

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM14.7	ACTION			Ward: All
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Investing in Modernization of Ontario Public Libraries - by Councillor Paul Ainslie, seconded by Councillor Gord Perks

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Paul Ainslie, seconded by Councillor Gord Perks, recommends that:

1. City Council request the City Manager to write to the Province of Ontario to express City Council's support of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries 2020 Pre-Budget Submission for targeted investment of new funds into:
 - a. delivering on the Ontario Government's Broadband Action Plan through an Ontario Digital Public Library; and
 - b. completing the Transformation of Inter-Library Loan.

Summary

Ontario's libraries are reaching the limits of what they can do to keep up with these changes on their own, especially as it comes to meeting the growing need for access to digital resources. The Province of Ontario has for the past 22 years funded only four percent of local public library budgets.

It is important that libraries across Ontario remain robust, specifically in small towns where the library is often the only community gathering place. Ensuring modernization of libraries is key and can be achieved through a Broadband Action Plan as it would leverage the Province's significant purchasing power to give all Ontario public libraries access to a common set of e-learning and online information resources, to support the growing use of digital library tools.

Since 2000, Ontarians have accessed their local public library digitally 1.3 billion times. In 2018, 284,000 Ontarians enrolled in over 700,000 online courses through local public libraries across Ontario. Ontarians borrowed 494,026 e-books from local public libraries in 2018. Rural Ontario residents accessed twice as many e-books per capita through the library as people in urban communities.

Transformation of Inter-Library Loan is a service available to all Ontarians enabling them to

borrow material across the Province through their local library, however 35 percent of requests are not fulfilled due to lack of funding. The Federation of Ontario Libraries is requesting that funding be increased to meet demand.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM14.7