cultures. And it is about supporting a literate, engaged, well-informed and educated electorate to maintain an effective democracy.

Stated simply, limiting access to e-books blocks universal access.

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Chief Executive Officer

Jane Pyper

The Library Board recognizes publishing in Canada and around the world is undergoing great change, and that the publishing industry plays an important role in the development and expression of the Canadian identity and literary culture. **It must also be recognized and acknowledged that public libraries are integral to this ecosystem of reading.** Imposing higher prices on library acquisitions or not making e-books available for lending at public libraries is not the answer to a healthy publishing industry.

We are pleased to see that progress has been made with publishers and public libraries working together to find mutually beneficial solutions so that public library patrons have access to e-books from all publishers. In particular, we strongly support the Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC)/eBound project to pilot a made-in-Canada e-book distribution and lending platform and hope the project will be successful in encouraging all publishers to participate in making their e-books available to public library patrons across Canada.

While we are pleased for the recently announced availability of the Hachette Book Group's titles through OverDrive, we are concerned about the high cost of Hachette's e-books for library purchases. We are requesting an in-person meeting to discuss the availability and cost of e-books for Canadian public libraries and the potential for collaboration on the CULC/e-Bound project.

Given how essential it is becoming for our patrons to access e-content from their public libraries, the Toronto Public Library Board will continue to advocate and work for improved public library access to e-content from all publishers.

Sincerely,



Councillor Paul Ainslie
Chair, Toronto Public Library Board



Michael Foderick
Chair, Toronto Public Library Board E-Book
Working Group
Vice Chair, Toronto Public Library Board

August 8, 2013

Mr. Kevin Hanson
President
Simon & Schuster Canada
166 King Street East, Suite 300
Toronto, Ontario M5A 1J3

Dear Mr. Hanson,

We are writing to you as the largest public library in Canada about increasing the availability of e-books in Canadian public libraries.

The Toronto Public Library Board is committed to equitable and accessible public library service that provides universal access to a broad range of human knowledge, information and ideas in all its forms. This is the cornerstone of the Library's mission and mandate. Despite the proliferation of new enabling technologies and the rapidly growing popularity of digital content – and of e-books in particular – the ability for libraries to provide this universal access has been challenged as many major publishers have placed special conditions or are not yet making their e-books available to public libraries in Canada.

This is not just about access to the popular books and current bestsellers that customers want. It is about ensuring that libraries can continue to deliver on the core principles and values that have contributed to the public good for centuries. It is about bridging the digital divide so all children have access to cultural and educational materials so they can succeed in a global knowledge-based economy. It is about meeting accessibility standards for people with disabilities by making alternate formats easily and freely available – a necessity in a free and democratic society. It is about allowing libraries to not just license but also own books and materials, to ensure the preservation of our written cultures. And it is about supporting a literate, engaged, well-informed and educated electorate to maintain an effective democracy.

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The Library Board recognizes publishing in Canada and around the world is undergoing great change, and that the publishing industry plays an important role in the development and expression of the Canadian identity and literary culture. **It must also be recognized and acknowledged that public libraries are integral to this ecosystem of reading.** Imposing special conditions that unreasonably increase costs or not making e-books available for lending at public libraries is not the answer to a healthy publishing industry.

We are pleased to see that progress has been made with publishers and public libraries working together to find mutually beneficial solutions so that public library patrons have access to e-books from all publishers. In particular, we strongly support the Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC)/eBound project to pilot a made-in-Canada e-book distribution and lending platform and hope the project will be successful in encouraging all publishers to participate in making their e-books available to public library patrons across Canada.

We invite Simon & Schuster Canada to participate in this pilot project much in the same way Simon & Schuster U.S. is working with library systems in New York City to make e-books available for lending by library patrons. We are requesting an in-person meeting to discuss the potential for collaboration on this project.

Given how essential it is becoming for our patrons to access e-content from their public libraries, the Toronto Public Library Board will continue to advocate and work for improved public library access to e-content from all publishers.

