



MAYOR KENNEDY STEWART

July 09, 2019

Honourable Minister Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Fleming:

Re: Restoring Provincial Library Funding

The City of Vancouver strongly believes that public libraries provide opportunities for life-long learning, increase equity and social inclusion, and create cities that are healthier and more affordable. It is therefore important to ensure public libraries are continuously funded in a sustainable and equitable manner.

Despite their important role in achieving the goals of the province and our communities, provincial funding for public libraries has declined in the past decade. As a portion of total revenue allocated across all BC library systems, provincial support for libraries has been reduced from 7% to 4.6%, while the municipal portion has risen from 72% to 80%. This decline in provincial funding reflects a regressive approach of shifting cost to municipal property tax payers.

Therefore, on behalf of the Vancouver City Council, I ask the Government of British Columbia to recommit to a progressive funding approach and increase library funding to a minimum of \$ 20 million per year. This would reflect inflationary and population pressures facing municipalities,

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response and working with the province to ensure our public libraries are able to continue the important work they do in our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kennedy Stewart".

Kennedy Stewart
Mayor, City of Vancouver

604-873-7621 kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca

City of Vancouver, Office of the Mayor, 453 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V5Y 1V4



Appendix 1: Standing Committee on City Finance and Services, June 26 and 27, 2019 Motion from Vancouver City Council

THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Vancouver City Council, write a letter to Minister Fleming asking that the BC Government increase library funding to a minimum of \$20 million annually to reflect inflationary and population increases and recommit to a progressive funding approach, reflecting the role of public libraries in achieving the goals of the Province and our communities.