

May 24, 2022

Dear Minister Cullen,

On behalf of BCLTA, I would like to thank you for the welcoming and friendly space you have provided for the BC Public Library Partners as we collectively bring ideas and questions to you – it is reassuring to have your support.

I also would like to offer a huge thank you to Ministers Fleming and Osbourne, their DMs and ADMs, and staff within the Public Libraries Branch; and a special thank you to Mari Martin for all the tremendous work she does to support BCLTA and the learning opportunities our association provides to trustees. It is the collaborative work that ultimately achieved the one-time \$8 million funding for public libraries.

Appreciating how busy you must be with your new Ministry, I wish to convey my gratitude for the time you devote to the Library Partners as we continue the work to gain sustained, increased funding for BC public Library operating grants.

I also appreciate your recognition of how quickly and responsibly BC public libraries responded to the COVID-19 pandemic, including support of the government's direction and health advisories, and public libraries' efforts to continue to provide access to much needed services and resources.

While BCLTA 's allocation of the one-time funding is a small amount of the total, it is a large amount for our association! This funding will have a significant impact on the work we do as the professional association that supports, represents, and connects public library trustees. As volunteers, trustees may feel their work isn't acknowledged by the Province. The funding allocated to BCLTA helps trustees know they are appreciated and valued. Thank you.

On behalf of BCLTA,

Mike Gagel



President BCLTA