

Box 458  
Salmo, BC V0G 1Z0

19 October 2019

Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services  
c/o Parliamentary Committees Office  
Room 224, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Committee Members:

Re: \$20M in 2020 for BC Public Libraries

This submission is on behalf of the Friends of the Salmo Public Library Society.

We would like to add our voices to the importance of increasing BC Government funding for our public libraries. We've witnessed the financial struggle of our Library first-hand and while we do what we can to assist, we can only do so much.

Our public libraries are truly equitable institutions, providing essential services for all community members which enables them to participate in and benefit from social and economic development in our communities. The Standing Committee is aware of the important role of our public libraries from the annual UBCM resolutions regarding provincial public library funding and from many submissions from libraries and supporters over the years.

The Friends of the Salmo Public Library Society appreciate the BC Government's recognition of the funding issues for our public libraries. We also appreciate that the BC Government acknowledges the cost of delivering public library services has increased along with changing technology, minimum wage standards, and other demands. With changing technology, most government forms and services can only be accessed on-line. Not all our Salmo and Area G residents own a computer or have access to the internet. Transportation to Nelson, the nearest BC Service Centre, is sporadic at best for those without their own mode. Residents rely heavily on our Library for use and assistance in completing various on-line government forms and accessing government sites.

Despite the approximate \$14M per year of stable grant funding since 2009, the lack of funding increases means that our public libraries continue to fall further behind in their abilities to meet the growing public needs. There has been **no** increase in funding allocation over the past decade.

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The Friends of the Salmo Public Library Society **strongly** urges the BC Government to act on the **\$20M for 2020** campaign for our public libraries to address the 10 years of chronic underfunding, lack of inflation increases and past government cuts.

Thanking you, in advance, for your attention to this **urgent issue**. A favour of your reply is requested.

Sincerely,

*see attached signature page*

Friends of the Salmo Public Library Society

Attachment (1)

cc: Valene Foster, President, Salmo Valley Public Library Board  
Honourable Michelle Mungall, MLA Nelson-Creston (Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources)  
Honourable Ron Fleming, Minister of Education  
The BC Public Library Partners:  
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

Friends of the Salmo Public Library Society, 2019

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