Sincerely,



Councillor Paul Ainslie
Chair, Toronto Public Library Board



Michael Foderick
Chair, Toronto Public Library Board E-Book
Working Group
Vice Chair, Toronto Public Library Board

August 8, 2013

Mr. David Kent
President and CEO
HarperCollins Canada
2 Bloor Street East, 20th Floor
Toronto, ON M4W 1A8

Dear Mr. Kent,

We are writing to you as the largest public library in Canada about increasing the availability and reducing the cost of e-books for Canadian public libraries.

The Toronto Public Library Board is committed to equitable and accessible public library service that provides universal access to a broad range of human knowledge, information and ideas in all its forms. This is the cornerstone of the Library's mission and mandate. Despite the proliferation of new enabling technologies and the rapidly growing popularity of digital content – and of e-books in particular – the ability for libraries to provide this universal access has been challenged as many major publishers have placed special conditions or are not yet making their e-books available to public libraries in Canada.

This is not just about access to the popular books and current bestsellers that customers want. It is about ensuring libraries can continue to deliver on the core principles and values that have contributed to the public good for centuries. It is about bridging the digital divide so all children have access to cultural and educational materials so they can succeed in a global knowledge-based economy. It is about meeting accessibility standards for people with disabilities by making alternate formats easily and freely available – a necessity in a free and democratic society. It is about allowing libraries to not just license but also own books and materials, to ensure the preservation of our written cultures. And it is about supporting a literate, engaged, well-informed and educated electorate to maintain an effective democracy.

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The Library Board recognizes publishing in Canada and around the world is undergoing great change, and that the publishing industry plays an important role in the development and expression of the Canadian identity and literary culture. **It must also be recognized and acknowledged that public libraries are integral to this ecosystem of reading.** Imposing special conditions such as circulation caps that unreasonably increase costs or not making e-books available for lending at public libraries is not the answer to a healthy publishing industry.

We are pleased to see that progress has been made with publishers and public libraries working together to find mutually beneficial solutions so that public library patrons have access to e-books from all publishers. In particular, we strongly support the Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC)/eBound project to pilot a made-in-Canada e-book distribution and lending platform and hope the project will be successful in encouraging all publishers to participate in making their e-books available to public library patrons across Canada.

While we are pleased to have access to HarperCollins Canada titles through OverDrive, we are concerned about the 26-use cap imposed on library purchases. We are requesting an in-person meeting to discuss the availability and cost of e-books for Canadian public libraries and the potential for collaboration on the CULC/eBound project.

Given how essential it is becoming for our patrons to access e-content from their public libraries, the Toronto Public Library Board will continue to advocate and work for improved public library access to e-content from all publishers.

Sincerely,



Councillor Paul Ainslie
Chair, Toronto Public Library Board



Michael Foderick
Chair, Toronto Public Library Board E-Book
Working Group
Vice Chair, Toronto Public Library Board

August 8, 2013

Mr. Brad Martin
CEO
Penguin Random House Canada
1 Toronto Street, Suite 300
Toronto, Ontario M5C 2V6

Dear Mr. Martin,

Congratulations on the recent announcement of your appointment as CEO of Penguin Random House in Canada.

We are writing to you as the largest public library in Canada about increasing the availability and reducing the cost of e-books for Canadian public libraries.

The Toronto Public Library Board is committed to equitable and accessible public library service that provides universal access to a broad range of human knowledge, information and ideas in all its forms. This is the cornerstone of the library's mission and mandate. Despite the proliferation of new enabling technologies and the rapidly growing popularity of digital content – and of e-books in particular – the ability for libraries to provide this universal access has been challenged as many major publishers have placed special conditions or are not yet making their e-books available to public libraries in Canada.

This is not just about access to the popular books and current bestsellers that customers want. It is about ensuring libraries can continue to deliver on the core principles and values that have contributed to the public good for centuries. It is about bridging the digital divide so all children have access to cultural and educational materials so they can succeed in a global knowledge-based economy. It is about meeting accessibility standards for people with disabilities by making alternate formats easily and freely available – a necessity in a free and democratic society. It is about allowing libraries to not just license but also own books and materials, to ensure the preservation of our written cultures. And it is about supporting a literate, engaged, well-informed and educated electorate to maintain an effective democracy.

