

Merv Tweed, M.P.
Brandon-Souris
For Immediate Release

Government announces support for MP Tweeds Private Members Bill C-509

Brandon, September 30, 2010 – The Honourable Robe Merrifield, Minister of State (Transport) and Brandon Souris MP Merv Tweed joined the Canadian Library Association today on Parliament Hill to deliver remarks on Bill C-509.

“As the Minister responsible for Canada Post, I am keenly aware of the benefits of the Library Book Rate and its history”, said Minister Merrifield. “I am here today to proudly state that our Government is proud to support literacy and our libraries across the country, both urban and rural, and that our government will strongly support Mr. Tweed’s Bill.”

“Over 2,000 Libraries actively use the Library Book Rate and an estimated one million Canadians benefit from it annually,” added Tweed. “It is clear that many Canadians will benefit from an expanded Library Book Rate and I am happy to acknowledge our government’s support of this Bill.”

With increased public visibility and the help of Canadians, this Bill has received widespread support from all Members of Parliament.

The Library Book Rate, under its current form, is a discounted postage rate offered by Canada Post to libraries for shipping books. Through interlibrary loans, local branches are able to offer a much larger collection of materials to local library users. Bill C-509 will, for the first time, legislate the Library Book Rate and expand it to include other library materials in addition to books, such as CD’s and DVD’s.

Approximately 65% of volumes mailed under the Library Book Rate are destined for libraries and library users in small towns and rural locations, thereby allowing Canadians to access the collections held in libraries across the country.

“Libraries are a cornerstone for public information, literacy and early childhood activities across the country,” said Tweed. “Improving the literacy and essential skills of Canadians is a key part of the Government of Canada’s commitment to building a highly skilled, adaptable, and competitive workforce. I am proud Bill C-509 will continue to sustain these opportunities for Canadians.”

Bill C-509 will be up for a second reading today where it will then be recommended to committee.

For more information, please call 204-726-7600 or visit mervtweed.com