



December 6, 2022

Dear Mayor Boshcoff and Members of City Council:

Congratulations to each of you on your election/re-election to City Council in the October 2022 municipal election.

We are writing today to oppose the 15% cut to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and to urge the Mayor and City Councillors to fund the modest budget request made by the Library.

The Thunder Bay Public Library provides an essential and vital service to our community, and to the clients of Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic. The Public Library matters to people for so many reasons!

- Libraries matter to seniors because they depend on them to help them navigate a world increasingly dependent on new technology.
- Libraries matter to parents with children because they are the first place that babies and toddlers learn early literacy skills. Libraries also matter to parents because they are essential places of learning for children who have fallen behind in their education due to COVID.
- Libraries matter to people living on low incomes because they offer them the digital tools they can't afford on their own to get jobs, secure housing, access social services and connect with family.
- Libraries matter to families who depend on free programs for their kids and access to free books and DVDs for learning and enrichment.
- Libraries matter to our organization because they serve as a safe haven for marginalized and vulnerable community members, many of whom are clients of Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic.
- Libraries matter to our clients because they rely on the Thunder Bay Public Library as a hub for learning, connection, and access to technology/resources.

The Library is more than a place to borrow books; it is where community happens. It offers a mix of services and programs that serve all age groups. The Library is part of the critical social glue holding our community together. Deteriorating library funding tears at the glue that holds our families, youth, seniors, and low-income citizens together.

Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic strongly opposes any cuts to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and supports a properly funded Library system.

Yours truly,

KINNA-AWEYA LEGAL CLINIC

Beth Ponka
 Director of Administration



WILLIAM W. CREIGHTON YOUTH SERVICES

Sheri Norlen, Executive Director

□ **Administration Office**
1014 Oliver Road, PO BOX 10632
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6V1
Phone: (807) 345-4456
Fax: (807) 345-1635

COMMUNITY SERVICES

□ **Kenora/Rainy River
Community Support Team**
243 Rabbit Lake Road
Kenora, ON P9N 4L8
Phone: (807) 548-2835
Fax: (807) 548-2838

□ **Attendance Centre**
110 Archibald Street N.
Thunder Bay, ON P7C 3X8
Phone: (807) 577-4925
Fax: (807) 577-4701

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

□ **Creighton Youth Centre**
436 Rabbit Lake Road
Kenora, ON P9N 4M3
Phone: (807) 548-8859
Fax: (807) 548-3062

□ **Bruce J. McKittrick Centre**
1014 Oliver Road, PO Box 10632
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6V1
Phone: (807) 345-4263
Fax: (807) 344-2420

December 6, 2022

Dear Mayor Boshcoff and Members of City Council:

I am writing today, on behalf of William Creighton Youth Services to oppose the 15% cut to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and to urge the Mayor and City Councilors to fund the modest budget request made by the library. The Library provides an essential and vital service to our community, and to the clients of William Creighton Youth Services.

Libraries provide more than just borrowing and reading books. Economically there are benefits that typically get overlooked. I am sure that you are aware that studies from Nova Scotia and B.C. found that library traffic meant more shoppers for local businesses, building on American studies which show that dropping a library into a community would usually bump its economic value. Funding cuts means a lack of programming opportunities, which then trickles down to less foot traffic and potential for local businesses to benefit.

In Thunder Bay, a city that's been in the news repeatedly for systemic racism and violence against Indigenous people, librarians are attempting to decolonize, to rework their spaces into a place that will bring Indigenous and non-Indigenous people together, that will improve happiness, health and education. Furthermore, libraries matter to our vulnerable youth clients and families because it is a safe space, and whole heartedly fuels the therapeutic jurisprudence theory specifically by positively influencing an individual's mental, emotional, and spiritual wellness.

A community that reads together grows together. Libraries have been transitioning into community hubs, becoming one of the last free and truly welcoming public spaces in an increasingly polarized world. That kind of accessible, welcoming, inclusive space is fundamental to a well-functioning democracy. William Creighton Youth Services strongly opposes any cuts to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and supports a properly funded Library system.

Respectfully,

Sheri Norlen
Executive Director



292 Red River Road, Thunder Bay, ON. P7B 1A8
Phone: (807) 346-0809 – E-mail: standrewddi@tbaytel.net - Website: www.dewdropinnthunderbay.ca

Date: November 29, 2022

Dear Mayor Boshcoff and Members of City Council:

We are writing today to oppose the 15% cut to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and to urge the Mayor and City Councillors to fund the modest budget request made by the Library.

