

15 October 2018

Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services  
Room 224, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

*Submitted via email*

To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: Budget 2019 Consultation**

The Cranbrook Public Library Board is committed to supporting the provincial government's strategic plan for libraries, *Inspiring Libraries, Connecting Communities*.

In the past two years, it has striven to implement services and programs for "fostering connected communities" through "advancing access to information and resources" and "building capacity" through "enabling inspiration and innovation".

The Library's ability to effectively support these goals is constrained by the level of provincial funding BC public libraries currently receive, which has remained unchanged since 2009. Therefore, the Cranbrook Public Library Board supports UBCM Resolution B24:

Whereas public libraries in British Columbia are underfunded to meet the evolving needs of their communities;

And whereas public libraries provide necessary access to knowledge and learning to all members of their communities, including those most marginalized:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia restore funding levels to the pre-2009 rates;

And be it further resolved that the Province of British Columbia commit to forming a Task Force to work with Public Library Associations to ensure funding sustainability.

When funding levels are restored to pre-2009 rates, public libraries will be able to more effectively work together and provide British Columbia's residents with the access to information and resources, and opportunities for inspiration and innovation, they need.

Regards,

*David Clark*

Board Chair

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