

# Library Board Meets with Minister on Provincial Funding

In early October, two representatives of the Winnipeg Public Library Board met with the Honourable Eric Robinson, Minister of Culture, Heritage and Tourism, and his staff to discuss the province's funding for Winnipeg public libraries. Board Chair Mike Cook and Vice-Chair Marlene Klassen described the many ways in which libraries are meeting needs within the community. Examples discussed included family-based literacy programs, materials for adults for whom English is a second language, and public access computer terminals that average 30,000 bookings per month.

Cook noted that Winnipeg's public libraries have reached the

province's funding maximum. The Province provides annual funding of approximately 11 per cent of the library's \$20 million annual operating expenses. The Minister expressed his commitment to review funding for Winnipeg public libraries and asked his staff to look into ways to help promote reading, literacy and use of library services.

"We were very well received by the Minister and his staff," Cook said. "They have expressed a commitment to exploring ways the Province can support the excellent work currently being done by Winnipeg Public Library, and new ways to reach other needs."

• **Marlene Klassen**