



**SLA**

SASKATCHEWAN LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION

May 28, 2021

Mr. Shane Skjerven  
Director of Education  
Saskatoon School Division No. 13  
310 - 21st Street East,  
Saskatoon, SK, S7K 1M7

[skjervenS@spsd.ca](mailto:skjervenS@spsd.ca)

Dear Mr. Skjerven;

RE: Funding Reductions to Librarian Assistance in Saskatoon Public Schools

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Library Association, I am writing in response to recent information that the Saskatoon Public School Division is reducing hours of librarian assistance in Saskatoon Public schools. We understand that library staff in elementary schools across the division have been notified that their hours for the upcoming school year will be reduced by a total of 4.7 full-time equivalent positions. We appreciate the funding pressures that the Saskatoon Public School Division is facing and the unenviable position this creates. However, we ask that you recognize the invaluable role of school library staff in creating a supportive learning environment and retain these important positions (hours of service).

Libraries help to reduce barriers and freely allow for access to content. The role of school librarians is diverse -from collection development practices to ensuring diversity of quality materials (representation matters), to instruction on the use (and referencing) of primary, secondary and tertiary sources. School libraries support teachers by connecting curriculum to information sources, teaching academic integrity, as well as research and referencing skills. School librarians and library technicians assist with the improvement of literacy skills. Putting the right book into the hands of a child can literally change a life. The child may discover themselves, and others like them. They may discover a passion yet unignited. They may learn about the world around them and hopefully from multiple perspectives that are different from their own. School libraries are a haven; a safe space to learn, read, and discover the world.



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Collectively, we all recognize the importance that reading and literacy skills have for our children. If school Boards, including the Saskatoon Public school board develop policy and strategic goals for literacy skills and highlight the importance of literacy; it is important that they support this stated value with the appropriate resources.

Once again we ask that you reconsider funding reductions to the school library and/or staff and thereby continue to support student literacy and learning.

Sincerely,



President Saskatchewan Library Association

CC Colleen MacPherson [macphersonc@spsd.sk.ca](mailto:macphersonc@spsd.sk.ca)

Cc Dorothea Warren, [slaexdir@sasktel.net](mailto:slaexdir@sasktel.net)