

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PROVINCIAL LEADERS RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION

I believe passionately in a world where schools have adequate resources to inspire students and stimulate their love of reading.

Over the last 30 years we have allowed our public school libraries to die; the amount spent on books for one child in the 1970s must stretch to cover nine children today. Our wealthy nation is letting our children grow into adults with only basic skills, weak self-esteem and significantly limited opportunities for their future.

With a 1% increase in literacy we can add over \$18 billion to the Canadian economy. We need to address this issue and ensure that all Canadians have the opportunity to build a strong future for themselves and for society as a whole.

As Minister of Education in this province, you are in a position to positively affect the lives of many children, and help provide the support they need to develop a lifelong love of reading, strong literacy skills and in turn lead to their future success.

To see the transformative impact that adequate funding can make to a high-needs school, watch *Writing on the Wall*, a short documentary commissioned by the Indigo Love of Reading Foundation. This compelling film shows how grave the situation is in our schools, and how the limited funding for books impacts the lives of our youngest Canadians.

Please take the time to watch *Writing on the Wall* at www.loveofreading.org and make a commitment to fund literacy and learning at levels that contribute to the growth of our children and our country.

Sincerely,

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