



Lillooet Area Library Association,
P.O. Box 939,
930 Main Street, Lillooet BC, V0K 1V0

June 24, 2019

Attention: Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services

Regarding 2020 BC Government Priorities

Dear Standing Committee,

On behalf of the Lillooet Area Library Association, which has branches in Lillooet, Goldbridge and Tsal'alth:

I know you will get many detailed and formal submissions from libraries around the province, so I want to keep this short.

Lillooet was settled on unceded St'at'imc territory, and the majority of the population is of St'at'imc descent. Our economy has been struggling for years.

Here's a snapshot of just some of the gaps the library fills:

- Because of the trauma of residential schools there are many education deficits.
- There are people of all cultures who can't read at a functional level, and even more with little or no digital literacy.
- For all these reasons we have kids and youth at risk, [many of whom can be found safely hanging out in the library!].
- There is no place for newcomers to Canada to learn English.

The Public library is the one place accessible and free to everyone to get help with all these issues.

Lillooet is not alone among rural and Indigenous communities in depending on the library for services that are not available locally. Where the distance from large urban centres means those services are not otherwise accessible to people who don't drive or can't afford the trip.

While we all appreciate the funding libraries receive, and that budget planning contains many moving parts, we would like to encourage you to think of libraries as a MOST cost effective use of provincial tax dollars, because libraries are there to care, and no institution makes better use of money than libraries do.

\$20 million in 2020: it's not too much! In the words of the late, great, Bridge River Lillooet News editor Ma Murray:
“That's for damshure!”

Thank you,

Jane Duber
Finance committee chair and InterLINK representative
For the Lillooet Area Library Association
Board of Trustees

CC:

Rob Fleming, Minister of Education

The BC Public Library Partners:

Scott Hargrove, Chair, Association of BC Public Library Directors

Babs Kelly, Executive Director, BC Library Trustees Association

Annette DeFaveri, Executive Director, BC Library Association

Kevin Millsip, Executive Director, BC Libraries Cooperative