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Jane Pyper

The Library Board recognizes the important role the publishing industry continues to play in the development and expression of the Canadian identity and literary culture, and that publishing in Canada and around the world is undergoing great change. The recent merger between Penguin and Random House is a significant example of the change that is taking place. **It must also be recognized and acknowledged that public libraries are integral to this ecosystem of reading.** Imposing higher prices on library acquisitions or not making e-books available for lending at public libraries is not the answer to a healthy publishing industry.

We are pleased to see that progress has been made with publishers and public libraries working together to find mutually beneficial solutions so that public library patrons have access to e-books from all publishers. In particular, we strongly support the Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC)/eBound project to pilot a made-in-Canada e-book distribution and lending platform and hope the project will be successful in encouraging all publishers to participate in making their e-books available to public library patrons across Canada.

Currently, Canadian public libraries do not have access to e-books published by Penguin and while we are pleased to have access to Random House e-books, they are only available to public libraries at premium prices. We invite Penguin Random House to participate in this pilot project much in the same way publishers in the United States are working with library systems in cities such as New York City to make e-books available for lending by library patrons. We are requesting an in-person meeting to discuss the availability and cost of e-books for Canadian public libraries and the potential for collaboration on this project.

Given how essential it is becoming for our patrons to access e-content from their public libraries, the Toronto Public Library Board will continue to advocate and work for improved public library access to e-content from all publishers.

Sincerely,



Councillor Paul Ainslie
Chair, Toronto Public Library Board



Michael Foderick
Chair, Toronto Public Library Board E-Book
Working Group
Vice Chair, Toronto Public Library Board

August 8, 2013

Mr. John Sargent
President
Macmillan Publishers
175 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York
United States
10010

Dear Mr. Sargent,

We are writing to you as the largest public library in Canada about increasing the availability of e-books in Canadian public libraries.

The Toronto Public Library Board is committed to equitable and accessible public library service that provides universal access to a broad range of human knowledge, information and ideas in all its forms. This is the cornerstone of the Library's mission and mandate. Despite the proliferation of new enabling technologies and the rapidly growing popularity of digital content – and of e-books in particular – the ability for libraries to provide this universal access has been challenged as many major publishers have placed special conditions or are not yet making their e-books available to public libraries in Canada.

This is not just about access to the popular books and current bestsellers that customers want. It is about ensuring that libraries can continue to deliver on the core principles and values that have contributed to the public good for centuries. It is about bridging the digital divide so all children have access to cultural and educational materials so they can succeed in a global knowledge-based economy. It is about meeting accessibility standards for people with disabilities by making alternate formats easily and freely available – a necessity in a free and democratic society. It is about allowing libraries to not just license but also own books and materials, to ensure the preservation of our written cultures. And it is about supporting a literate, engaged, well-informed and educated electorate to maintain an effective democracy.

Stated simply, limiting access to e-books blocks universal access.

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The Library Board recognizes publishing around the world is undergoing great change, and that the publishing industry plays an important role in the development and expression of the identity and literary culture. **It must also be recognized and acknowledged that public libraries are integral to this ecosystem of reading.** Imposing special conditions that unreasonably increase costs or not making e-books available for lending at public libraries is not the answer to a healthy publishing industry.

We are pleased to see that progress has been made with publishers and public libraries working together to find mutually beneficial solutions so that public library patrons have access to e-books from all publishers. In particular, we strongly support the Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC)/eBound project to pilot a made-in-Canada e-book distribution and lending platform and hope the project will be successful in encouraging all publishers to participate in making their e-books available to public library patrons across Canada.

We are encouraged by Macmillan's recent decision to make some of its e-books available to public libraries in the United States through OverDrive, however, this content is not available to public libraries in Canada. We would very much like to have access to Macmillan e-books through OverDrive in Canada. In addition, we invite Macmillan Publishers to participate in the CULC/eBound pilot project much in the same way other U.S. publishers are working with public libraries in large cities such as New York. We are requesting a telephone meeting to discuss the availability of e-books for Canadian public libraries and the potential for collaboration on the CULC/e-Bound project.

Given how essential it is becoming for our patrons to access e-content from their public libraries, the Toronto Public Library Board will continue to advocate and work for improved public library access to e-content from all publishers.

