

March 26, 2026

The Honorable Marc Miller, MP
Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and Minister responsible for Official Languages
Marc.Miller@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Evan Solomon, MP
Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation and Minister responsible for the
Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario
evan.solomon@parl.gc.ca

Dear Ministers Miller and Solomon,

I am writing on behalf of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries to thank you for inviting me to attend the 2026 AI Summit in Banff this past week and engage in these important conversations from a research library perspective.

Your time commitment by participating in the discussions over the two and a half days demonstrates the importance of Canada's strategy for artificial intelligence and the need for these collective cross-sectoral conversations.

I would like to posit that libraries play a critical role in many aspects of information literacy, data management, national infrastructure, and open science, for which artificial intelligence is integral. We have seen expert panels and advisory committees created to discuss national strategies for Canada, but libraries have not been at the table. I was encouraged to hear about the proposed Artificial Intelligence and Cultural Advisory Council and I would like to signal our interest in joining this effort.

I did not have the opportunity to share my observations at the closing plenary before the fireside chat and so I would like to provide those observations here.

Some attendees noted the urgent need for AI legislation to be in place before Summit 2027. Research libraries urge caution against hasty AI legislation, as time is needed for careful consideration and for issues to play out in the courts. Many discussions at the summit showed there is not yet a clear shared understanding of what "AI" means across sectors. Moving too quickly in this environment risks creating ineffective or harmful policy. Legislation should be developed carefully, with time for key issues to be better understood.

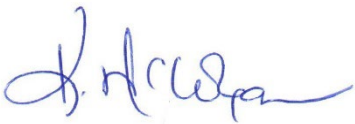
Other attendees called on the government to reject the call for text and data mining allowances. We believe that in order for Canada to compete globally in research and development, this must be achieved by accelerating the rate at which research data can

be collected and analyzed, which can only be attained using text and data mining. Text and data mining has existed for decades, it is only the onslaught of generative AI and large corporations ambitioning on this tool that has suddenly raised concerns. We believe that legislating an exception for educational purposes (faculty, researchers, students) to be able to use generative AI tools for text and data mining in pursuit of the higher education mandate should be allowed. Collectively, academic libraries pay over \$400M dollars a year to provide access to learning materials on campus, and therefore, we believe that our campus citizens should have the right to use that corpus of information in whichever means possible to advance Canadian research, discovery, and scholarship.

While on the topic of the investment that libraries make into learning materials, we also heard—out of scope for the purpose of this summit—was the call for mandatory tariffs. We have maintained, and still maintain, that mandatory tariffs are not a solution to the failing business model of collective societies but rather a proposed bandaid solution affecting already cash-strapped students. The services that collective societies provide were once relevant in a paper-based system, with the prevalence of materials in electronic format (approximately 92%), these services no longer have value as the majority of universities no longer produce course packs, nor do students make photocopies. We suggest, rather, that collective societies review their business models and provide the services that universities need in an electronic environment.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in the Summit, we look forward to attending next year's event and are available at any time should you wish to discuss any items further.

Sincerely,



Katherine McColgan
Manager, Administration and Programs

cc. Michael Vandenburg, Executive Director