

Minister of Industry



Ministre de l'Industrie

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H5



NOV 28 2001

Ms. Gillian Mason  
Chair  
Toronto Public Library  
789 Yonge Street  
Toronto, Ontario M4W 2G8

Dear Ms. Mason:

Thank you for your letter of October 1, 2001, supporting the recommendations of the National Broadband Task Force report.

I recognize that libraries play an important role in their communities. They often introduce the general public to new information products and services and new delivery tools that can assist them in improving their quality of life. This is a particularly important service in rural and remote communities which often have very limited alternative sources of information. The economic, social and cultural benefits that broadband offers to those communities suggest a multiplicity of returns for any investment the Government of Canada might make.

As you pointed out, the Task Force also addressed a number of related issues such as content and training. The federal departments with responsibility for these areas are aware of the needs arising from the deployment of broadband networks and services.

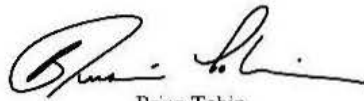
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I appreciate your taking the time to express your support for this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Tobin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian Tobin