

**BC Public Libraries
and the UBCM 2019 Convention and Trade Show Report**



BC Public Library Partners

- BC Library Association
- BC Library Trustees Association
- BC Libraries Cooperative
- Association of BC Public Library Directors

October 16, 2019



The 2019 UBCM Convention and Trade Show was a Resounding Success for BC Public Libraries!



The BC Public Library Partners at the UBCM 2019 Convention and Trade Show

We Connected

- The Library Partners, on behalf of their memberships, spoke with over 600 convention delegates from local and provincial government.
- The delegates were enthusiastic about BC public libraries and overwhelmingly supportive of the \$20 Million in 2020 campaign.
- As community leaders and elected representatives, they understood the importance of provincial library operating grants to support equitable access to services, programs, and resources.
- A highlight of the booth was the video, [BC Public Libraries 2020](#), which in 4.25 minutes captures the transformative power of public libraries.
- Booth visitors also explored how much libraries have changed over the years and played with virtual reality, green screens, ozobots, and instruments, thanks to the [FVRL Playground](#).
- The UBCM Convention Clinic: **Libraries Support Resilient Communities** panel, led by Vancouver Public Library Chief Librarian Christina de Castell, inspired discussion about the value of libraries and their role in social infrastructure. The other panelists included Matt Boyd (Trustee, Greater Victoria Public Library Board), Jennifer Chan (Vice Chair, Vancouver Public Library Board), Mike Gagel (Chair, Prince George Public Library Board & President, BC Libraries Trustees Associations) and Karen Ranalletta (General Vice President, CUPE BC).

We Made an Impact

- All ten of the proposed public library funding resolutions passed! (Resolutions B28 - 29 and C27-34) Working with local government, we have built an understanding of the importance of provincial funding for equitable services in BC.
- Delegates agreed with restoring public library funding and over 500 took the time to add their signatures to the \$20 million in 2020 campaign.
- There was recognition of and appreciation for how public libraries support the [Province of BC's Strategic Plan 2018/19 - 2021/22](#). Specifically, the role of public libraries in poverty reduction, furthering reconciliation and supporting communities' social and economic well-being.



And, We're Not Letting Up!

The work of trustees and staff in public libraries across BC is inspired and informed by a shared commitment to access, equity, diversity, inclusivity, intellectual freedom, privacy, reconciliation, and life-long learning. We know public libraries are critical infrastructure across BC communities.

- On October 25th, the Partners will be delivering, in person, just over 500 signed post cards to Minister Fleming.
- The [BC Public Libraries 2020](#) video inspires and points to the unique role of public libraries in their communities. Please share the video with your networks.
- There is still time to influence the 2020 budget! We're asking all of our supporters to continue writing letters to your local MLAs, Minister Fleming and Minister James, asking them to restore library funding to \$20 million in 2020. For letter templates and email addresses, visit [BCLTA's \\$20 million in 2020](#) webpage.