



## TOWN OF CRESTON

PO Box 1339, 238-10<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Creston, BC V0B 1G0

Phone: 250-428-2214 \* Fax: 250-428-9164

email: [info@creston.ca](mailto:info@creston.ca)



### OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

File: 0150.60

June 26, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: Letter of Support – Creston Public Library**

On behalf of Council and Town of Creston staff, I am pleased to support the Creston Public Library in their efforts to restore provincial funding for libraries in the amount of twenty million dollars annually as we are aware that funding rates with respect to libraries has been frozen and has not increased since 2009.

Our local and provincial libraries provide a vital service contributing to the cultural, intellectual, economic and social fabric of our communities, while collectively fostering a sense of inclusion, further supporting the BC Government's agenda to improve access to education and eliminate poverty.

Furthermore, libraries face many challenges in their ability to provide efficient and effective services while maintaining sufficient operations and staffing due to insufficient funding. Increased funding could only serve to assist our libraries in replenishing their collections, increase and implement innovative programming, improve and address employment compensation challenges and provide continued access to shared free education and knowledge.

The Creston Public Library is an essential part of our community's history, culture and future. It not only acts as a social gathering place for all ages where knowledge can be exchanged but it also acts as a community hub, offering free meeting room space for non profit organizations, serving as a venue for local artists and hosting films, family and youth story times.

As the Province is aware, municipalities have few mechanisms in place to generate revenue making it disproportionately challenging to maintain and fund programs, projects and systems the Province once funded.

Therefore, as a municipality, we are strongly advocating and respectfully requesting the BC Finance Committee's consideration in restoring provincial funding to libraries in an amount that reflects both inflationary cost increases since 2009, and further supports the value of this system to the Province.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 250-428-2214 extension 227 or at [ron.toyota@creston.ca](mailto:ron.toyota@creston.ca).

Sincerely,

  
Ron Toyota,  
Mayor

RT/sh