Greater Victoria Public Library Board
Regular Meeting
June 25, 2019
12:00p.m. – 1:00p.m.

Central Branch
Community Meeting Room
735 Broughton Street
Victoria BC
The GVPL Board recognizes and acknowledges the traditional territory of the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations on which the Central Branch is located and Board Meetings take place.

Mission Statement
We build community and support literacy and lifelong learning by providing free access to information, space, tools and expertise.
1. Call to order

2. Indigenous Acknowledgement

3. Chair’s Remarks

4. Consent Agenda
   4.1 Approval of Agenda
   4.2 Approval of Minutes – May 28, 2019 – Attachment 4.2

5. Officers reports
   5.1 Chair Report – Attachment 5.1
   5.2 CEO Report

6. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

7. Committee Reports
   7.1 Planning and Policy Committee Meeting June 11, 2019 – Oral Report

8. New Business
   8.1 Provincial Library Funding Advocacy
      8.1.1 Member Municipalities Update – Attachment 8.1.1
      8.1.2 BC Government Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services Consultations – Proposed Action Attachment 8.1.2
   8.2 Canadian Urban Libraries Council Digital Publications Advocacy Campaign Attachment 8.2

9. Staff Presentations
   9.1 2019 BC Summer Reading Club

10. Board Liaison Updates
    10.1 Friends of the Library
    10.2 BCLTA

11. Next Meeting Date
    September 17, 2019 12:00pm – 1:00pm

12. Adjournment
M I N U T E S
GREATER VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Central Branch 735 Broughton Street
Community Meeting Room
May 28, 2019 12:00p.m. – 1:00p.m.

The GVPL Board recognizes and acknowledges the traditional territory of the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations on which the central branch is located and board meetings take place.

A meeting of the Greater Victoria Public Library Board was held on the above date at the above location. The following individuals were in attendance:

Board Members: Trustee D. Begoray (Chair)
               Trustee A. MacKinnon (Vice-Chair)
               Trustee A. Appleton
               Trustee B. Beckett
               Trustee M. Boyd
               Trustee T. Chung
               Trustee E. Glover
               Trustee K. Harper
               Trustee K. Roessingh
               Trustee J. Rogers
               Trustee M. Sahlstrom
               Trustee K. Santini
               Trustee J. Vermeulen

Staff: M. Sawa, CEO/Board Secretary
       P. McKinnon, Director, Finance and Facilities/Board Treasurer
       D. Main, Director, People and Culture
       D. Phillips, Director, Technology and Integration
       J. Windecker, Director, Library Services, Innovation and Delivery
       D. Wood, Director, Library Services, Planning and Engagement
       K. Marshall, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Trustee D. Curtis
         Trustee J. Davis
         Trustee Z. King
         Trustee D. Kobayashi
         Trustee S. Laidlaw
         Trustee J. Loveday

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INDIGENOUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Meeting called to order at 12:00p.m.
2. **INDIGENOUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

   Trustee Begoray provided the Indigenous acknowledgement.

3. **CHAIR’S REMARKS**

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

   Trustee Sahlstrom requested that item 4.1 Approval of Agenda be removed from the consent agenda. Trustee Sahlstrom proposed an amendment to the agenda, addition of item 7.2 New Book.

   **4.1 Approval of Agenda**
   
   Moved by Trustee Santini, Seconded by Trustee Sahlstrom

   THAT the May 28, 2019 amended agenda be approved.  
   
   **MOTION CARRIED**

   **4.2 Approval of Minutes, April 23, 2019**
   
   Moved by Trustee Roessingh, Seconded by Trustee Appleton

   THAT the April 23, 2019 minutes be approved.  
   
   **MOTION CARRIED**

5. **OFFICERS REPORTS**

   **5.1 Chair Report**

   Trustee Begoray provided the chair’s report.

   The Emerging Local Author Collection launch that took place on May 4 was well attended. There are 120 books in the 2019 collection.

   A plaque dedicated to Mifflin Wistar Gibbs was unveiled on May 4 at Irving Park with a reception following that was held at the sx̱w̱eŋx̱wəŋ taʔəxʷ James Bay Branch.

