



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC LIBRARY LOOKING FOR YOUR HELP THIS ELECTION

Berwick, Nova Scotia: The Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board asks patrons and supporters of public library services to show their support on the doorstep this election. Beginning shortly, the Library Board will be giving bright yellow door hangers to the public. They have a simple message, "Dear Candidate: Public libraries are important to me, my family, and my community!"

Shirley Pineo, Chair of the Annapolis Valley Library Board, explains. "In the past eight years, public libraries have received less than a one percent increase to their core operating funding. All parties have promised to fix this, many reports have been written, and submitted, but little has been accomplished. Libraries need an increase in core funding, distributed fairly, and with a long term vision." Public libraries in Nova Scotia are funded by grants from the province and municipalities while library boards are required to raise funds locally. With these funds the library board purchases both print and electronic materials and employs staff to build services and programs. The library buildings are maintained by the municipalities.

Ann-Marie Mathieu, Chief Executive Officer for the Annapolis Valley Regional Library, provides further information. "Libraries are strongly supported in the valley. The numerous building projects completed and underway, and largely supported by local donations, underscore their value to our citizens. We would like the government to acknowledge that value by increasing core funding to ensure sustainability."

With an election underway, the Board is asking library patrons to help raise the issue on the doorstep with a simple act of support. Place a door hanger on your home or business and talk to candidates. Ask them "Will they, and their party, commit to increased core operating funding to libraries?" Hangers will be available at all branches of the Regional Library.

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