



April 7, 2006

Tara Sawyer, MLA Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills  
4905 B 50 Ave.  
Olds, AB T4H 1P6

Dear Ms. Sawyer,

On behalf of the Olds Municipal Library (OML) Board, I am writing to formally express our significant concerns regarding **Bill 28 (Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act, 2026)** ahead of its upcoming Second Reading.

While we understand the stated intent of protecting children, the practical application of this Bill as currently written creates an administrative mandate that threatens the viability of library services across the province. We urge you to consider the following three critical impacts on our community:

- **Financial and Physical Impossibility:** Bill 28 requires, as stated by Minister Williams, "separate" restricted areas that our current facility simply does not have the footprint to accommodate. Without significant provincial capital grants, we will be forced to choose between expensive structural renovations that deplete our operating budget or the "de facto" removal of materials. Likewise, the amount of staff time required to overhaul the collection for compliance as written is substantial and will require increased funding and library closure to satisfy.
- **The Loss of Local Autonomy:** The proposed changes allow for direct Ministerial intervention in response to individual complaints, bypassing our established robust local "Expression of Concern" process. This strips our community-led Board of its role and allows outside interests to dictate the operations and collections of the Olds Municipal Library, ignoring the specific needs and values of our local residents.
- **Legal Liability for Frontline Staff:** The Bill introduces expanded inspection powers and making "obstructing an inspector" a punishable offense. This places our staff in a terrifying legal position and creates a culture that will severely hinder our ability to recruit and retain dedicated public servants.

The Olds Municipal Library already has a robust and transparent process for managing controversial materials that respects parental autonomy. Parents may already monitor and choose what their children have access to. Parents may also monitor their children by attending the library with them. Bill 28 creates a redundant and expensive bureaucracy that removes parental responsibility and forces library staff to act as parental decision-makers by proxy.

We look forward to discussing these concerns with you in person on April 24th. In the meantime, we ask that you represent the interests of Olds by advocating for amendments that protect local governance, allow time for full public engagement, and discussion with professional librarians on these issues before proceeding to third and final reading, and provide full provincial funding for any mandated changes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'LM', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Lesley Moody, Library Manger

On behalf of The Olds Municipal Library Board