   The 2019 BCLTA Summit in Surrey was attended by Trustees Begoray, Glover and Harper. Trustees Begoray and Glover were elected to the BCLTA executive.

   Planning for the 2019 board retreat has begun.

   Trustee Begoray congratulated Trustee Glover for receiving the BC Transit Healthy Standard of Living Award from Leadership Victoria.

   **5.2 CEO Report to the Board**

   M. Sawa provided the CEO report.

   GVPL received the American Library Association’s John Cotton Dana Award for GVPL’s Change Your Mind Campaign.
Municipal councillors, BCLA, BCLTA, ABCPLD and the BC Library Coop are currently engaged in advocacy efforts for increased provincial government funding for public libraries.

June is Indigenous history month. A variety of programs and events have been planned across the system in recognition.

The art installation at the sxʷeŋxʷəŋ taʔəxʷ James Bay Branch by City of Victoria Artist-in-Residence, Luke Ramsay will be unveiled on May 31.

Staff Development Day is June 19. The theme is Taking Flight and Ian Rye from Pacific Opera Victoria is the keynote speaker. Trustees are invited to attend the morning session.

GVPL is participating in the Canadian Urban Libraries Council’s (CULC) initiative: One eRead Canada which runs from June 3 – June 30.

The Friends of the Library AGM is June 13, 2019 and trustees are encouraged to attend.

Dan Phillips, Director, Technology and Innovation has resigned. Dan has been with GVPL for eleven years. Trustees thanked Dan for his years of service.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

None

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Finance Committee Meeting May 7, 2019 – Oral Report

Trustee Boyd provided an update on the May 7, 2019 Finance Committee Meeting. Trustee Boyd was appointed Chair and Trustee Harper was appointed Vice-Chair. L. Lee, Partner, Audit, KPMG and S. Burton, Senior Manager, Audit, KPMG attended to report on the audited financial statements and the KPMG Audit Findings Report

7.1.1 Draft Audited Financial Statement – Fiscal 2018


Moved by Trustee Boyd, Seconded by Trustee Roessingh

THAT the Draft Audited Financial Statement – Fiscal 2018 be approved.  
MOTION CARRIED

7.1.2 KPMG Audit Findings Report – Fiscal 2018


Moved by Trustee Harper, Seconded by Trustee Vermeulen

THAT the KPMG Audit Findings Report – Fiscal 2018 be approved.  
MOTION CARRIED
7.1.3 Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) – Fiscal 2018


Moved by Trustee Boyd, Seconded by Trustee Roessingh

THAT the Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) – Fiscal 2018 be approved.  
MOTION CARRIED

7.1.4 Surplus Recommendations

Trustee Boyd and P. McKinnon explained the Surplus Recommendations.

Moved by Trustee Boyd, Seconded by Trustee Roessingh

THAT the Surplus Recommendations be approved.  
MOTION CARRIED

Trustee Boyd thanked staff for their work.

7.2 New Book

Trustee Sahlstrom shared information about a new book, Billy Foster that is of significant local history interest. Trustees were invited to the book launch that will take place June 14 at 1:00pm at the Sheraton Hotel in Langford.

PRESENTATIONS

8.1 Staff Presentation: John Cotton Dana Award

D. Wood, Director, Library Services, Planning and Engagement provided a presentation on GVPL’s Change Your Mind Campaign which has won the American Library Association’s 2019 John Cotton Dana Award for outstanding library public relations. The award will be presented in June at the ALA conference in Washington, D.C.

9. BOARD LIAISON UPDATES

9.1 Friends of the Library

Trustee Santini provided the Friends of the Library update. The next Friends of the Library book sale is June 22 – 23 at the Nellie McClung branch.

9.2 GVLRA

Trustee Harper provided a GVLRA update and noted that planning for the next strategic plan has begun.

