**

*To support and represent trustees in advancing public libraries*

May 11, 2019 BC Public Libraries Summit, *Future Focused Public Libraries: value, investment, and results.*

**Discussion Questions / Prompts**

**Morning Discussion: Public Library Values and Value**

Public libraries are unique public spaces that embrace:

* + - * Equitable access – everyone can access the space, the resources, and staff expertise
      * Intellectual freedom – foundational for learning and expression in a democratic society
      * Diversity and inclusivity
      * Reconciliation
      * Innovation, research, creativity, and life-long learning
      * Other values: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Assign a notetaker, and a (separate) poster lead (but everyone can doodle!)

* Notetaker will record the discussion
* Poster lead will capture key words, themes and/or images that demonstrate the value of libraries

1. Take a moment to think about:

* The difference public libraries make in your community.
* The impact of public library programs, collections and resources, spaces, staff, etc. in your community.

1. Share your stories about why your public library is important. Why are libraries valuable? What experiences or evidence could you draw on to demonstrate the role and value of your library?

Some things to think about:

1. local economic development
2. community-based organizations, local government, schools, writers and publishers, and the GLAM (galleries, libraries, archives and museum) sector
3. innovation, small business research or incubation, and access to job and life skills development
4. economic and social vibrancy as neighbourhood anchors, bringing people to local businesses and strengthening community connections, livability, and a sense of belonging
5. Other roles the library plays in our communities: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. Consider the discussion so far and what the group has shared. What are some of the words that have come up repeatedly when describing the role and value of public libraries? Briefly discuss these themes and how they might connect with demonstrating and communicating the values and value of B.C.’s public libraries. (Are these words included on your poster?)

**Afternoon Discussion: Working with Community and Government for Lasting Impact**

1. Assign a notetaker
2. Discuss the relationships that public libraries have with community partners and local government officials.
   1. What is working well?
   2. Why is this working?
   3. What is tricky or challenging?
   4. Why is this tricky?
   5. What can we do in the short and medium term to strengthen these relationships and a shared understanding of the unique value of the public library?
   6. How are these relationships related to the funding and resourcing of public libraries?
   7. What would you do over the next five years with more funding? Is it facility upgrades, technology, collections, staffing, programs? What else?
   8. Do you have a dollar value that would make a difference to your library?

3. Assign someone from your table to report back out 1 or 2 highlights from your group discussion.