The Thunder Bay Public Library provides an essential and vital service to our community, and to the clients of St. Andrew's Dew Drop Inn. **The Public Library matters** to people for so many reasons!

- Libraries matter to **seniors** because they depend on them to help them navigate a world increasingly dependent on new technology.
- Libraries matter to **parents with children** because they are the first place that babies and toddlers learn early literacy skills. Libraries also matter to parents because they are essential places of learning for children who have fallen behind in their education due to COVID.
- Libraries matter to **people living on low incomes** because they offer them the digital tools they can't afford on their own to get jobs, secure housing, access social services and connect with family.
- Libraries matter to the **working class** who depend on free programs for their kids, free books and DVDs for learning and enrichment and help meeting the needs of elderly parents.
- Libraries matter to our patrons. Often **our patrons are those who struggle to find stability** within our community, and our libraries are one of those places that is always there. Be it with new technology, literacy skills, learning skills, digital tools, free programs or even a friendly face, **LIBRARIES MATTER!**

The Library is more than a place to borrow books; it is where community happens. It offers a mix of services and programs that serve all age groups. The Library is part of the critical social glue holding the community together. Deteriorating library funding tears at the glue that holds our families, youth, seniors, and low-income citizens together.

St. Andrew's Dew Drop Inn strongly opposes any cuts to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and supports a properly funded Library system.

Yours truly,

Michael Quibell

Executive Director, St. Andrew's Dew Drop Inn



THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD



United Way
Thunder Bay

November 24, 2022.

RE: Letter of Support of the Thunder Bay Public Library

Dear Mayor Boshcoff and Members of City Council:

We are writing today to oppose the 15% cut to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and to urge the Mayor and City Councillors to fund the modest budget request made by the Library.

Libraries help to build healthy communities. Libraries are vital public spaces, worldwide.

The Thunder Bay Public Library provides an essential and vital service to our community.

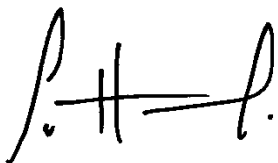
The Public Library matters to people (and the planet) for so many reasons.

- Libraries help to create less waste, by creating opportunities for a shared economy of books, films, music, and now tools, fishing rods, and a growing list of items for lending!
- Libraries matter to seniors because they depend on them to help them navigate a world increasingly dependent on new technology.
- Libraries matter to parents with children because they are the first place that babies and toddlers learn early literacy skills. Libraries also matter to parents because they are essential places of learning for children, especially those who have fallen behind in their education due to COVID.
- Libraries matter to people living on low incomes because they offer them the digital tools they can't afford on their own to get jobs, secure housing, access social services and connect with family.
- Libraries matter to the working class who depend on free programs for their kids, free books and DVDs for learning and enrichment and help meeting the needs of elderly parents.
- Libraries matter to our clients and members because they are repositories of information and know-how, including on how to live sustainably, and to build a healthy climate, and healthy future for people and the planet!

The Library is where community happens. It offers a mix of services and programs that serve all age groups, and organizations like EcoSuperior. The Library is part of the critical social fabric, especially for our families, youth, seniors, and low-income citizens.

EcoSuperior strongly opposes any cuts to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and supports a properly funded Library system. EcoSuperior recognizes the connection between libraries, and healthy communities.

Warmly,



Sue Hamel
Executive Director, EcoSuperior
executivedirector@ecosuperior.org



AETS
Anishinabek Employment
and Training Services

HEAD OFFICE:

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg
73 Pic River Road
P.O. Box 193
Pic River, ON
P0T 1R0

BRANCH OFFICE:
(Mailing Address)

285 Red River Road
Lower Level
Thunder Bay, ON
P7B 1A9

Tel: (807) 346-0307

Fax: (807) 346-0310

Email: aets@aets.org

December 5, 2022

Dear Mayor Boshcoff and Member of City Council:

We are writing today to oppose the 15% cut to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and encourage the Mayor and City Councillors to seriously consider funding the budget request made by the Library.

The Thunder Bay Public Library provides an essential and vital service to our community, and to the clients of Anishinabek Employment and Training Services (AETS). The Public Library matters to people for so many reasons!

