



28 July 2025

The Honourable Demotrios Nicolaides
Minister of Education and Childcare
Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Re: Provincial announcement regarding school libraries

Dear Minister Nicolaides,

I am writing to you to express our membership's growing concerns about the provincial government's announcement that intends to introduce content guidelines to limit materials available in Alberta school libraries. Such a policy would make Alberta the first and only province in Canada with a policy of censorship in libraries.

The Ex Libris Association is a national group of retired librarians and information professionals with over 200 members whose deep career experience spans all library sectors. Our members have devoted their library careers to the service of others.

As such, we appreciate your recognition of the expertise of librarians, teacher-librarians, and librarian technicians at your May 26th press conference. We believe that decisions concerning materials for school libraries should be left in the hands of knowledgeable librarians and educators rather than politicians.

"Schools and school boards take great care, and are guided by sound policies and processes, in selecting books for school libraries and ensuring the books are age-appropriate and relevant for students' developmental stages, learning needs, and lived realities."

***Statement on Provincial Government Announcement Regarding School Libraries,
Library Association of Alberta***

Ex Libris strongly urges you to meet with representatives of the Library Association of Alberta (LAA) to discuss their concerns. They can provide invaluable insights and expert advice to you. Their consultation will assist you in crafting policies that will better serve and strengthen all children in Alberta.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of this matter. Please don't hesitate to contact me via email if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David I. Harvie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being more prominent.

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Distribution List

The Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta
Ms. Amanda Chapman, MLA
Megan Ginther, President, Library Association of Alberta