



July 12, 2022

Ref: 270467

Mike Gagel  
President  
British Columbia Library Trustees Association  
888 Canada Games Way  
Prince George BC V2L 5T6

Dear Mike Gagel:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Province of British Columbia's recent \$8-million COVID-19 relief and recovery funding for B.C.'s public libraries, including for the British Columbia Library Trustees Association (BCLTA). Supported by this one-time investment, libraries will be in a better position to help communities recover from the pandemic and realize our commitments to British Columbians.

Strong communities are critical for keeping British Columbians safe during emergencies, and libraries contribute to this collective well-being by offering welcoming public spaces and helping people stay connected and informed.

I am committed to working together with public libraries, sector partners and local governments to give people access to information and help them stay digitally and socially connected. I will continue to work within government to ensure that public libraries and the communities they serve have the support they need to thrive.

Please continue to share your stories with me and Ministry of Municipal Affairs staff. I look forward to learning from you about the use and impact of these funds and the province-wide initiatives.

I additionally appreciate that BCLTA is a leader in B.C.'s public library system and important to libraries' success throughout B.C., supporting skills development, collaboration and the creation of shared services and programs. Thank you for contributing and helping to deliver accessible, inclusive library services.

Sincerely,

Nathan Cullen  
Minister

pc: Mari Martin, Director, Public Libraries Branch