- Libraries matter to the increasing senior population (including Indigenous Elders) because they depend on them to help them navigate a world increasingly dependent on new technology.
- Libraries matter to parents with children because they are the first place that babies and toddlers learn early literacy skills. Libraries also matter to parents because they are essential places of learning for children who have fallen behind in their education due to COVID.
- Libraries matter to people living on low incomes because they offer them the digital tools they can't afford on their own to get jobs, secure housing, access social services and connect with family.
- Libraries matter to the working class who depend on free programs for their kids, free books and DVDs for learning and enrichment and help meeting the needs of elderly parents.
- Libraries matter to our clients and because it is a welcoming and inclusive environment that helps encourage skills development to secure employment.

The Library is more than a place to borrow books; it is where community happens. It offers a mix of services and programs that serve all age groups. The Library is part of the critical social glue holding the community together. Deteriorating library funding tears at the glue that holds our families, youth, seniors, and low-income citizens together.

AETS disagrees with cuts to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library that will help ensure a properly funded Library system.

Miigwetch!

John DeGiacomo, Executive Director



704 McKenzie Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7C 3L4
Tel: (807) 623-0292
Fax: (807) 623-1530
Email: info@ourkidscount.ca

Dec. 4th, 2022

Dear Mayor Boshcoff & City Council:

We are writing today to oppose the 15% cut to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and to urge the Mayor and City Councilors to fund the budget request made by the Library.

The Thunder Bay Public Library provides an essential and vital service to our community, and to the clients of Our Kids Count. Our Kids Count is all about “real help, to real people, right here” and I feel there are so many similarities with the Library.

The library is open to the young and elderly and everyone in between. The library provides everyone with the opportunity to learn regardless of income. It is so important that everyone have access to resources and programs that can benefit the entire family.

Our Kids Count staff utilize the library to support the free programs that we offer to families and we’re continuously referring our families to access the services provided. We believe in supporting families and supporting programs that are essential in our community. The library is a welcoming hub which defines community and family.

Our Kids Count strongly oppose any cuts to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and strongly hope that these cuts will not happen in the future. It would be detrimental to our community!!!!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jackie Knough'.

Jackie Knough
Executive Director
executivedirector@ourkidscount.ca
807-633-8588

Ottawa

Room 815, Confederation Building
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-992-3061
Fax.: 613-995-3515



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Ottawa

Pièce 815, Édifice de la Confédération
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0A6
Tél. : 613-992-3061
Téléc. : 613-995-3515

Constituency

905 E Victoria Avenue Unit 1
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7C 1B3
Tel.: 807-625-1160
Fax.: 807-625-1164

Marcus Powlowski

Member of Parliament / Député
Thunder Bay—Rainy River

Constituency

271 Scott Street
Fort Frances, Ontario P9A 1G8
Tel.: 807-274-4344
Fax.: 807-274-4944

Thunder Bay City Hall
500 Donald Street E, P.O. Box 800
Thunder Bay, ON
P7C 5K4

8 December 2022

Dear Mayor Boshcoff and Members of City Council,

It has come to my attention that the City of Thunder Bay Administration has recommended to reduce the Library's capital budget by 15% for 2023. This budget cut, I am told, could result in library closures or reduced services in the city, which would obviously have a negative impact on many residents. I am writing to you today to advocate against these cuts.

I can certainly appreciate that there are many competing demands put upon budgets, and difficult decisions must be made. I also don't have the same information as the City of Thunder Bay Administration or the City Council. That said, I do know that the Library provides essential services to our community. Last year, for example, the Thunder Bay Library had more than 1.1 million visitors; they deliver programs and services to children, seniors, and under-served groups; and they provide a safe place for people to relax, socialize, and gather.

Again, I respect the fact that your budget covers many essential programs and services, but I hope some accommodation can be made for Thunder Bay Library.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marcus Powlowski'.

Marcus Powlowski
Member of Parliament
Thunder Bay-Rainy River



November 29th, 2022

Dear Mayor Boshcoff and Members of City Council:

We are writing today to oppose the 15% cut to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and to urge the Mayor and City Councillors to fund the modest budget request made by the Library.

The Thunder Bay Public Library provides an essential and vital service to our community, and to the clients of Alpha Court. The Public Library matters to people for so many reasons!

