



# CANADIAN SCHOOL LIBRARIES

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May 8, 2025

Honourable Claire Johnson  
Place 2000  
250 King Street  
Fredericton, New Brunswick  
E3B 9M9

Delivered by email: [claire.johnson@gnb.ca](mailto:claire.johnson@gnb.ca)

Dear Minister Johnson,

Canadian School Libraries (CSL) is a national organization dedicated to professional research and education in the field of the school library learning commons. We are the guardians of [\*Leading Learning: Standards of Practice for the School Library Learning Commons in Canada\*](#).

We are writing to you today to address the recent announcements that library support staff in Anglophone West are to be cut in the coming school year. We add our voice to those of the Fredericton high school students who have similarly spoken out. Across Canada, there is an underinvestment in education that is causing cutbacks at a time when greater investment in the future of our country is needed. While we applaud the New Brunswick government for adding \$200 million dollars to the education budget, the shortfall between what is added and what is needed is of deep concern.

The Premier's statement that "Department of Education's goal is to add teachers to classrooms to improve literacy and numeracy scores" is, at its heart, a laudable goal. However, years of cutbacks to school libraries in New Brunswick have left school libraries decimated, and students without the opportunities that a well funded school library learning commons can address in terms of literacy of all stripes. Traditional print literacy, digital and media literacy, and information literacy are all crucial for students growing up in our tech-centric world. Qualified library teaching staff can do this, enabling students to reach their full potential.

The critical foundations of school library learning commons, as outlined in [\*CSL's Foundations and Frameworks document\*](#), are strong policy, robust funding and equity of access. It worries us greatly that students in Anglophone West will not have that equity of access to a school library learning commons due to this decision.

Every crisis is an opportunity in disguise, this is a chance for New Brunswick to examine the role that school libraries play in education within the province, and look towards rebuilding their capacity to enhance student learning, and in doing so make New Brunswick an attractive prospect to new education graduates.

Sincerely,



Joseph Jeffery, Chair  
Canadian School Libraries  
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On behalf of the CSL Board of Directors

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