



August 22, 2019

Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
Room 124 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Fleming,

I write to you today to appeal for increased provincial support for public libraries, particularly in light of the on-going freeze to library funding.

Libraries are one of the cornerstones of our community – they provide spaces for life-long learning and social connection, with services for toddlers, seniors, and everyone in between. As we work to transform North Vancouver into a compact, highly livable city, access to public spaces with robust programming will become all the more important for our residents.

Our city's population has grown by almost 10 per cent over the past five years, but the provincial grants to the North Vancouver City Library have decreased by 12.6% over that same period. I urge your government to commit to a model of predictable funding for libraries, a model that reflects the value these institutions have in communities across the province.

At the July 8, 2019 meeting of City Council, our Council in the City of North Vancouver unanimously adopted the following resolution:

“THAT the correspondence from Stephen Smith, Library Board Chair, North Vancouver City Library, dated June 24, 2019, regarding “Provincial Support for Public Libraries”, be received with thanks;

WHEREAS public libraries require continuous and increasing investment to provide opportunities for life-long learning, build community and increase equity and social inclusion;

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

AND WHEREAS provincial funding for public libraries has remained unchanged since 2009 while costs to deliver services and public demand for library services have increased, demonstrating a regressive approach of shifting costs to municipal property tax payers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council, write a letter to Minister Fleming asking that the BC Government restore library funding to a minimum of \$20 million annually to reflect inflationary and population increases and recommit to a progressive funding approach, considering the role of public libraries in achieving the goals of the Province and our communities, with a copy forwarded to Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and UBCM member municipalities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council support the resolutions appealing for increased provincial funding for public libraries at the upcoming UBCM meeting."

I will continue to advocate for this issue throughout our upcoming meetings with representatives from the provincial government at UBCM, and look forward to your response on the matter.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda C. Buchanan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "L" and "B".

Linda Buchanan
Mayor