Sincerely,



Councillor Paul Ainslie
Chair, Toronto Public Library Board



Michael Foderick
Chair, Toronto Public Library Board E-Book
Working Group
Vice Chair, Toronto Public Library Board

August 8, 2013

Ms. Jacqueline Hushion
Executive Director, External Relations
Canadian Publishers' Council
250 Merton Street, Suite 203
Toronto, Ontario M4S 1B1

Dear Ms. Hushion,

We are writing to you as the largest public library in Canada to indicate how pleased we are to be working with publishers on the Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC)/eBound e-book project to find mutually beneficial solutions so that public library patrons have access to e-books from all publishers.

The Toronto Public Library Board is committed to equitable and accessible public library service that provides universal access to a broad range of human knowledge, information and ideas in all its forms. This is the cornerstone of the Library's mission and mandate. Despite the proliferation of new enabling technologies and the rapidly growing popularity of digital content – and of e-books in particular – the ability for libraries to provide this universal access has been challenged as many major publishers have placed special conditions or are not yet making their e-books available to public libraries in Canada.

This is not just about access to the popular books and current bestsellers that customers want. It is about ensuring that libraries can continue to deliver on the core principles and values that have contributed to the public good for centuries. It is about bridging the digital divide so all children have access to cultural and educational materials so they can succeed in a global knowledge-based economy. It is about meeting accessibility standards for people with disabilities by making alternate formats easily and freely available – a necessity in a free and democratic society. It is about allowing libraries to not just license but also own books and materials, to ensure the preservation of our written cultures. And it is about supporting a literate, engaged, well-informed and educated electorate to maintain an effective democracy.

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We strongly support the CULC/eBound project to pilot a made-in-Canada e-book distribution and lending platform and hope the project will be successful in encouraging all publishers to participate in making their e-books available to public library patrons across Canada.

Given how essential it is becoming for our patrons to access e-content from their public libraries, the Toronto Public Library Board will continue to advocate and work for improved public library access to e-content from all publishers.

Sincerely,



Councillor Paul Ainslie
Chair, Toronto Public Library Board



Michael Foderick
Chair, Toronto Public Library Board E-Book
Working Group
Vice Chair, Toronto Public Library Board

August 8, 2013

Ms. Carolyn Wood
Executive Director
Association of Canadian Publishers
174 Spadina Avenue, Suite 306
Toronto, Ontario M5T 2C2

Dear Ms. Wood,

We are writing to you as the largest public library in Canada to indicate how pleased we are to be working with publishers on the Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC)/eBound e-book project to find mutually beneficial solutions so that public library patrons have access to e-books from all publishers.

The Toronto Public Library Board is committed to equitable and accessible public library service that provides universal access to a broad range of human knowledge, information and ideas in all its forms. This is the cornerstone of the Library's mission and mandate. Despite the proliferation of new enabling technologies and the rapidly growing popularity of digital content – and of e-books in particular – the ability for libraries to provide this universal access has been challenged as many major publishers have placed special conditions or are not yet making their e-books available to public libraries in Canada.

This is not just about access to the popular books and current bestsellers that customers want. It is about ensuring that libraries can continue to deliver on the core principles and values that have contributed to the public good for centuries. It is about bridging the digital divide so all children have access to cultural and educational materials so they can succeed in a global knowledge-based economy. It is about meeting accessibility standards for people with disabilities by making alternate formats easily and freely available – a necessity in a free and democratic society. It is about allowing libraries to not just license but also own books and materials, to ensure the preservation of our written cultures. And it is about supporting a literate, engaged, well-informed and educated electorate to maintain an effective democracy.

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We applaud the leadership provided by the Association of Canadian Publishers and its digital publishing arm, eBound Canada, in helping to make the CULC/eBound project a reality, and strongly support the development of a made-in-Canada e-book distribution and lending platform.

Given how essential it is becoming for our patrons to access e-content from their public libraries, the Toronto Public Library Board will continue to advocate and work for improved public library access to e-content from all publishers.

Sincerely,



Councillor Paul Ainslie
Chair, Toronto Public Library Board



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Vice Chair, Toronto Public Library Board