



Pender Island Public Library Association

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August 20, 2019

Attention: Minister Rob Fleming, Ministry of Education

Re: Funding for Public Libraries

Dear Minister Fleming,

I am writing on behalf of the Pender Island Public Library in the Southern Gulf Islands to show our support of the \$20 million for 2020 campaign which will help all of BC's libraries continue their vital work in each of their communities. Libraries have not received an increase in provincial funding in several years and yet we, as public institutions, strive to offer a wide variety of important services to both residents and seasonal visitors throughout the province that benefit each of our citizens socially, educationally, and economically.

We are so much more than a book-lending service, as important as that is. Anyone in the public, at no cost, can access digital services on our computers that provide helpful and educational information that improve their lives by helping them learn new skills, access government services, start or improve a business, and connect to others. Our programs for adults and youth are not only educational and interesting, but also enhance social connections, so important for physical and psychological health. Our youth programs and book collections promote literacy and the joy of reading. In addition, and so important in our world today, we build our collections and plan our programs for both adults and youth to reflect acceptance of and respect for diversity.

Financial support from the provincial government is critical, not only for the continued success our public libraries, but also for the maintenance of the very positive impact we have on our B.C. communities.

I appreciate your attention to this urgent issue.

Sincerely,

Penny Finkbeiner
Chairperson, Pender Island Public Library

cc.:

Adam Olsen, adam.olsen.MLA@leg.bc.ca
David Howe, Southern Gulf Islands CRD Director
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