

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper / Le très honorable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada/ Premier ministre du Canada  
House of Commons / Chambre des communes  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

Equitable access to information for all Canadians is required to support the knowledge-based economy of the 21st Century. Libraries help all Canadians, regardless of their language abilities, financial situation, or ability to access physical library spaces, find the information they need to achieve their full potential, learn, innovate and contribute to Canada's prosperity.

The Library Book Rate is a discount postal rate which has existed since 1939, thanks to a long-standing partnership between the federal government, Canada Post and Canadian libraries. In 2005 the formal agreement expired and the Library Book Rate was renewed on a per-year basis. This agreement is due to expire **DECEMBER 31st, 2011** leaving inter-library loan services and Canadians' access to information in jeopardy. As a shareholder of Canada Post and a Canadian citizen, I urge you to include the Library Book Rate partnership in the federal government's vision for a prosperous Canada.

Canada Post's mandate is to provide universal postal service to each and every Canadian. The Library Book Rate should be part of that universal access to services. In the past, the federal government has shown its ongoing commitment to the Library Book Rate and what it represents to Canadians.

By supporting the passing of Bill C-321, a Bill that will expand the materials eligible for reduced shipping to include all library materials, you demonstrate your commitment to supporting equal opportunity for all Canadians, now and in the future. It is also important that responsibility for the Library Book Rate be assigned to a federal department or agency.

You have the power to ensure that the collections of all libraries remain a national asset available to all Canadians beyond December 31st, 2011, whether we live in rural or urban Canada. Please support my continued access to the 465 million+ materials available from libraries across Canada.

Concerned Canadian,

of

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Full Name

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Province in which you Reside

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Signature