[Date]

[Name of Member of Parliament], M.P.

House of Commons

Ottawa, Ontario

K1A 0A6

Firstname.lastname@parl.gc.ca

Dear [name of Member of Parliament],

On behalf of the disability community, we are writing to urge the federal government to commit to long-term, sustainable funding for the production of accessible reading materials for those with print disabilities which include vision loss, learning disabilities and physical disabilities.

As you know, without warning or consultation, the 2020 Fall Economic Statement announced cuts of $4 million ($3 million annually to CELA, the Centre for Equitable Library Access, and $1 million annually to NNELS, the National Network for Equitable Library Service). While funding has been restored for one year due to public pressure, there have been no assurances that CELA and NNELS will not face 50% cuts to their budget in the next fiscal year.

The federal government’s proposed approach of moving the responsibility for accessible book production to industry will introduce gaps and inequities to the system and will be a step backwards in terms of equity, inclusion and accessibility. We know that access to reading materials directly affects academic and economic success, and social inclusion, particularly for the estimated 3 million people across Canada with print disabilities.

The government must not allow a lack of funding to widen the gap for services and resources for people with disabilities. On behalf of our clients, we request that you ask Minister Qualtrough and your colleagues in the federal government to commit to ongoing, stable funding so those with reading disabilities across Canada are not left further behind.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Name

Address