- Libraries matter to seniors because they depend on them to help them navigate a world increasingly dependent on new technology.
- Libraries matter to parents with children because they are the first place that babies and toddlers learn early literacy skills. Libraries also matter to parents because they are essential places of learning for children who have fallen behind in their education due to COVID.
- Libraries matter to people living on low incomes because they offer them the digital tools they can't afford on their own to get jobs, secure housing, access social services and connect with family.
- Libraries matter to the working class who depend on free programs for their kids, free books and DVDs for learning and enrichment and help meeting the needs of elderly parents.
- Libraries matter to our clients. We support people who are experiencing mental health and or drug/alcohol addictions and as we know, this population is often poor and marginalized. The Library provides free access to needed technology to enable the people we support access health care, employment support and other areas that are increasingly relying on technology to communicate and connect. The Library provides a safe space for people living in poverty to access resources to upgrade their education and enhance their literacy skills. Over the years, the staff of the TBPL have reached out to Organizations, such as Alpha Court, to help assist transient and at-risk people connect with needed services. Without the TBPL, these individuals may not have been identified and continued to be without services, leaving them vulnerable, homeless and at risk.

The Library is more than a place to borrow books; it is where community happens. It offers a mix of services and programs that serve all age groups. The Library is part of the critical social glue holding the community together. Deteriorating library funding tears at the glue that holds our families, youth, seniors, and low-income citizens together.

Alpha Court Non-Profit Housing Corp., strongly opposes any cuts to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and supports a properly funded Library system.

~~Yours Truly,~~

Nicole Latour RSW, MPH

Executive Director

November 29, 2022

Mayor Boshcoff and Members of City Council:

I am writing today to express my opposition to the 15% budget cut to the Thunder Bay Public Library and to urge you, our elected officials, to fund the modest budget request made by the Library.

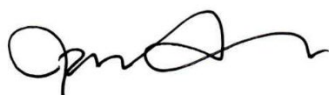
The Thunder Bay Public Library provides an essential and vital service to our community, and to the clients of Crossroads Centre. The Public Library matters to people for so many reasons.

- Libraries matter to our clients because they often can't afford to buy books, DVDs or CDs and utilize the free services to connect with family and friends, attend on-line appointments, search for supports, and pursue educational opportunities.
- Libraries are important to people living on a low income because they offer the digital tools they can't afford on their own to find jobs, secure housing, access social services and connect with family.
- Libraries matter to seniors because they depend on them to help navigate a world increasingly dependent on new technologies.
- Libraries matter to parents with children because they are the first place that babies and toddlers learn early literacy skills. Libraries also matter to parents because they are essential places of learning for children who have fallen behind in their education due to COVID.
- Libraries matter to working class people who often depend on free programs for their children, free books & DVDs for learning and enrichment.

The Library is more than a place to borrow books; it is where community happens. It offers a mix of services and programs that serve all age groups. The Library is part of the critical social glue holding the community together. Deteriorating library funding tears at the glue that holds our families, youth, seniors, and low-income citizens together.

Crossroads Centre strongly opposes any cuts to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and supports a properly funded Library system.

Regards,



Jan Adams, she/her
Executive Director
Crossroads Centre



DENNIS FRANKLIN CROMARTY HIGH SCHOOL

315 North Edward St., Thunder Bay, Ontario P7C 4P3

Phone: (807) 623-8914 Fax: (807) 623-2918

Toll Free: (800) 265-1243

Tuesday November 29, 2022

Dear Mayor Boshcoff and Members of City Council:

We are writing today to oppose the 15% cut to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and to urge the Mayor and City Councillors to fund the modest budget request made by the Library.

The Thunder Bay Public Library provides an essential and vital service to our community, and to the clients of Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School. The Public Library matters to people for so many reasons!

- Libraries matter to seniors because they depend on them to help them navigate a world increasingly dependent on new technology.
- Libraries matter to parents with children because they are the first place that babies and toddlers learn early literacy skills. Libraries also matter to parents because they are essential places of learning for children who have fallen behind in their education due to COVID.
- Libraries matter to people living on low incomes because they offer them the digital tools they can't afford on their own to get jobs, secure housing, access social services and connect with family.
- Libraries matter to the working class who depend on free programs for their kids, free books and DVDs for learning and enrichment and help meeting the needs of elderly parents.
- Libraries matter to our clients and members because they provide access to computers and a variety of resources essential to their learning in high school.

The Library is more than a place to borrow books; it is where community happens. It offers a mix of services and programs that serve all age groups. The Library is part of the critical social glue holding the community together. Deteriorating library funding tears at the glue that holds our families, youth, seniors, and low-income citizens together.

Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School strongly opposes any cuts to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and supports a properly funded Library system.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sharon Angecone'.

