

Via Email

Dear CAOs,

I am forwarding this update that we received from Lynn Somers, Provincial Librarian. I will continue to send you updates on the Library Funding Review Process as I receive them. In the meantime, let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you, Erin

- Update from Lynn Somers -

I am providing an update on the Library Funding Review Committee (LFRC) meeting that was held on August 29, 2024.

At the LFRC meeting on July 5, a smaller working group (WG) of Committee members was formed to review the library funding research and priorities established by the LFRC and prepare draft funding model options for LFRC review and consideration. The WG members included Eric Stackhouse, Asa Kachan, Laura Emery, Keith MacDonald, Eldon MacDonald, Mary-Jo MacKay, and me (Lynn). The WG met three times over the summer (July 15, 30; August 21).

On August 29, the WG presented four options that prioritize higher wages for library staff, increased investment in library collections and technology, and new investment in cybersecurity. The options are supported by the research and allow for greater sustainability and growth for libraries into the future.

Also, municipal representatives on both the LFRC and WG clearly expressed their concerns and challenges in terms of the impacts of a new library funding model on municipalities, and the LFRC has taken that feedback into consideration.

Moving forward, the library funding review process will shift from the LFRC to government, where department staff will build on the work done by the LFRC and develop library funding recommendations for government consideration.

The work of the LFRC was critical to achieve this milestone. We thank the members for their commitment and valuable input.