



BC Public Library Partners
c/o BC Library Trustees Association
108-9865 140th Street
Surrey, BC, V3T 4M4

October 9, 2019

Dear Mayor Tait,

Congratulations on your appointment as President of UBCM.

The BC Public Library Partners¹ consider the UBCM Convention to be one of our most important opportunities for in-person discussions with, and insights from, local government officials and staff. This year we had an unprecedented number of visitors to our Trade Show booth all wanting to talk about the importance of public libraries as infrastructure, the role of public libraries in social and economic development, and their support for our \$20 Million in 2020 campaign.

A highlight of the booth was the inspiring video BC Public Libraries 2020 which I hope you will take time to watch and share with your friends and colleagues, and with your social media networks.

You were one of the first mayors to send a letter in support of our campaign and we appreciate your understanding of the unique value BC public libraries bring to their communities and of the need for the provincial government to begin to address past funding cuts. We are asking that an increase in 2020 of \$6 million, to the current annual funding of \$14 million, go directly to the operating grants for BC public libraries. These provincial grants are used to support equitable access to services, programs, and resources enjoyed by British Columbians every day at every one of our 71 public library systems across the province.

BC public library trustees and staff are committed to access, equity, diversity, inclusivity, intellectual freedom, life-long learning, privacy, and reconciliation. Investing in BC public libraries is investing in BC communities.

We look forward to an opportunity to meet with you and to discuss our shared commitment to the ongoing development of public libraries across this province to meet the needs of 21st century British Columbians.

Sincerely,

Mike Gagel,
President, BCLTA

On behalf of the BC Public Library Partners:
Scott Hargrove, Chair, Association of BC Public Library Directors
Shirley Lew, Past-President, BC Library Association
Dana McFarland, Board Chair, BC Libraries Cooperative

¹ The BC Public Library Partners are the BC Library Trustees Association (public library boards and trustees), the BC Library Association (staff & library supporters), the Association of BC Public Library Directors (chief librarians), and the BC Libraries Cooperative (not-for-profit library technology leaders).