



Canadian Association of University Teachers
Association canadienne des professeurs et professeurs d'université

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May 5, 2016

Honourable Dwight Ball
Premier
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Confederation Building, East Block
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

Dear Premier Ball:

At the meeting last weekend of the governing body of the Canadian Association of University Teachers in Ottawa, delegates representing more than 68,000 academic staff at 120 universities and colleges unanimously passed the following emergency resolutions moved by the Memorial University of Newfoundland Faculty Association:

That CAUT expresses its dismay to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador at the closure of 54 public libraries in the province.

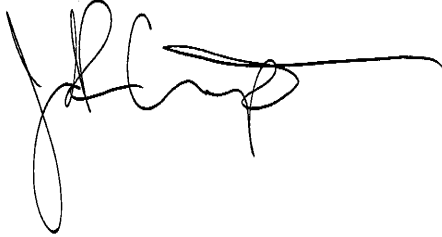
That CAUT Council expresses its dismay to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador at the imposition of a 10% tax on books sold in the province.

As an organization representing educators and researchers, we are appalled by the government's plan to close more than half of the public libraries in the province. The closures will result in significantly reduced access to library services that support literacy and life-long learning. Libraries are important community hubs, and are frequently used by families, seniors, and youth to access the Internet. Librarians provide critical support for people needing to navigate websites and access government services that are increasingly on-line. Of the 54 libraries being closed, 20 are affiliated with public schools. Finally, the closures will mean cuts to employment that disproportionately affect women, and will have a devastating impact on economically challenged parts of the province.

We are deeply concerned that your government's decision to close libraries, when combined with the proposed 10% sales tax on books, will have a negative impact on literacy in the province. In addition, the book tax will put further strains on the remaining libraries' collection budget.

CAUT strongly urges the government to immediately reverse the closures and the tax on books.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Compton', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

James Compton
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Robinson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Robinson
Executive Director

/mmp

cc: George Jenner, Memorial University of Newfoundland Faculty Association
Paul Davis, Leader of the Opposition, Province of Newfoundland and Labrador
Earle McCurdy, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Newfoundland and Labrador