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July 3, 2019

File: 0400-20
0400-60

Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
P.O. Box 9045 Stn Prov Gov
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2



Dear Minister Fleming:

Re: Restoration of Provincial Support for Libraries

At their Regular meeting of June 10, 2019, Council resolved to support the statements in the letter dated May 29, 2019 from the City of Victoria (copy attached) requesting that the Provincial Government restore their financial support for libraries.

The Agassiz Branch of the Fraser Valley Regional Library is a central learning and gathering place in our community, it provides many fun, educational programs and is well used by children, teens and adults alike.

It would be greatly appreciated if the funding could be restored to a level that reflects both inflationary cost increases since 2009 and the value of this system to the Province.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Pranger
Mayor

Attachment

- cc. L. Throness, MLA Chilliwack-Kent
District of Kent Council
Cllr. Gayle Martin, Chair, Fraser Valley Regional Library Board
Mayor Lisa Helps, City of Victoria

THE CITY OF VICTORIA



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



COPY

May 29, 2019,

To The Union of British Columbia Municipalities,

I am writing on behalf of Victoria City Council, requesting favourable consideration and resolutions of support to restore Provincial support for libraries.

At the May 23, 2019 Council Meeting, Council approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS WHEREAS libraries are a social justice equalizer that provide universal access to information and learning materials irrespective of income levels;

WHEREAS libraries are now so much more than books, building community and a sense of inclusion;

WHEREAS restoring funding to libraries supports the BC Government's agenda to eliminate poverty, improve access to education, and address social justice in BC;

WHEREAS funding rates have been frozen since 2009 and inflationary costs have increasingly been put on municipal property tax payers which is a regressive approach to funding public libraries;

WHEREAS municipalities face downloading from upper levels of government and have few tools to raise funds,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council request the Mayor write to the Minister of Education, the Premier, and all local MLAs strongly advocating for the restoration of library funding to a level that reflects both inflationary cost increases since 2009 and the value of this system to the Province.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to other municipalities in the Capital Regional District and across BC requesting their favourable consideration.

We eagerly look forward to your support on this matter.

Sincerely,

Lisa Helps
Victoria Mayor

- CAO
- Dir. Eng.
- Building
- PEP
- Agenda Date June 10/19
- Corp S.
- Dir. Fin.
- Bylaw
- RCMP
- In Camera Date _____
- Dev S.
- Dep. Fin.
- GIS / HR
- FIRE
- Agenda Place "A"
- MAYOR
- Council
- Dir. Rec
- Other _____