

Minister

9th Floor, Hearst Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2E1
Tel: (416) 326-9326
Fax: (416) 326-9338

Ministre

9^e étage, édifice Hearst
900, rue Bay
Toronto, ON M7A 2E1
Tél.: (416) 326-9326
Téléc.: (416) 326-9338

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November 23, 2015

Mr. Ron Carinci
Chair
Toronto Public Library Board
789 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M4W 2G8

Dear Mr. Carinci:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Toronto Public Library Board, regarding the funding of e-resources at Ontario's public libraries. I am pleased to respond.

Our government recognizes the valuable contributions of public libraries in serving the needs of their communities. Since 2003, we have provided more than \$475 million in support to libraries through operating grants, capital funding and a series of targeted investments.

Although the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport will no longer fund e-resources through a dedicated program, we have expanded the eligibility criteria for expenses in the Ontario Libraries Capacity Fund (OLCF) grant to include e-resources. Tier 1 electronic databases will now be considered an eligible expense under the 2015-16 OLCF, which will help all Ontarians to continue to access e-resources in our public libraries.

We will continue to work with our library branches, and with our municipal and First Nations partners to strengthen the public library system. Thank you for sharing your concerns on this matter, and for your support of Ontario's libraries.

Sincerely,



Michael Coteau
Minister