PO Box 9177 August 18, 2009

Stn Prov Govt

Victoria BC V8W 9H8

Dear Ms Brown:

On behalf of my colleagues, the Library Directors of universities, colleges and institutes in British Columbia, I wish to express concern at the decision to discontinue funding to the Advanced Education Media Acquistions Centre (AEMAC). While understanding that government funding for AEMAC goes directly to Langara College the Council of Post-Secondary Library Directors also realise this project must evolve with more sustainable funding and operations in mind.

AEMAC’s work provides substantial cost-savings for all post-secondary libraries in the provision of media-related materials as instructional tools throughout BC. Each stakeholder would very much like to participate in the plan to establish a more permanent consortium as the breadth of our media resources hangs in the outcome.

Licensing agreements such as public performance rights, streaming video projects, and attendant digital rights, are negotiated by AEMAC on behalf of all of us. Currently, when instructors, often many times a semester, plan to use a DVD as a curriculum aid in the classroom, the license to do so has been established by AEMAC. Without these licensing agreements in place, much of our media collections could only be viewed as “home use only” and could not be used as a teaching aid. The impact on, for example, our nursing programs, would be huge.

Using Langara’s own example of video/DVD titles in their collection - of the 2,062 titles purchased through the consortia license agreement the cost to the library budget is $61,860.00.The cost if individual license agreements had been purchased would be $536,120.00. Over eight times the expense. This is just one example of the similar dollar impact to each of our institutions.

With a September 30 deadline looming for renewal of one of the major public performance rights licenses we are very pleased to have now been informed by Langara that they will continue with this licensing process for one more year and all of the post-secondary institutions will also continue to provide funding towards this process.

Other aspects of the loss of the AEMAC service to our students such as the streaming videos and Maple Math software will become more tangible as we move into the new semester.

On behalf of the post-secondary library directors I urge reconsideration of this funding cut.

Yours truly,

Chair, CPSLD

cc: Kate Cotie,

David Ross;

Jim Reed;

Mary Anne Epp

Attachment: Letter from Kwantlen Polytechnic University