



307 Shaftsbury Blvd.
Winnipeg, MB
R3P 0L9

January 12, 2017

Alix-Rae Stefanko, Chair, Manitoba Libraries Working Group

Dear Alix-Rae,

The Executive of the Manitoba School Library Association would like to commend you and the members of the Manitoba Libraries Working Group for all the work they have put into developing a proposal to unite all library associations in Manitoba under one umbrella organization. We would also like to thank you for including the MSLA in your Manitoba Libraries Working Group meetings.

The MSLA participated in the deliberations of the Working Group with an open mind, not knowing where the work of the group might lead. We believe that our representative on the Working Group, Jonine Bergen, worked diligently throughout the process to bring the views and needs of our Association to the group and subsequently, share these deliberations with our Executive and general membership.

Several members of the MSLA attended both Town Hall meetings hosted by the ML Working Group. The MSLA hosted an information session about the Working Group proposal with the general membership at our recent AGM this past spring, we sought to clarify the Working Group's proposal with our Executive by inviting you and anyone from our membership to our Executive meeting in September, and we organized a meeting with MTS to explore the possibility of the MSLA becoming a Division of the MLA based on the current terms of affiliation the MSLA has with MTS and the terms defined in the your *Final Proposal*.

Although the MSLA sees many benefits to uniting all libraries in Manitoba, the Executive of the MSLA voted on January 9, 2017 to not proceed with becoming either a Division or Affiliate of a newly restructured Manitoba library association as outlined in the Working Group's *Final Proposal*.

The MSLA wishes you every success as you move forward with your restructuring. We hope that you will continue to keep us informed of the status of your Association as you put into place your governance and membership structures.

The MSLA hopes to continue to work with you in the future to provide a robust library system for all citizens in Manitoba.

Sincerely,
Jo-Anne Gibson
President, MSLA