



Council Member Motion
Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 27, 2019

Date: June 25, 2019

From: Councillor J. Loveday

Subject: Library Funding

Background:

The following motion was passed by Council at the May 23, 2019 meeting:

WHEREAS libraries are a social justice equalizer that provide universal access to information and learning materials irrespective of income levels;

WHEREAS libraries are now so much more than books, building community and a sense of inclusion;

WHEREAS restoring funding to libraries supports the BC Government's agenda to eliminate poverty, improve access to education, and address social justice in BC;

WHEREAS funding rates have been frozen since 2009 and inflationary costs have increasingly been put on municipal property tax payers which is a regressive approach to funding public libraries;

WHEREAS municipalities face downloading from upper levels of government and have few tools to raise funds,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council request the Mayor write to the Minister of Education, the Premier, and all local MLAs strongly advocating for the restoration of library funding to a level that reflects both inflationary cost increases since 2009 and the value of this system to the Province.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to other municipalities in the Capital Regional District and across BC requesting their favourable consideration.

The direction in the original motion was to have the Mayor write to the Provincial Government and to correspond with CRD and BC municipalities to support the positions being advocated in the resolution. The motion did not direct that it be forwarded to the 2019 UBCM Convention. Approval by the UBCM may serve as a more beneficial demonstration of the support around the Province for funding.

The motion has now been amended to provide direction for it to be considered at this year's UBCM Convention and has been reformatted to meet UBCM's resolution format for the convention.

Motion:

WHEREAS libraries are a social justice equalizer that provide universal access to information and learning materials irrespective of income level and are now so much more than books, building community and a sense of inclusion,

AND WHEREAS funding rates have been frozen since 2009 and inflationary costs have increasingly been put on municipal property tax payers which is a regressive approach to funding public libraries. Municipalities face downloading from upper levels of government and have few tools to raise funds. Restoring funding to libraries supports the BC Government's agenda to eliminate poverty, improve access to education, and address social justice in BC and restoring funding to libraries supports the BC Government's agenda to eliminate poverty, improve access to education, and address social justice in BC.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities call on the Provincial Government to restore library funding to a level that reflects both inflationary cost increases since 2009 and the value of this system to the Province.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Loveday', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Councillor Jeremy Loveday