April 15, 2019

Local Government Policy Branch
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 13th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2E5

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please accept this correspondence on behalf of the Caledon Public Library Board in response to the Ministry’s recent call for consultation regarding the regional government review.

As per your appeal for feedback, “the objective of this review is to ensure that these municipalities are providing the vital services that residents and local businesses depend on”. This is certainly already the case across the public library sector and specifically within Caledon.

Public libraries are a reflection of the communities they serve. As such, libraries make great efforts to tailor their collections, programs and services to the specific needs of residents. Caledon Public Library provides library spaces and services to a growing community across nearly 700 square kilometers of urban and rural landscape. As a result, the Library targets its services based on shifting demographics and the unique requirements of Caledon citizens.

As per the Public Libraries Act, municipalities are required to establish a local board to govern library operations. These volunteer boards are comprised of committed residents and community leaders who are passionate about the valuable contributions of libraries and the role they play in supporting literacy, learning, innovation and community development. Library Boards recognize the importance of fiscal sustainability and accountability to ratepayers. In Caledon, these values are shared by the municipality and result in a supportive and collaborative approach to governance and management across the Town and the Library.

Any changes to the governance at the municipal and regional levels could have unintended implications for public libraries and those we serve, hindering our ability to continue providing effective, efficient and responsive services.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Janet Manning
Chair, Caledon Public Library Board

cc: Allan Thompson, Mayor, Town of Caledon
    Patrick Brown, Mayor, City of Brampton
    Bonnie Crombie, Mayor, City of Mississauga
    Nando Iannicca, Chair, Region of Peel
    Jaipaul Massey-Singh, Chair, Brampton Library Board
    Val Ohori, Chair, Mississauga Public Library Board
    Michael Fenn, Special Advisor, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
    Ken Selling, Special Advisor, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

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TOWN OF CALEDON
MAYOR/COUNCIL