FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Funding Alignment for 2021-2022 Budget

Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL) is responsible for treating all of our municipal funding partners equitably, as they represent the taxpayers who support public libraries. A review by the ECRL Board of the new provincial library funding formula highlighted that some of ECRL's Municipal funders are currently receiving a level of library service that costs significantly more than their financial contribution. Providing these service levels has required that a portion of the cost be covered by the financial contributions of other Municipal partners, who therefore receive significantly less library service than their population, and corresponding funding, merits.

A realignment of funds is necessary to ensure that all Municipal partners are benefiting from their provincially mandated contributions by receiving library service located in or very near to their geography, particularly as there are areas with relatively large populations that are currently underserved. At the February 2021 meeting the ECRL Board passed a motion that all municipal funding partners receive an equitable financial return on their contributions to ECRL in the upcoming 2021-2022 budget.

This means that library branch service levels will be aligned with municipal funding contributions beginning April 2021. Frontline services will receive increased support in the Counties of Inverness and Richmond, and they will remain at the current level in the Mulgrave/Port Hawkesbury area. In the District of Guysborough and District of St. Mary's, frontline service will correspond to the level that can be supported by the municipalities' financial contributions.

ECRL provides an umbrella of services to meet the needs of users across the largest geographic library region in the Province of Nova Scotia. In addition to staff assistance, internet and computer access, and browsing collections offered at ECRL library branches, our *Borrow by Mail* service and digital lending services are available to everyone with an ECRL card. Please check our website ecrl.ca or follow us on social media for more information and service updates: facebook.com/ECRLibrary and twitter.com/ecrlibrary.

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