



**Brenda J. Librecz**  
Commissioner, Community & Fire Services

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Mayor & Members of Council  
**FROM:** Brenda Librecz, Commissioner, Community & Fire Services  
**COPY TO:** Andy Taylor, CAO  
**PREPARED BY:** Catherine Biss, CEO Markham Public Library  
**DATE:** December 21, 2016  
**SUBJECT:** **Follow up – Letter Regarding the Public Library Operating Grant**

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The purpose of this memorandum is to request General Committee endorsement of the attached letter from the Chair of the Markham Public Library Board to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. In addition have Mayor Scarpitti send a similar letter to the Minister. Please find below background information related to this request.

### **General Committee Direction to Markham Library Board:**

Following the Library Board presentation to General Committee on September 26, 2016, General Committee enquired about the provincial Public Library Operating Grant.

*....The Committee inquired about Provincial Grants that the Public Libraries receive. Staff advised that they receive approximately \$232,000 from the Provincial government that goes into the operating budget. It was noted that the Provincial Grant was capped many years ago. The Committee suggested that the Markham Library Board put together a resolution with respect to the need to increase the Province's public library operating grants....*

### **Follow-Up by Library Board**

At the Library Board meeting on the evening of September 26, 2016, the Board discussed the suggestion of General Committee and resolved:

*That the Library Board send a letter to the Provincial Government requesting the Province to honour the original funding model based on current household data.*

At the Library Board meeting on October 24, 2016, the Board directed staff to address the letter to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, and to send the letter to General Committee for endorsement.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact myself or Catherine Biss, Chief Executive Officer of the Markham Public Library.

Attachment: Letter to Minister of Tourism, Culture & Sport from Markham Library Board.