

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, July 17, 2009				Report Date	Wednesday, July 8, 2009			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction Only		Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE									
Support for Library Funding Report #17/07/09/00									

SUBJECT: Request for support for increased funding for libraries.

Recommendation: That Council adopt the following motion in support of the Town of Smith Falls and the Township of Bonnechere Valley petitioning the province to increase funding for public libraries as amended due to suggestions from the Library Board.

WHEREAS public libraries have a strong role in literacy, innovation, sense of community and prosperity in municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the provincial Ministry of Culture is currently updating provincial policies related to supporting public libraries in order to positively position public libraries for the future;

AND WHEREAS the role of learning in Ontario's knowledge-based economy grows, the informal learning systems of public libraries will be even more important;

AND WHEREAS the library of the future will need to respond to a new social, technological and economic environment;

AND WHEREAS municipalities are incurring the majority of the costs associated with delivering library programming and of building and maintaining library facilities;

AND WHEREAS the province has decreased its annual grants since 1985 from 15% of annual revenues to 4% of annual revenues which continues to threaten the future of these engines of cultural and economic development;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Smiths Falls and the Township of Bonnechere Valley have requested support for their resolutions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria supports public libraries and local municipalities and petitions the province to increase its annual grants to libraries to allow adequate operating budgets for all libraries no matter the size or location;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Culture, our local MP, our Library Board, the Ontario Library Service, and AMO.

Background/Executive Summary:

The original resolution was forwarded to the Library Board for their comments. Their response... "the initiative is worth while – but if you're Council wants to endorse the initiative – the motion should be re-formulated NOT to include the % of the municipal funding figure suggested, as in many libraries that might mean – advocating for less operational grant than they are getting now – where the municipal funding is very low."

Considering these comments the original resolution was amended to remove the specific percentages from the RESOLVED section to “petitions the province to increase its annual grants to libraries to allow adequate operating budgets for all libraries no matter the size or location.”

Options/Discussion: Support or not.

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact: None specifically although every dollar that the Library Board receives to update its resources results in reduced requests for funding from Council. Currently we are only providing the venue and funding for the Library Board employee. Most other funds come from donations, grants, fundraising and revenues.

Policy Impact: None

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,
Municipal Clerk

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