

Submitted by Mari Martin, Director Libraries Branch and Community Literacy,
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Libraries Branch May Update:

If you haven't visited our new website recently, please take a look at some of the new features and quick links: www.gov.bc.ca/publiclibraries

Provincial Reporting and Accountability:

May 15th was the deadline for public libraries to submit their 2018 Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) and Annual Survey of Public Library Statistics. We have begun to review these submissions and will be in touch with libraries and boards if questions arise. Thank you for the time and effort you take to ensure that these key public accountability documents are completed. The Annual Survey provides the government, boards and staff with an important, annual portrait public library trends. It also guides us as we set our strategic priorities. In terms of next steps, both the Annual Survey and SOFI will be available through the Libraries Branch website in mid-to late August.

Special Note: As indicated in Budget 2019, there will be changes to the timing of funding over the next three years. The Libraries Branch will communicate more about this timing as soon as the information is available to us. If you have questions, please contact us at LLB@gov.bc.ca.

Branch Comings and Goings:

The Assistant Deputy Minister of the Teacher Regulation, Independent Schools and Libraries Branch (TRIPL), Paul Squires, has accepted a new position with the Premier's office.

As a result, the Ministry made some adjustments this past April to the reporting relationships that impacts the Libraries Branch. We are excited to announce the Libraries Branch team has joined the **Learning Division** under Assistant Deputy Minister Jennifer McCrea with support from Executive Director Tim Winkelmann. The Learning Division's current strategic priorities include supports for Student Wellness and Safety and Mental Health, Indigenous Education, Inclusive Education, Early Years and Child Care. Jennifer is looking forward to engaging more with the library community and has already briefly spoken to the Public Library Advisory Group. This structural re-organization only affects our internal reporting relationships. For all intents and purposes, it is business as usual!

Attached is a basic organizational chart.

Frequently Asked Questions: Board Insurance

Unfortunately, the Libraries Branch cannot provide legal or insurance advice on the type or scope of insurance boards may acquire. In the case where a library is considering insurance for the actions of directors, officers or employees, (sometimes referred to as Directors and Officers Liability Insurance or DOLI), boards should consider the scope of [section 54 of Library Act: "Protection against lawsuits"](#). Boards on a whole may be sued, so may wish to seek advice on what the Library Act covers (section 54) and where there are exceptions. The exceptions to this exemption from liability is where:(a) the member, officer, employee or person acting under the direction of the library board has, in relation to the conduct that is the subject of the action, been guilty of dishonesty, gross negligence or malicious or wilful misconduct, or (b)the cause of action is libel or slander. If a library is concerned about actions being brought under these conditions, it is worth noting that obtaining insurance against

egregious behaviour may be quite expensive. The Libraries Branch is not aware of any instances where a library has been sued for the egregious behaviour of a director or officer. Boards should seek legal advice and as well as advice from other libraries before pursuing this type of insurance.

Organizational Chart



