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From: Pross, Trevor <tpross@bellevillelibrary.ca>
Sent: January 23, 2020 11:45 AM
To: Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Subject: Pre-Budget Consultations - written submission following Belleville Public Library's presentation

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Dear Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs,

Thank-you for allowing me to present yesterday at the pre-budget hearing in Belleville. I would like this email communicated to the committee please if possible.

When I started my presentation, at least four members of the committee, members from both sides of the aisle, stood up and left the table, so did not hear my presentation. The two people who went before me had the benefit of the full committee so I'm not sure why I was not afforded that opportunity. Furthermore, there was loud talking and commotion behind me almost the entire time I spoke. The Chair did call for order once or twice but the talking continued, and with the tight time limits enforced I feel that what I said was not necessarily heard by the committee.

One of the Government members of the committee asked a question, how much of our total circulation was digital / virtual. Unfortunately I did not answer correctly given I did not have the numbers in front of me. I feel it is important that they see that the answer to that question is about 14%, far lower than I said yesterday. The Government member continued to ask about whether the "bricks-and-mortar" location of the library is not as important now due to the high percentage of digital circulation. I would like to emphasize that the physical location of our library is extremely important and that more than 196,000 people entered our building last year. We ran 841 programs and events with a total attendance of 18,876 people. The Library is a community meeting space and the location is just as important as our virtual services.

Thank-you for your time and thanks again for allowing me to present to the committee.
-trevor

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