9.3 BCLTA

Trustee Glover provided the BCLTA update. The BCLTA AGM was held on May 11. The focus was on advocating for increased provincial funding for libraries.
10. NEXT MEETING DATE
   June 25, 2019 12:00p.m.-1:00p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

   Moved by Trustee Santini, Seconded by Trustee

   THAT the May 28, 2019 Regular Board Meeting adjourn

   MOTION CARRIED

   Meeting adjourned at 1:02pm

   ___________________________  ___________________________
   Board Chair                    Board Secretary
Maureen Sawa & Deborah Begoray  
Greater Victoria Public Library  
735 Broughton Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 3H2

May 28, 2019

Dear Maureen and Deborah,

On behalf of the City of Victoria, congratulations to the Greater Victoria Public Library on its John Cotton Dana Award!

Victoria is an educational destination and learning capital, where quality of life and happiness are valued. The GVPL is a leader in this sector and a trailblazer in our region – with innovative, accessible services, it provides the tools and inspiration to keep our community moving forward. We are so grateful for GVPL’s dedication to creating community, vibrancy and a welcoming environment where diverse ideas can be shared and celebrated.

The City of Victoria is hard at work to make Victoria a bold, thriving, inclusive, and happy city that people love – and we are so glad you are here to help us make that happen.

It is a true pleasure to celebrate GVPL’s success.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Lisa Helps  
Victoria Mayor
May 22, 2019

Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fleming,

Re: Library Funding

At a recent meeting, Council discussed the matter of funding of libraries by the provincial government. 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.

Libraries are a social justice equalizer that provide universal access to information and learning materials irrespective of income levels, and restoring funding to libraries supports your government’s agenda to eliminate poverty and address social justice in the province.

We respectfully request to meet with you at the earliest opportunity to request the restoration of library funding to a level that reflects both inflationary cost increases since 2009 and the value of this important system to the province.

Yours truly,

Ryan Windsor
Mayor
COUNCIL MEMBER MOTION
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 16, 2019

Date: May 10th, 2019
From: Councillor Loveday
Subject: Restoring Provincial Support for Libraries

RESOLUTION

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.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Jeremy Loveday
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
Date:       June 25, 2019
To:         Board of Trustees
From:       Maureen Sawa, CEO
CC:         Directors
Subject:    BC Government’s Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services
            Consultations for the Budget 2020

Background:
As announced at the 2019 BC Library Conference and the May 11 Summit, the BC Public Library Partners
(ABCPLD, BCLTA, BCLA, BC Libraries Cooperative) are encouraging trustees, staff and community
supporters to join with them in a coordinated effort calling for the provincial government to address the
provincial funding gap for BC public libraries.

Action Required:
In preparation for the BC Government’s Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services
Consultations for the Budget 2020, the BC Public Library (Partners) have prepared a letter template and
key message points to advocate for increased funding next fiscal.

The more submissions that the Standing Committee receives in support of increased funding for public
libraries, the stronger the impact of our collective voice.

A letter from the Greater Victoria Public Library board has been drafted for consideration. Deadline for
submissions to the Standing Committee is June 30.

Recommended motion:

THAT the GVPL Board approve the letter prepared by staff for submission to the BC Government’s
Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services.
June 25, 2019

Attention: Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services

Regarding 2020 BC Government Budget Priorities

Dear Committee Members:

This submission is on behalf of the Greater Victoria Public Library Board.

It is urgent that we bring to your immediate attention the importance of provincial support for public libraries. Public libraries are the only public institutions that are truly equitable in providing services for all community members so that they may participate in and benefit from the social and economic development of their communities. Public libraries are also the only freely accessible public spaces for all British Columbians to connect with, learn about and experience the advantages of living in this province.

We know that public libraries significantly contribute to the government’s goals for making life more affordable, improving services, and building a strong, sustainable and innovative economy for all British Columbians. This committee is aware of the important role of public libraries from the annual UBCM resolutions regarding provincial public library funding and from the compelling stories and evidence annually submitted to this committee from public library trustees, staff, community members, and local government officials from across the province.

We appreciate the provincial government’s recognition of the public library funding issue. In 2017, the provincial government, in response to the UBCM Resolution B60, acknowledged that the cost of delivering public library services has increased with changing technology and other demands. We are heartened that we all share the understanding of the need for adequate and reliable provincial funding for public libraries.

