

EXCHANGE MORNING POST

Business, Economics, Education, Entrepreneurs,
Environment, Science and Technology

[Print Article](#)

Posted May 30, 2008

[Library Innovation](#)

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT INVESTS IN LIBRARY INNOVATION

New Funding Will Strengthen Waterloo Regional Library

Waterloo Region - John Milloy, MPP for Kitchener Centre, announced yesterday that the Region of Waterloo Library will receive a grant of \$50,000 from the Ministry of Culture's Library Strategic Development Fund to support innovation in delivering public library services.

This new funding will allow the Library, in partnership with the Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries, to enhance community development by applying the principles of Web 2.0 to public libraries and their community partners. The two organizations will undertake projects that show how to use the power of the Web to provide better service and customized assistance to the community.

The project will help the library to:

- Demonstrate how understanding and applying the principles of Web 2.0 can transform libraries and their community partners, and enable them to contribute more to the cultural and economic vitality of the province.
- Build the capacity of staff to use Web 2.0 tools and principles to better serve clients and community.

"The Region of Waterloo Library provides the resources we need to excel in school, business and life," said John Milloy, MPP for Kitchener Centre. "This new funding will help the library to revolutionize the way it serves the community and assist their efforts to promote literacy and lifelong learning."

"Ontario's public and First Nations libraries are vital community hubs of literacy, learning and information," said Culture Minister Aileen Carroll. "Our government is helping bolster strong communities and student success by funding initiatives that will enhance public libraries across Ontario."

"We'd like to thank the Ministry of Culture for its support," said Kae Elgie, Manager, Information Services, Region of Waterloo Library, "This funding will help us to reach new people in our community, and communicate with our current members in brand new ways."

Eighteen Ontario public and First Nations libraries and library organizations will receive a total of \$578,016 in funding through the 2007-08 Library Strategic Development Fund.

Applications were reviewed by a peer evaluation team composed of public library representatives from previous grant recipients, the Ontario Library Service-North and the Southern Ontario Library Service.

The fund invests in projects and initiatives to enhance the public library sector at the regional and provincial levels. Grants support a wide range of initiatives that benefit the provincial library system as a whole or serve as models for other libraries.

The annual budget for the fund was more than doubled in 2007-08.