



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Jordan Sturdy MLA West Vancouver - Sea to Sky

October 1, 2019

Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
Libraries Branch, Ministry of Education
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Gov't
Victoria, V8W 9E2

Sent by Email: EDUC.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Fleming,

RE: PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

I support the communities of West Vancouver – Sea to Sky (WVSS) in recognizing it is time for additional investment in public libraries.

Libraries provide inclusive services for all members of a community. They are an important asset particularly in rural communities where libraries often serve as a hub for residents of all ages and backgrounds. Libraries in West Vancouver – Sea to Sky offer a range of services and programs beyond book lending that enrich the communities they serve. Recent initiatives at WVSS libraries include programs to connect newcomers with immigration services, games nights for teens and millennials, learning programs for children and speakers series that foster reconciliation and cultural understanding.

The lack of regular annual increases for libraries combined with increasing costs and advances in technology mean that instead of keeping pace with the needs of communities libraries are falling behind. Consistent government financial support is critical to the successful continuation of public libraries and their positive impact in the communities they serve.

Sincerely,

Jordan Sturdy, MLA
West Vancouver – Sea to Sky

c.c Pemberton and District Public Library Board of Trustees
Whistler Public Library Board of Trustees
Squamish Public Library
Bowen Island Municipality
West Vancouver Memorial Library

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