

January 22, 2015

**b.**

Mr. Guy Browning  
President  
Macmillan Publishers  
175 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York  
10010 U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Browning:

Digital content is the fastest growing area of borrowing for public libraries. Over the last year alone, ebook downloads have grown by more than 60% and demand continues to increase. Campaigns to raise awareness of the availability of digital content at the library have resulted in significant increases in borrowing rates.

The popularity of digital content – and of ebooks in particular - is an exciting opportunity for libraries to connect with the public in new ways, but it also presents challenges.

In some cases, libraries pay three to five times more for ebooks than consumers. There are caps and time limits on ebook use. This means there are fewer titles and fewer copies for readers to discover, and the ability of libraries to provide universal access to content in all its forms is jeopardized.

We recognize 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.

Public libraries also play an integral role in a vibrant book industry. They promote literacy and a love of reading that encourages children and adults to pursue more content of all varieties over the course of their lives. Libraries are places of discovery, places that introduce people to new authors, genres and topics.

Libraries have significant purchasing power as buyers of books and ebooks. In 2014 alone, Toronto Public Library and Ottawa Public Library spent a total of \$3.6 million on downloadable/streaming content.

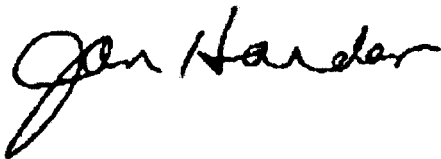
Imposing unreasonably high prices – and creating a barrier to universal access – is not the answer. Lower prices would allow libraries to buy more copies of ebooks. Lower prices do not mean that libraries would spend less on ebooks. In fact, the reverse may be true.

These are profound issues, not just for libraries but for authors and even publishers who want to connect with new readers. Canadian public libraries are committed to raising awareness of this issue and finding a solution.

**To this end, we will be raising awareness in 2015 about the challenges public libraries face in obtaining fair library pricing for ebooks.** Libraries across Ontario will take part in this effort, with the aim of informing the public of this issue and encouraging change. We are also working with the Canadian Library Association and the Canadian Urban Libraries Council as part of our effort to represent the concerns of libraries across the country.

We are pleased with progress made in the availability of digital content from all major publishers. However, given how essential it is for the public to access this content from their library, we will continue to advocate and work for improved pricing and terms from all publishers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Harder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jan" being more prominent.

Councillor Jan Harder  
Chair  
Ottawa Public Library Board

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Michael Foderick  
Chair  
Toronto Public Library Board

January 22, 2015

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

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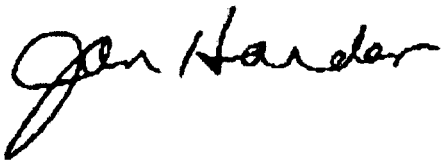
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Mr. Kevin Hanson  
President  
Simon & Schuster Canada  
166 King Street East, Suite 300  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5A 1J3

Dear Mr. Hanson:

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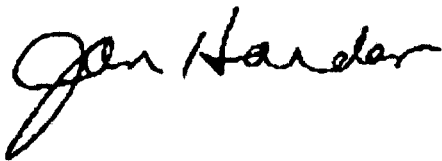
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January 22, 2015

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

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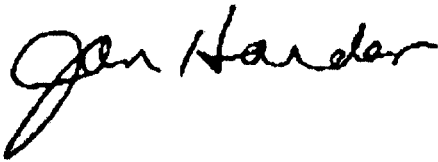
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Ms. Iris Tupholme  
Senior Vice President  
HarperCollins Canada  
2 Bloor Street East, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4W 1A8

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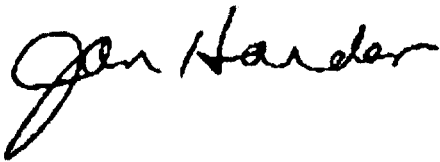
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