Sharon Angecone

Principal

December 5, 2022

Dear Mayor Boshcoff and Members of City Council:

Letter of Support for the Thunder Bay Public Library

We are writing today to oppose the 15% cut to the Thunder Bay Public Library budget and to urge the Mayor and City Councilors to fund the modest budget request made by the Library.

The Thunder Bay Public Library provides an essential service to our community and the members of Elevate NWO. Long before the development of Warming and Cooling Centres in our city, the Thunder Bay Public Library has acted as a lifeline to our members, many of whom are unsheltered, street-involved and with little or no resources. Our members have been able to access far more than books through these essential community hubs.

- Many of our people have been able to successfully retrieve their ID, which allowed them to access income support, housing, open a bank account and more.
- Many of them have been able to attend community meetings and supportive programs that make them feel connected and part of the broader community (a feeling that is all too rare for those we serve).
- Many of them keep connected with distant family and friends through computers. This is often how they learn of births, community events and tragic losses. Without access to public computers, our members could go months without important news from home, leaving them vulnerable or further disconnected.
- Many of our members have been able to explore their culture through books, online programming, and events in the libraries.

Our Library is more than a place to borrow books; it is where community happens. Our Libraries have a role in building healthier and safe communities. Not all healing comes through therapy and treatment. Much well-being can be achieved by simply having somewhere to go and something to do and a place where you belong. For our people that is the Thunder Bay Library.

Elevate NWO strongly opposes any cuts to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and supports a properly funded Library system.

Yours truly,



Holly Gauvin
Executive Director



December 1, 2022

Dear Mayor Boshcoff and Members of City Council:

We are writing today to oppose the proposed 15% cut to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and to urge the Mayor and City Councillors to fund the modest budget request made by the Library.

The Thunder Bay Public Library provides an essential and vital service to our community, and to the members of Friends of the Thunder Bay Public Library. The Public Library matters to people for so many reasons!

- Libraries matter to seniors because they depend on them to help navigate a world increasingly dependent on new technology.
- Libraries matter to parents with children because they are the first place that babies and toddlers learn early literacy skills. Libraries also matter to parents because they are essential places of learning for children who have fallen behind in their education due to COVID.
- Libraries matter to people living on low incomes because they offer them the digital tools they can't afford on their own to get jobs, secure housing, access social services and connect with family.
- Libraries matter to those who are on fixed incomes, or are struggling to afford necessities and depend on free programs for their kids, free books and DVDs for learning and enrichment, and help meeting the needs of elderly parents.
- Libraries matter to our clients and members. The Friends of the Library exists to support and promote our city's Public Library System. We have a vested interest in its financial health and ability to provide the necessary services to the public

The Library is more than a place to borrow books. It is where community happens, offering a mix of services and programs that serve all age groups, and is part of the critical social infrastructure on which people depend. Deteriorating library funding tears at the glue that holds our families, youth, seniors, and low-income citizens together.

The Friends of the Thunder Bay Public Library strongly opposes any cuts to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and supports a properly funded Library system.

Yours truly,

Fran Duke

Fran Duke
President, Friends of the Thunder Bay Public Library



THUNDER BAY & DISTRICT INJURED WORKERS SUPPORT GROUP

150 Castlegreen Drive
Thunder Bay, ON P7A 7T9
tbiwsg@gmail.com

thunderbayinjuredworkers.com

807-622-8897

December 8, 2022

Dear Mayor Boshcoff and Members of City Council:

We are writing today to oppose the 15% cut to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and to urge the Mayor and City Councillors to fund the modest budget request made by the Library.

The Thunder Bay Public Library provides an essential and vital service to our community, and to the clients of Thunder Bay & District Injured Workers Support Group. The Public Library matters to people for so many reasons!

- Libraries matter to seniors because they depend on them to help them navigate a world increasingly dependent on new technology.
- Libraries matter to parents with children because they are the first place that babies and toddlers learn early literacy skills. Libraries also matter to parents because they are essential places of learning for children who have fallen behind in their education due to COVID.
- Libraries matter to people living on low incomes because they offer them the digital tools they can't afford on their own to get jobs, secure housing, access social services and connect with family.
- Libraries matter to the working class who depend on free programs for their kids, free books and DVDs for learning and enrichment and help meeting the needs of elderly parents.
- Libraries matter to our clients and members because many injured workers in Thunder Bay live in poverty and use the library on a regular basis and any reduction in service would be detrimental to our members and allies.

