



DISTRICT OF COLDSTREAM

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"Rural Living At Its Best"

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Files: 0230-20 (UBCM)

0360-20 (ORL)

0410-20 (Education)

June 26, 2019

Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Education
Parliament Buildings
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

Dear Honourable Fleming:

Re: Provincial Funding for Public Libraries

At our meeting held June 24, 2019, Council discussed the above matter and adopted the following resolution:

THAT staff be directed to send a letter to the BC Minister of Education requesting that provincial funding for public libraries be restored to a level that reflects both inflationary cost increases since 2009 and the value of this system to the Province;

AND THAT the letter be copied to the City of Victoria.

I write to you today to express the District of Coldstream's support for the resolution adopted by the City of Victoria wherein they advocate the restoration of library funding to a level that reflects the inflation cost increases since 2009. I have enclosed a copy of the letter from the City of Victoria for reference.

The District of Coldstream values public libraries and sees them as a vital community amenity that provides people, regardless of income, access to education and educational materials and community programming. Libraries are places for social interaction and they provide an inclusive environment that brings people together, building a sense of community and belonging.

We agree with the City of Victoria's assertion that libraries are social justice equalizers and by providing and improving access to education, libraries support individuals in gaining meaningful skills that may lead to employment opportunities. Employable, skilled individuals will support the BC Government's agenda to eliminate poverty.

We encourage the BC Government to provide public libraries with the appropriate funding to ensure that all British Columbians have access to education, information and community programming for years to come.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jim Garlick', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jim Garlick
Mayor

Pc Mayor and Council, City of Victoria
Union of British Columbia Municipalities

THE CITY OF VICTORIA



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

May 29, 2019,

To The Union of British Columbia Municipalities,

I am writing on behalf of Victoria City Council, requesting favourable consideration and resolutions of support to restore Provincial support for libraries.

At the May 23, 2019 Council Meeting, Council approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS 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.

We eagerly look forward to your support on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Helps".

Lisa Helps
Victoria Mayor