July 7, 2016

The Honourable Navdeep Bains, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development

Dear Minister Bains:

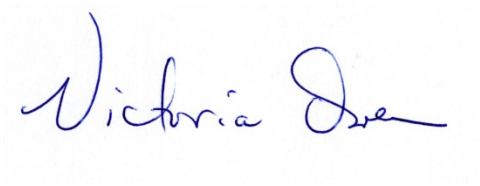
On behalf of the Canadian library community, and personally, I wish to express congratulations and gratitude that Canada has passed Bill C-11 "An Act to amend the Copyright Act (*Access to copyrighted works or other subject-matter for persons with perceptual disabilities)*," thereby becoming the 20th country to accede to the World Intellectual Property Organization's Marrakesh Treaty.

As one of the delegates at the Diplomatic Conference in Marrakesh in 2013 where the Treaty was negotiated, I am particularly thrilled that Canada has shown such support for this Treaty, which is now slated to come into force in September 2016.

Thank you for recognizing that changes to our law were necessary to eliminate unnecessary barriers to equitable access. Canadian libraries are pleased to see the priority that the Parliament of Canada and government officials placed on enabling the implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty in Canada and internationally. Furthermore, we commend Parliament for its multi-party support to this bill.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations, the Canadian Association of Research Libraries, and the Canadian Urban Libraries Council believe that there is still work to be done both in policy and in practice in order to eliminate the many barriers than still exist for users with disabilities, and we look forward to opportunities to continue this work with this government.

Very best regards,



Victoria Owen
Chief Librarian, University of Toronto Scarborough
*On behalf of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations, Canadian Association of Research Libraries, and the Canadian Urban Libraries Counci*l

cc.
John Knubley, Deputy Minister, ISED
Paul Halucha, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy Sector, ISED
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