The Library is more than a place to borrow books; it is where community happens. It offers a mix of services and programs that serve all age groups. The Library is part of the critical social glue holding the community together. Deteriorating library funding tears at the glue that holds our families, youth, seniors and low-income citizens together.

The Thunder Bay & District Injured Workers Support Group strongly opposes any cuts to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and supports a properly funded Library system.

Yours truly,

Jules Tupker
Secretary
Thunder Bay & District
Injured Workers Support Group



29 November 2022

Dear Mayor Boshcoff and Members of City Council:

We are writing today to oppose the 15% cut to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and to urge the Mayor and City Councillors to fund the modest budget request made by the Library.

The Thunder Bay Public Library provides an essential and vital service to our community, and to the clients of The John Howard Society of Thunder Bay and District. The Public Library matters to people for so many reasons!

- Libraries matter to seniors because they depend on them to help them navigate a world increasingly dependent on new technology.
- Libraries matter to parents with children because they are the first place that babies and toddlers learn early literacy skills. Libraries also matter to parents because they are essential places of learning for children who have fallen behind in their education due to COVID.
- Libraries matter to people living on low incomes because they offer them the digital tools they can't afford on their own to get jobs, secure housing, access social services and connect with family.
- Libraries matter to the working class who depend on free programs for their kids, free books and DVDs for learning and enrichment and help meeting the needs of elderly parents.
- Libraries matter to our clients because they provide a safe space for making positive social connections

The Library is more than a place to borrow books; it is where community happens. It offers a mix of services and programs that serve all age groups. The Library is part of the critical social glue holding the community together. Deteriorating library funding tears at the glue that holds our families, youth, seniors, and low-income citizens together.

The John Howard Society of Thunder Bay and District strongly opposes any cuts to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and supports a properly funded Library system.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Haynen".

Kevin Haynen

Chief Executive Officer



T: (807) 623-5355
F: (807) 623-4191



315 S. Syndicate Ave.
Thunder Bay, ON, P7E 1E2



info@jhstbay.ca
www.johnhowardtbay.on.ca



December 4, 2022

RE: Thunder Bay Public Library – Budget Cut

Dear Mayor Boshcoff and Members of City Council:

From learning the newest technology to staying connected with family and friends, getting a job, becoming a citizen, or learning a new skill, the Thunder Bay Public Library gives our community a free, safe space to learn, grow and thrive.

It is for this reason and on behalf of the Lakehead Social Planning Council, I am writing today to oppose the 15% cut to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and to urge the Mayor and City Councillors to fund the modest budget request made by the library.

More specifically, the Thunder Bay Public Library provides an essential and vital service to our community, and to the clients of the Lakehead Social Planning Council). The Public Library matters to people for so many reasons!

- Libraries matter to seniors because they depend on them to help them navigate a world increasingly dependent on new technology.
- Libraries matter to parents with children because they are the first place that babies and toddlers learn early literacy skills. Libraries also matter to parents because they are essential places of learning for children who have fallen behind in their education due to COVID.
- Libraries matter to people living on low incomes because they offer them the digital tools, they can't afford on their own to get jobs, secure housing, access social services and connect with family.
- Libraries matter to the working class who depend on free programs for their kids, free books and DVDs for learning and enrichment and help meeting the needs of elderly parents.


Libraries matter to our clients and members because: in addition to serving patrons experiencing poverty and homelessness, the Thunder Bay Public Library is simply safe, provides access and meaningful spaces for all members of our community.

This funding made available through tax payer's dollars, is crucial for more than just buying new books, but the upkeep of buildings, paying staff livable wages, providing ongoing community support and programming, and funding archival research and projects.

The Library is more than a place to borrow books; it is where community happens. It offers a mix of services and programs that serve all age groups. The Library is part of the critical social glue



A United Way Funded Agency

Community Information and Referral Centre 

Dial  or visit www.211OntarioNorth.ca for Community, Health and Government Information

Charitable Registration No. 10759 0820 RR0001

-2-

holding the community together. Deteriorating library funding tears at the glue that holds our families, youth, seniors, and low-income citizens together.

Lakehead Social Planning Council strongly opposes any cuts to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and supports a properly funded Library system.


In community,



Marie Klassen
Executive Director



A United Way Funded Agency

Community Information and Referral Centre 

Dial  or visit www.211OntarioNorth.ca for Community, Health and Government Information

Charitable Registration No. 10759 0820 RR0001



LISE VAUGEOIS

MPP Thunder Bay—Superior North

Députée provinciale de Thunder Bay—Supérieur-Nord

November 17, 2022

Dear Mayor Boshcoff and Members of City Council:


I am writing today to oppose the 15% cut to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and to urge the Mayor and City Councillors to fund the modest budget request made by the Library.