Across the 247 public library service points serving British Columbia, we are making a difference to community social and economic development and individual well-being through:

- Reconciliation initiatives that open dialogue and advance the TRC Calls to Action.
  - The Blanket Exercise, Nelson Public Library
  - Let’s Talk about Reconciliation: Indigenous Film Series, Surrey Libraries
  - Honouring Reconciliation: Ambleside by Canoe, West Vancouver Memorial Library
  - An evening with Bob Joseph, 21 Things You May Not Know about the Indian Act, Smithers Public Library
  - What is Reconciliation and What it is Not, Vancouver Island Regional Library, Courtenay
  - Strategic Plan, 2018 to 2022, North Vancouver City Public Library
  - Secwepemcsin, Thompson Nicola Regional Library, Kamloops Library
  - Indigenous Storyteller in Residence, Vancouver Public Library
• People accessing the information and resources they need for personal enjoyment and life needs, learning new skills, starting a local business and connecting with government services, with the help of expert library staff and connectivity that bridges the continued digital divide.
  o Chetwynd Resource Centre, Chetwynd Public Library
  o Gale Courses, Fraser Lake Public Library
  o Assistive Services, Greater Victoria Public Library
  o Outreach / Homebound Services, Castlegar Public Library
  o Welcoming spaces and services for forest fire evacuees, such as ease of access to new or replacement of cards, family programming and kids being able to continue their involvement and learning with the Summer Reading Club.

• Newcomers finding welcoming services and support for integration.
  o Newcomers: Welcome to the Okanagan Regional Library!
  o New-to-BC: The Library Link for Newcomers
  o Immigrant Settlers Services Drop-in, Whistler Public Library

• Community members learning together, whatever their need and background.
  o Quest Lecture Series, Squamish Public Library
  o The Playground, Fraser Valley Regional Library
  o Tuesday Night Music Jam, McBride Public Library
  o LGBTQ2 and Allies Youth Group, Gibsons and District Public Library

• Families thriving through the joy of reading and attending programs that support childhood and family development.
  o BC Summer Reading Club
  o STEAM Afternoons, Invermere Public Library
  o Tween Drop-in, Fort Nelson Public Library
  o Northern Routes Discovery Pass, Prince George Public Library

In addition to the above examples, we are proud to note the efforts made by the Greater Victoria Public Library, some of which are highlighted in our 2018 Provincial Grant Report and we urge the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services to act on our shared understanding that provincial government financial support is critical to the successful continuance of public libraries and their positive impact on British Columbia’s communities.

While libraries appreciate the stability of grant funding that government has provided since 2010 (approximately $14 million per year), the lack of regular increases means that each year libraries receive less and less support, due to inflationary pressures.
After many years of this, libraries are falling behind in their ability to meet growing needs. Since 2009, the public library community has asked that the provincial government provide funding for public libraries that at a minimum includes annual increases to account for inflation. Despite these repeated requests, for the past decade public libraries have received no increase to funding.

This year we are asking the provincial government for $20 million for public libraries in 2020 as this will help address the chronic under-funding, lack of increases for inflation and past government cuts.

Your attention to this urgent issue is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Deborah Begoray,
Chair
Greater Victoria Public Library Board

cc: Minister Fleming, Ministry of Education
The BC Public Library Partners:
Scott Hargrove, Chair, Association of BC Public Library Directors
Babs Kelly, Executive Director, BC Library Trustees Association
Annette DeFaveri, Executive Director, BC Library Association
Kevin Millsip, Executive Director, BC Libraries Cooperative
MEMORANDUM

Date: June 25, 2019

To: Board of Trustees

From: Maureen Sawa, CEO

CC: Directors


Background:

The Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC/CBUC) has embarked upon a national government relations campaign to improve access to digital publications. Canadian public libraries increasingly struggle to obtain digital publications from multinational publishers due to other cost pressures and because of the often-strict licensing limitations applied to digital publications. In order to properly service our communities, we need to ensure that we have access to digital publications. The FAQ backgrounder provided to CULC member CEOs is attached. This provides further background on the key issues and an overview of the federal campaign strategy.

Action Required:

CULC member libraries are asked to increase local government understanding of the digital access issue and to generate municipal support for the issues to help us advocate for a solution to the barriers that Canadian libraries face in accessing digital publications. The goal is to have member municipalities introduce, pass and forward resolutions to federal members of parliament and federal election 2019 candidates in support of this campaign, which CULC can then leverage to build support for federal action on the digital publications issue.

