



# CANADIAN SCHOOL LIBRARIES

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February 16, 2026

To The Honourable Marc Miller, MP,

We write to you today to support B'nai Brith in their call for a national strategy for youth digital literacy. Such a strategy should include collaboration with provincial and territorial governments to establish and implement minimum standards for digital literacy for young people across Canada. School libraries are centres of digital and information literacy, yet these positions have been eroded as funding fails to keep pace with costs.

As Canada enters into this historic nation-building process that Prime Minister Carney has outlined, we need to have strong foundations. If this country's democracy can be attacked through misinformation and disinformation campaigns, if our youth can be targeted by exploitation schemes, and become addicted to social media then our foundations will falter. Our youth urgently need the skills to navigate modern information environments—such as lateral reading—to counter AI bias and intentional manipulation. They also need the tools to protect themselves from online exploitation. In my own community of Prince George, British Columbia, we [lost a young person](#) to such a tragedy. Social media right now is fueling hatred and bigotry and exposing our students to malign influences that seek to radicalize them. These threats are not abstract; they are harming Canadian families today.

While the risks driving our call for a national youth digital literacy strategy are significant, the opportunities are just as compelling. Students who become skilled, critical navigators of the digital world will form the next generation of Canadian innovators—entrepreneurs, filmmakers, artists, and authors—ready to contribute to our national identity and cultural heritage. Ensuring they understand responsible AI use, copyright, and modern information evaluation skills is essential to unlocking that potential. Canada's investments in physical and digital infrastructure will only reach their full value if we equally invest in educating youth to use these tools effectively, safely, and creatively. Now is the moment to work across provincial and territorial borders to establish a unified national strategy so that every young person, in every school, receives meaningful digital literacy instruction. The resources exist; what is needed is the time, coordination, and commitment to ensure they reach students.

Canadian School Libraries is a non-profit, pluralistic and inclusive entity, experienced in setting standards as a vanguard for intellectual freedom while advocating for school level, teacher based expertise to foster student digital and media literacy, and we would be willing to help with any potential initiatives as we can.

Sincerely,

Joseph Jeffery, Chair  
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