Manitoba Library Association

606-100 Arthur Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1H3

December 10th, 2025

Dear,
M. President of the Standing Senate Committee of National Finance
M. President of the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications
Members of Parliament,

On behalf of the Manitoba Library Association (MLA), representing public, academic, school, and special libraries, library workers, and the communities we serve across Manitoba, we are writing to express our grave concern regarding the changes proposed in Bill C-15 (Budget Implementation Act, 2025)—specifically the repeal of provisions in the Canada Post Corporation Act that underpin the *Library Book Rate* and free mailing privileges for blind and print-disabled Canadians.

As currently drafted, Division 2, Section 197 of Bill C-15 would repeal Paragraphs 19(1)(d) through (g.1) of the Act. These sections provide the legal basis for affordable and accessible postal delivery of books and library materials across Canada, including free postage for materials sent to people who are blind or living with print disabilities.

Eliminating the Library Book Rate and free mailing privileges to print-disabled Canadians would:

Severely limit equitable access to knowledge for Canadians
Libraries—especially in rural, remote, and northern Manitoba—depend on this rate to circulate books and learning materials between communities. Without it, small and under-resourced libraries will face prohibitive postage costs, forcing them to cut interlibrary loans, reduce programming, and limit sharing of materials.

Deeply harm blind, low-vision, and print-disabled residents
The repeal would effectively end Canada's longstanding commitment to free transmission of accessible formats, drastically increasing barriers to literacy, information, and community participation for thousands of Manitobans and over a million Canadians who live with vision loss.

Undermine a national, cost-effective infrastructure that allows all libraries to share their collections
Canadian libraries operate as a connected national network. The Library Book Rate ensures that even the smallest community library can provide access to materials held across the country. Its removal would create a two-tiered system where access to knowledge depends on geography and budget size.

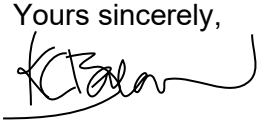
Disproportionately affect Manitobans
Manitoba's library network includes many small rural libraries and northern branches serving wide geographic regions. These communities do not have ready access to large collections and depend on interlibrary loan (ILL) to support education, literacy, workforce development, and lifelong learning.

It would severely limit the financial capacity of libraries to provide materials to Manitobans.
Without the Library Book Rate, postage and delivery costs for circulating materials would multiply, creating an unsustainable burden for libraries that already operate with constrained budgets. These new costs would directly reduce the funds available for collection development, literacy programs, and community services, leading to fewer resources reaching Manitobans—particularly those in rural and northern communities who depend on mailed materials the most.

Libraries are one of the most accessible and democratic institutions in Canada. The Library Book Rate is a foundational mechanism that allows libraries—large and small—to serve their communities equitably. The proposed repeal in Bill C-15 would erode this foundation and create lasting harm for Canadians who depend on these services the most.
We urge the Government and the Senate to take immediate action to preserve equitable access to knowledge for all Canadians.

Thank you for your attention and your consideration.

Yours sincerely,



KC Bateman
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www.mla.mb.ca

CC:
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Members of the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications
Members of Parliament