



Canadian Library Association
Association canadienne des bibliothèques

September 18, 2014

The Hon. Peter MacKay, P.C., M.P.,
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Department of Justice Headquarters, 284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8

Re: The Right of Incarcerated Persons to Read, Learn and Access Information

Dear Minister MacKay,

The Canadian Library Association (CLA), the national voice of Canada's library communities, and the Canadian Association Law Libraries /Association Canadienne des bibliothèques de droit (CALL/ACBD), are deeply concerned with the growing lack of access to libraries for incarcerated individuals across the country.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the CLA and CALL/ACBD's joint statement regarding this matter. Literacy and education are essential factors in the processes of rehabilitation and reintegration into society. We believe that the government has a responsibility to provide access to these invaluable resources to incarcerated individuals.

The CLA and CALL/ACBD therefore recommend that the Government of Canada work towards a renewed focus regarding the quality and access of libraries in our nation's correctional institutions.

If you have any questions, or would be interested in discussing this further, please do not hesitate to contact me at (613) 232-9625 ext. 306 or vmckay@cla.ca.

Thank you for the consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Valoree McKay'.

Valoree McKay, CAE
Executive Director

Cc: The Honourable Steven Blaney, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
Mr. Don Head, Commissioner, Correctional Service of Canada