The Thunder Bay Public Library provides an essential and vital service to our community. The Public Library matters to people for so many reasons!

- Libraries matter to seniors because they depend on them to help them navigate a world increasingly dependent on new technology.
- Libraries matter to parents with children because they are the first place that babies and toddlers learn early literacy skills. Libraries also matter to parents because they are essential places of learning for children who have fallen behind in their education due to COVID.
- Libraries matter to people living on low incomes because they offer them the digital tools they can't afford on their own to get jobs, secure housing, access social services and connect with family.
- Libraries matter to the working class who depend on free programs for their kids, free books and DVDs for learning and enrichment and help meeting the needs of elderly parents.

The Library is more than a place to borrow books; it is where community happens. It offers a mix of services and programs that serve all age groups. The Library is part of the critical social glue holding the community together. Deteriorating library funding tears at the glue that holds our families, youth, seniors, and low-income citizens together.

Yours truly,



Lise Vaugois, MPP
Thunder Bay – Superior North

COMMUNITY OFFICE

272 Park Ave.

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✉ LVaugois-CO@ndp.on.ca

QUEEN'S PARK

Room 203, North Wing, Main Legislative Building

Queen's Park, Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

☎ 416-325-0069 • ☎ 416-325-0067

✉ LVaugois-QP@ndp.on.ca



December 6, 2022

Dear Mayor Boshcoff and Members of City Council:

We are writing today to oppose the 15% cut to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and to urge the Mayor and City Councillors to fund the modest budget request made by the Library.

The Thunder Bay Public Library provides an essential and vital service to our community, and to the clients of New Directions Speakers' School. The Public Library matters to people for so many reasons!

- Libraries matter to seniors because they depend on them to help them navigate a world increasingly dependent on new technology.
- Libraries matter to parents with children because they are the first place that babies and toddlers learn early literacy skills. Libraries also matter to parents because they are essential places of learning for children who have fallen behind in their education due to COVID.
- Libraries matter to people living on low incomes because they offer them the digital tools they can't afford on their own to get jobs, secure housing, access social services and connect with family.
- Libraries matter to the working class who depend on free programs for their kids, free books and DVDs for learning and enrichment and help meeting the needs of elderly parents.
- Libraries matter to our organization because they serve as a safe haven for marginalized and vulnerable community members, many of whom are students of New Directions Speakers' School. Our students rely on the Thunder Bay Public Library as a hub for learning, connection, and access to technology/resources.

The Library is more than a place to borrow books; it is where community happens. It offers a mix of services and programs that serve all age groups. The Library is part of the critical social glue holding the community together. Deteriorating library funding tears at the glue that holds our families, youth, seniors, and low-income citizens together.

New Directions Speakers' School strongly opposes any cuts to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and supports a properly funded Library system.

Yours truly,



George Drazenovich

New Directions Speakers' School Chairperson



December 9, 2022

Dear Mayor Boshcoff and Members of City Council:

We are writing today to oppose the 15% cut to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and to urge the Mayor and City Councillors to fund the modest budget request made by the Library.

The Thunder Bay Public Library provides an essential and vital service to our community, and to the clients of PARO. The Public Library matters to people for so many reasons!

- Libraries matter to seniors because they depend on them to help them navigate a world increasingly dependent on new technology.
- Libraries matter to parents with children because they are the first place that babies and toddlers learn early literacy skills. Libraries also matter to parents because they are essential places of learning for children who have fallen behind in their education due to COVID.
- Libraries matter to people living on low incomes because they offer them the digital tools they can't afford on their own to get jobs, secure housing, access social services and connect with family.
- Libraries matter to the working class who depend on free programs for their kids, free books and DVDs for learning and enrichment and help meeting the needs of elderly parents.

The Library is more than a place to borrow books; it is where community happens. It offers a mix of services and programs that serve all age groups. The Library is part of the critical social glue holding the community together. Deteriorating library funding tears at the glue that holds our families, youth, seniors, and low-income citizens together.

PARO strongly opposes any cuts to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and supports a properly funded Library system.

