



North Vancouver District  
Public Library

Connecting Community.  
Sharing Knowledge.  
Inspiring Stories.

[www.nvdpl.ca](http://www.nvdpl.ca)

#### *Administration*

1277 Lynn Valley Road  
North Vancouver  
BC V7J 0A2  
T: 604 990 5800  
F: 604 984 7600

#### *Lynn Valley Library*

1277 Lynn Valley Road  
North Vancouver  
BC V7J 2A1  
T: 604 984 0286  
F: 604 984 7600

#### *Capilano Library*

3045 Highland Blvd.  
North Vancouver  
BC V7R 2X4  
T: 604 987 4471  
F: 604 987 0956

#### *Parkgate Library*

3675 Banff Ct.  
North Vancouver  
BC V7H 2Z8  
T: 604 929 3727  
F: 604 929 0758

June 6, 2019

Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services  
c/o Parliamentary Committees Office  
Room 224, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4  
Canada

#### **Re: 2020 BC Government Budget Priorities**

Dear Committee Members,

North Vancouver District Public Libraries are welcoming community hubs that provide free access to a wide range of essential, high-quality public resources to over 85,000 people in the District of North Vancouver. On behalf of the North Vancouver District Public Library Board, we urge you to prioritize the importance of provincial support for public libraries. Public libraries are the only public institutions that are truly equitable in providing services for all community members so that they may participate in, and benefit from the social and economic development of their communities.

We know that public libraries significantly contribute to the government's goals for making life more affordable, improving services, and building a strong, sustainable and innovative economy for all British Columbians. This committee is aware of the important role of public libraries from the annual UBCM resolutions regarding provincial public library funding and from the compelling stories and evidence annually submitted to this committee from public library trustees, staff, community members, and local government officials from across the province.

Since 2009, public libraries across BC have been absorbing a year-over-year decrease in funding from the Province of BC. More than ever, we play a vital role to provide necessary access to essential resources—beyond books. Libraries help our communities work towards reconciliation and understanding with Indigenous peoples; help community members access information and resources, help them learn new skills, and facilitate their connection with government services; support newcomers to Canada and our communities; and so much more.

Despite steady and consistent statistics for use and engagement with library services, provincial grants to North Vancouver District Public Library decreased 7.5% (not adjusted for inflation) from **\$219,754** to **\$203,038** between 2010 and 2019.

Decreased and stagnant funding result in an inequity of service across the Province, aging physical infrastructure, reductions in service levels, and inadequate technological infrastructure to meet the public demand. This pressure, in turn, is felt by all BC residents who rely on public library services to live and thrive in today's world.

While libraries appreciate the stability of grant funding that government has provided (approximately \$14 million per year), the lack of regular increases means that each year libraries receive less and less support, due to inflationary pressures. Despite requests for minimum inflationary increases for public library grant funding, libraries have received no increase to funding over the last ten years.

This year we are asking the provincial government for \$20 million for public libraries in 2020 as this will help address the chronic under-funding, lack of increases for inflation, and past government cuts.

We thank you in advance for your attention to this issue.

Kind regards,  


**Kristine Mactaggart Wright | NVDPL Board Chair**

*This is a message on behalf of the North Vancouver District Public Library Board. I do not speak for any past or present employer, or other organizations for which I volunteer.*

cc: Mike Little, North Vancouver District Mayor  
Lara Greguric, NVDPL Board Vice Chair  
Jacqueline van Dyk, Director of Library Services  
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