



**Northern Rockies Regional Municipality**  
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July 12, 2019

The Honourable Rob Fleming  
Minister of Education  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Via email (*no hard copy will follow*): [educ.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:educ.minister@gov.bc.ca)

**Re: Provincial Support for Public Libraries**

Dear Minister Fleming,

At the Monday, July 8, 2019 meeting, Regional Council for the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality passed a resolution to support the City of Victoria's May 29, 2019 resolution to restore Provincial funding for libraries to levels that acknowledge their value to the citizens of BC.

Public libraries are at the heart of BC's diverse and unique communities, providing British Columbians from all walks of life free access to the Internet, accessible to digital and print reading materials, programs for people of all ages and much more.

Our vast municipality is home to one public library in Fort Nelson, BC which is a hub for all kinds of residents and activities. Always conscious of budget constraints, the staff and library board endeavour to provide new programming to keep pace with today's rapidly evolving data and social environment.

The government of British Columbia needs to provide funding that is responsive to factors such as inflation as well as technology, to ensure that public libraries continue to be a relevant part of our communities.

Sincerely,

**Northern Rockies Regional Municipality**

Gary Foster, Mayor

Attached Correspondence:

City of Victoria "Provincial Support for Libraries" dated May 29, 2019

CC:

The Honourable John Horgan  
Premier of British Columbia  
West Annex Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8W 1X4  
[Premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Premier@gov.bc.ca)

Mr. Bob Zimmer, Member of Parliament  
Prince George-Peace River-Northern Rockies  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
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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,

Lisa Helps  
Victoria Mayor