In addition to municipal outreach, library boards are requested to formally indicate their support for CULC/CBUC’s campaign and communicate to their local member(s) of parliament and all federal-level candidates in this October’s federal election.

Strategies for accomplishing this locally will be presented at the June 25 board meeting for discussion and approval.

Recommended motion:

THAT the GVPL Board support CULC/CBUC’s campaign to improve access to digital publications and that the GVPL Board advocate to elected federal officials and federal electoral candidates for a solution to the barriers that Canadian libraries face in accessing digital publications.
Government Relations Campaign – Accessing Digital Publications

FAQ

1. Why is CULC/CBUC launching a campaign to improve access to Digital Publications?
   Publishers, primarily headquartered outside Canada, are limiting access to digital publications by Canadian libraries, and, even when a publication is made available, are making it prohibitively expensive to acquire most digital publications. Those restrictions and costs make it difficult for libraries to provide important services that contribute to thriving and engaged communities. Libraries and the early literacy programs they run are integral to developing proficient readers and to ensuring that children succeed in school. More and more, digital literacy programs also help ensure that citizens can contribute to our digital world. Additionally, for many seniors, low income families, youth, and new Canadians, libraries are a crucial tool for participation in their communities – from education to searching for jobs to consuming Canadian cultural materials.

2. How can CULC/CBUC members participate in the campaign?
   CULC/CBUC members will be provided with materials to be used for their communications with municipal elected officials and, if possible, presenting to local library boards and municipal councils. Materials will include op-eds for local newspapers, talking points for discussions with municipal library boards and municipal councils, and draft resolutions which municipalities can be asked to pass showing support for local libraries and asking the Federal government to review the issue. To build the required momentum, we ask that all members take the time to utilize the material in outreach to your local municipal contacts as part of this campaign.

3. How does the inability to access Digital Publications impact libraries?
   Those restrictions and costs make it difficult for libraries to provide important services in our communities that our customers want and need. We are integral to developing readers and ensuring kids succeed in school through early literacy programs. Digital literacy programs ensure folks can contribute to our digital world. Additionally, for many seniors, low income families, youth, and new Canadians, libraries are a crucial tool for participation in their communities – from education to searching for jobs to consuming Canadian cultural materials. Restrictions on libraries accessing digital publications hampers our capacity to provide modern, digitized services to those demographic groups and other library users.

4. What digital publications are difficult to access for public libraries?
   To some degree, all types of digital publications – including fiction and non-fiction books, newspapers, magazines, and periodicals – have become either prohibitively expensive or not available to public libraries in many instances. This is especially true for publications published by multinational publishers. By way of example, Canadian author Louise Penny’s book *Kingdom of the Blind* is available to libraries for $13 as a paperback, $22 in hard cover and $60 in digital form. The $60 cost allows the book to be checked out electronically 52 times or for two years – whichever happens first. A paper edition would be expected to last three to four years at a substantially reduced cost. The book is currently not available to Canadian libraries in any e-audio format.

5. Is this problem restricted to multinational publishers?
   The problem we have identified is especially apparent with multinational publishers.

6. Who do libraries feel municipal councils can assist in solving this problem?
   CULC/CBUC’s goal in reaching out to municipal councils is to increase local government understanding of the digital access issue and generate the political will to find a solution. Ultimately, we want to ensure that municipal leaders are allies in CULC/CBUC’s request to the Federal government for support by introducing, passing, and forwarding supportive resolutions to Federal MPs and candidates.

7. Aren’t libraries governed provincially, why is the Federal government being targeted?
   Though some stakeholders may argue that libraries are a Provincial and municipal issue, the Federal government is best-placed to provide a comprehensive, Canada-wide solution to the digital access issue.

8. What is CULC/CBUC’s proposed solution?
   We are asking the Federal government to help overcome the barriers that Canadian libraries face in accessing digital publications. Specific proposed solutions will be offered to the Federal government by CULC/CBUC in advance of the 2020 federal budget.