Yours truly,

Rosalind Lockyer
Founder & CEO

POVERTY FREE THUNDER BAY

C/o 73 N. Cumberland St. Suite 101, Thunder Bay, ON P7A 4L8

povertyfreetb@gmail.com

December 5, 2022

Dear Mayor Boshcoff and City Councilors:

Poverty Free Thunder Bay is writing to oppose the 15% cut to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and to urge you to fund the budget request made by the Library to

- maintain buildings and infrastructure and bring them up to standards.
- cover staffing wages and benefits
- cover costs of materials and programs for library users of all ages

The Thunder Bay Public Library provides an essential service to our community particularly people with lower income. The Public Library matters to people for so many reasons!

- Libraries matter to seniors because they depend on them to help them navigate a world increasingly dependent on new technology.
- Libraries matter to parents with children because they have the resources for babies and toddlers to learn early literacy skills. Libraries also matter to parents because they are essential places of learning both for children who have fallen behind in their formal education for what ever reason – e.g. due to COVID and for children seeking broader horizons of skills and knowledge.
- Libraries matter to people living on low incomes because they offer them the digital tools they can't afford on their own to get jobs, secure housing, access social services and connect with family. Moreover it is an expanded living space when their home accommodation is crowded or a rented room.
- Libraries matter to our clients and members because it provides rooms for meetings of any community group.

The Library is more than a place to borrow books; it is where community happens. It offers a mix of services and programs that serve all age groups. The Library is part of the social glue holding the community together. Deteriorating library funding tears at the glue that holds Thunder Bay residents of all ages, incomes and walks of life. Libraries have a very significant role in creating inclusion and equity in our city.

Poverty Free Thunder Bay strongly opposes any cuts to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library that deprive us of a properly funded Library system.

Yours truly, Sara Williamson, core member of Poverty Free Thunder Bay



December 2, 2022

Dear Mayor Boshcoff and Members of City Council:

We are writing today to oppose the 15% cut to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and to urge the Mayor and City Councillors to fund the modest budget request made by the Library.

The Thunder Bay Public Library provides an essential and vital service to our community, and to the clients of Seven Generations Education Institute. The Public Library matters to people for so many reasons!

- Libraries matter to seniors because they depend on them to help them navigate a world increasingly dependent on new technology.
- Libraries matter to parents with children because they are the first place that babies and toddlers learn early literacy skills. Libraries also matter to parents because they are essential places of learning for children who have fallen behind in their education due to COVID.
- Libraries matter to people living on low incomes because they offer them the digital tools they can't afford on their own to get jobs, secure housing, access social services and connect with family.
- Libraries matter to the working class who depend on free programs for their kids, free books and DVDs for learning and enrichment and help meeting the needs of elderly parents.

The Library is more than a place to borrow books; it is where community happens. It offers a mix of services and programs that serve all age groups. The Library is part of the critical social glue holding the community together. Deteriorating library funding tears at the glue that holds our families, youth, seniors, and low-income citizens together.

Seven Generations Education Institute strongly opposes any cuts to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and supports a properly funded Library system.

Miigwech,

Brent Tookenay
CEO, Seven Generations Education Institute



YES Employment Services

Bringing workers and employers together since 1981.

December 7, 2022

Dear Mayor Boshcoff and Members of City Council:

We are writing today to oppose the 15% cut to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and to urge the Mayor and City Councillors to fund the modest budget request made by the Library.

The Thunder Bay Public Library provides an essential and vital service to our community, and to the clients of YES Employment Services. The Public Library matters to people for so many reasons!

- Libraries matter to seniors because they depend on them to help them navigate a world increasingly dependent on new technology.
- Libraries matter to parents with children because they are the first place that babies and toddlers learn early literacy skills. Libraries also matter to parents because they are essential places of learning for children who have fallen behind in their education due to COVID.
- Libraries matter to people living on low incomes because they offer them the digital tools they can't afford on their own to get jobs, secure housing, access social services and connect with family.
- Libraries matter to the working class who depend on free programs for their kids, free books and DVDs for learning and enrichment and help meeting the needs of elderly parents.
- Libraries matter to our clients and members because they provide additional wrap around services and access to digital technology that they otherwise would not have.

The Library is more than a place to borrow books; it is where community happens. It offers a mix of services and programs that serve all age groups. The Library is part of the critical social glue holding the community together. Deteriorating library funding tears at the glue that holds our families, youth, seniors, and low-income citizens together.

YES Employment Services strongly opposes any cuts to the budget of the Thunder Bay Public Library and supports a properly funded Library system.

Yours truly,

Lorna Hunda
Executive Director