

March 9, 2021



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, M.P., P.C.
Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion

Honourable Minister,

I am writing to you today on behalf of those in my riding who have raised their concerns about this government's recent announcement to cut \$4 million annually from CELA and \$1 million annually from NNELS. These cuts will have a devastating impact on peoples, living in my riding and across Canada, ability to receive equitable access to reading materials. These cuts will reduce access to reading materials, widen the gap for services and resources, which in turn further compounds the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on those with disabilities.

The Centre for Equitable Library Access and the National Network for Equitable Library Service provide accessible reading materials to the 3 million Canadians with low-vision or blindness, learning disabilities, and physical disabilities like Parkinson's Disease and Cerebral Palsy. Cuts to these organizations will severely impact their ability to produce and distribute accessible reading materials and result in reduced accessibility for persons with disabilities across Canada.

I urge you, Madam Minister to reverse your decision today and restore this critical funding to these programs today.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dave Epp', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Dave Epp, MP
Chatham-Kent—Leamington

CC: Raquel Dancho, Shadow Minister for Future Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion
Brandy Williamson
Leona Knelsen

