



March 25, 2026

Julia Merritt, Chief Executive Officer
Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL)
236 Commercial Street
PO Box 510
Berwick, Nova Scotia
B0P 1E0

Delivered electronically to: jmerritt@valleylibrary.ca

RE: Funding Update and Contingency Planning

Dear Ms. Merritt,

Please accept the following correspondence on behalf of the Council for the West Hants Regional Municipality (WHRM), in response to your request for increased funding for the 2026/27 fiscal period.

To recap, during the February 10, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting, correspondence from yourself was presented and discussed. The request outlined a funding request and highlighted the challenges the AVRL is currently facing. Specifically, the Board requested a one-year, 50% increase in municipal contributions for the 2026 –2027 fiscal year, representing a total contribution of \$201,600 from the WHRM. It was noted that without additional support, libraries would likely experience service impacts, and that funding requirements beyond this period have not yet been determined.

At the March 24, 2026 Council meeting, Council carefully considered this request and recognized that libraries serve as vital community hubs for residents of all ages, providing programs, access to technology, and educational materials that might otherwise not be unavailable to the public. Considering these contributions, Council affirms its support for the library service and acknowledges the importance of maintaining consistent services for all residents.

This position has been formally endorsed through the following motion passed at the Council Meeting held on March 24, 2026:

MOVED BY COUNCILLORS WHEADON AND P. MORTON THAT COUNCIL ALLOCATE THE MANDATORY LIBRARY FUNDING PLUS AN ADDITIONAL 50% FUNDING FOR A TOTAL OF \$201,600 FOR THE 2026/27 FISCAL YEAR TO THE ANNAPOLIS VALLEY REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD WITH THE ADDITIONAL 50% FUNDING CONTINGENT ON SERVICE LEVELS REMAINING THE SAME FOR BOTH THE HANTSPORT AND WINDSOR LIBRARIES AND CONFIRMATION OF SUCH FROM THE LIBRARY BOARD WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THIS APPROVAL".

While the proposed funding is contingent upon service levels remaining uninterrupted in the WHRM, Council remains committed to working collaboratively with the Library Board to ensure that residents continue to have reliable access to these vital services. We value the ongoing partnership between the WHRM and the AVRL and look forward to your response and exploring sustainable solutions that support the library's mission while maintaining service standards.

Respectfully,



Abraham Zebian Mayor

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CC: West Hants Regional Municipal Council
Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer