

Mrs. Orvie Dingwall
187 Rushmore Road
Winnipeg, MB
R2G 3N6

February 3, 2014

Dear Hon. Joy Smith,

Re: Concern about closure of Health Canada library

As a Health Librarian, mother, and voter, I am concerned about the recent library closure at Health Canada and the loss of professional librarians whose expertise supported countless research and policy initiatives.

Librarians and libraries are instrumental to the advancement of safe and effective patient care, as well as innovation, research, and policy in health. Despite the Federal Government's position that existing collections can be digitized and placed online, libraries are more than books on shelves, and librarians are more than people who organize books. The role of the librarian cannot be understated. Librarians assist researchers and healthcare providers to find the information they need quickly and efficiently through the creation, curation, maintenance, and organization of health information. Librarians, and the information resources and services they provide, have consistently been shown to have high value and a positive impact within healthcare organizations. When health care providers consult libraries, the information provided changes the care patients receive 70% of the time, and health librarians return \$9 for every dollar invested.

We need you to act now to ensure the Government of Canada continues to provide the country's researchers, healthcare providers, and the healthcare consuming people of Canada, with the resources and services required to develop and improve Canada's health care system. Do not allow short-sighted costs savings to destroy Canada's legacy as a leader in healthcare innovation.

Yours sincerely,

Orvie Dingwall

c.c.

Canadian Health Libraries Association / Association des bibliothèques de la santé du Canada (info@chla-absc.ca)

Canadian Library Association / Association canadienne des bibliothèques (execdir@cla.ca)

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada

The Hon. Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health

Thomas Mulcair, Leader of the Opposition

Libby Davies, Deputy Leader of the Opposition

Justin Trudeau, Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada

Kevin Lamoureux, MP, Winnipeg North

¹ Bartlett, J. C., & Marshall, J. G. (2013). The value of library and information services in patient care: Canadian results from an international multisite study. *JCHLA*, 34(03), 138-146. doi:10.5596/c13-063. Retrieved January 28, 2014, from <http://pubs.chla-absc.ca/doi/full/10.5596/c13-063>

² Health Libraries Inc., & ALIA Health Libraries Australia. (2013). *Worth every cent and more: An independent assessment of the return on investment of health libraries in australia*. Canberra, Australia: Australian Library and Information Association. Retrieved January 28, 2014, from <http://www.alia.org.au/sites/default/files/Worth-Every-Cent-and-More-FULL-REPORT.pdf>