



Honourable Gerry Byrne  
Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour  
Honourable Dale Kirby  
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development  
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Minister of Business, Tourism, Culture and Rural Development

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Dear Ministers

The International Authors Forum is a network representing nearly 650,000 professional creators worldwide. Our members, 60 organisations representing authors, have noted with concern the significantly increasing costs of all books for readers in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

With the addition of a 10 per cent provincial tax on books, Newfoundland and Labrador is now the only province in Canada to impose such a heavy burden on reading. This will obviously have the effect of significantly increasing the costs of books for readers in the province.

We understand there are also proposals to close over half the library branches in the province. Libraries are an important part of communities helping many people access books when they would not otherwise be able purchase them.

Together these changes could potentially lead to a long term negative effect far greater than the short term budgetary gains that might be achieved. While we are aware the book tax responds to a need to increase government revenues, it is important the long term negative impact of these measures is considered. Literacy boosts education, opportunity and social mobility, and all of these will suffer the harder it is to borrow or buy a book in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The International Authors Forum calls for this book tax to be reconsidered. Reading, writing and literacy provide significant cultural and economic benefits, and these important goals should not be undermined for short term gain.

Yours sincerely,

The members of the International Authors Forum:

**International Authors Forum**

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# INTERNATIONAL AUTHORS FORUM

Academic and Non-fiction Authors' Association of South Africa (ANFASA), South Africa  
American Society of Media Photographers, USA  
Association of Swedish Illustrators and Graphic Designers, Sweden  
Authors' Licensing & Collecting Society Ltd, UK  
BUS, Visual Arts Copyright Society in Sweden  
Design and Artists Copyright Society (DACS), UK  
European Council of Literary Translators' Associations (CEATL), Europe  
Graphic Artists Guild, USA  
Malawi Writers Union, Malawi  
MISZJE, Hungarian Literary Collecting Society, Hungary  
Platform Makers, The Netherlands  
Society of Authors, UK  
The Authors Guild, USA  
The Finnish Association of Non-fiction Writers, Finland  
The Writers' Union of Canada, Canada  
Union des écrivaines et des écrivains québécois (UNEQ), Canada  
National Writers Union, USA  
Pictoright, The Netherlands  
Authors Coalition of America, USA  
Australian Society of Authors, Australia  
Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, USA  
Text and Academic Authors Association, USA  
Pyramide, Europe  
Writers' Guild of Great Britain, UK  
Writers Association of Tanzania, Tanzania  
American Photographic Artists, Inc., USA  
Artists Rights Society, USA  
Zimbabwean Academic and Non-fiction Authors Association, Zimbabwe  
Sudanese Writers Union, Sudan  
Swedish Association of Educational Writers, Sweden  
Uganda Textbook-Academic and Non-Fiction Authors' Association (UTANA), Uganda  
Irish Writers' Union, Ireland  
Irish Copyright Licensing Agency, Ireland  
Korean Society of Authors, Korea  
The Vietnam Literary Copyright Center, Vietnam  
The Swedish Writers' Union, Sweden  
Association of Authors' Agents, UK  
New Zealand Society of Authors, New Zealand  
Writers Association of Thailand, Thailand  
Professional Writers' Union of Russia, Russian Federation  
Dansk Forfatterforening, Denmark  
Reprobel, Belgium  
Canadian Authors Association, Canada

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Federazione Unitaria Italiana Scrittori, Italy  
Associació d'Escriptors en Llengua Catalana (The Association of Catalan Language Writers), Spain  
Alliance of Independent Authors (ALLi), International  
Belizean Writers Guild, Belize  
Lira, The Netherlands  
Conseil Permanent des Écrivains, France  
Société des Gens De Lettres, France  
Sociedad de Autores de Obras Visuales, Imagen del Tercer Milenio, S.de G.C. de I.P., Mexico Sofia,  
France  
Copyright Polska, Poland  
Namibia National Writers Union, Namibia  
Asociación de Editores y Autores de Panamá (SEA), Panama  
Fundación para la Gestión del Arte (FUGA), Panama  
Association of Nigerian Authors, Nigeria  
Authors Guild of India, India  
Norsk Oversetterforeningen (Norwegian Association of Literary Translators), Norway  
Suomen Kirjailijaliitto (The Union of Finnish Writers), Finland

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