Greater Victoria Public Library Board
Regular Meeting
September 17, 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 – June 25, 2019 – Attachment 4.2

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

6. Business Arising from Previous Meeting
   6.1 Provincial Library Funding Advocacy
      6.1.1 UBCM update
      6.1.2 Additional opportunities
   6.2 CULC Digital Publications Advocacy Campaign
      6.2.1 Fall update – Attachment 6.2.1

7. Committee Reports
   7.1 Planning and Policy Committee Meeting September 10, 2019 – Oral Report
   7.2 Finance Committee Meeting August 27, 2019 – Oral Report

8. New Business
   8.1 Board Retreat 2019

9. Board Liaison Updates
   9.1 Friends of the Library
   9.2 British Columbia Library Trustees Association
   9.3 IslandLink Federation
   9.4 Greater Victoria Labour Relations Association

10. Next Meeting Date
    October 22, 2019 12:00pm – 1:00pm

11. Adjournment
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 D. Curtis
- Trustee J. Davis
- Trustee E. Glover
- Trustee Z. King
- Trustee J. Loveday
- 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
- K. Marshall, Recording Secretary
- D. Joyce, CUPE 410 President

**Regrets:**
- Trustee K. Harper
- Trustee D. Kobayashi
- Trustee S. Laidlaw

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

Trustee Begoray joined staff at the American Library Association (ALA) Conference in Washington, DC to accept the John Cotton Dana Award for Outstanding Public Relations for GVPL’s Change Your Mind campaign. Trustee Begoray congratulated staff for this significant achievement.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Trustee Appleton, Seconded by Trustee Beckett

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THAT the June 25, 2019 consent agenda be approved.</th>
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<td>MOTION CARRIED</td>
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5. OFFICERS REPORTS

5.1 Chair Report

Trustee D. Begoray provided the chair report.

GVPL received a letter of congratulations from the City of Victoria for receiving the John Cotton Dana Award.

The 9th Annual Staff Development Day occurred on June 19 at the University of Victoria. Trustees Begoray, Loveday, MacKinnon and Chung attended the morning session.

Trustee Begoray attended the sxʷenxʷaʔ taʔxʷ James Bay Branch art installation opening on May 31 and the Friends of the Library AGM on June 12.

The BC Summer Reading Club (BC SRC) begins June 27, 2019.

5.2 CEO Report to the Board

M. Sawa, CEO provided the CEO report.

The 9th Annual Staff Development day took place June 19 the theme was Taking Flight. Community leaders discussed critical community issues and how the library is a partner in addressing the challenges the community faces.

In addition to participating in ALA’s John Cotton Dana Award events, GVPL staff attended ALA’s annual conference to present a conference session on GVPL’s community inspired librarian service model.

At the Friends of the Library (FOL) Annual General Meeting in June, the FOL presented a cheque for $45,000 to GVPL in support of digital literacy, BC SRC and indigenous collections.

GVPL participated in World Refugee Day events at the Victoria City Hall.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

None
7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Planning and Policy Committee Meeting June 11, 2019

Trustee Davis provided a report on the June 11 planning and policy committee meeting. The meeting discussions included the upcoming board retreat and a board retreat working group was established that will meet in July. The next planning and policy meeting is September 10, 2019.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Provincial Library Funding Advocacy

8.1.1 Member Municipalities Update

Motions from member municipalities requesting the restoration of provincial funding were distributed with the June board meeting agenda. These will be brought forward to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) conference in September. The motions have been shared with the BC Library Association (BCLA) and other library partners.

8.1.2 BC Government Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services

Moved by Trustee Appleton, Seconded by Trustee Beckett

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.

Proposed amendment:

Moved by Trustee Boyd, Seconded by Trustee Rogers

THAT the letter prepared by staff for submission to the BC Government’s Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services be amended to include the Ministry of Education’s Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and the role the library plays in accomplishing those KPIs.

MOTION CARRIED

Main Motion:

Moved by Trustee Appleton, Seconded by Trustee Beckett

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

MOTION CARRIED

8.2 Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC) Digital Publications Advocacy Campaign

CULC is developing a federal government relations campaign to improve public library access to E-content.
Moved by Trustee Davis, Seconded by Trustee Loveday

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.

MOTION CARRIED

9. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

9.1 BC Summer Reading Club

Middle Childhood and Tween Literacy librarians, Sarah Harrison, Vruti Patel and Darrel Joyce presented information on GVPL’s Summer Reading Club plans for 2019. The BC SRC program was developed by the British Columbia Library Association (BCLA) and has been running for over 20 years. The program is a self-paced reading program designed to encourage children to read over the summer school break. Children read for twenty minutes a day and return to the library to have their reading record stamped and to receive an award and prize.

10. BOARD LIAISON UPDATES

10.1 Friends of the Library

Trustee Santini provided an FOL update. The FOL AGM was held on June 12, 2019. $45,000 was presented to GVPL for digital literacy, BC Summer Reading Club and indigenous collections. The June 22 book sale raised $6,700.

Trustee Vermeulen left the meeting at 1:00pm.

Trustee Curtis left the meeting at 1:01pm.

10.2 British Columbia Library Trustees Association

Trustee Glover provided a BCLTA update. The 20 by 20 campaign is a province-wide advocacy campaign urging the provincial government to restore funding to libraries. Additional information can be found on the BCLTA website: https://www.bclta.ca/20-million-in-2020-campaign/

11. NEXT MEETING DATE

September 17, 2019 12:00pm-1:00pm

12. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Sahlstrom, Seconded by Trustee MacKinnon

THAT the June 25, 2019 Regular Board Meeting adjourn

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 1:04pm
Chair Report
September 2019

“Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall.” F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

Welcome back! I look forward to working with all board members this fall. It really does seem to me as though September is the real ‘New Year’ when life starts again. I hope everyone enjoyed their summer and feels rested and renewed for the coming year.

This first written Chair’s report offers a brief summary of activities that have taken place on behalf of the Board since our last board meeting June 2019 and correspondence addressed to the Board over the summer months. I will continue to give brief highlights orally at the meeting.

GVPL has had a very busy and event-filled summer which is ‘business as usual’ for us and today’s meeting will mark a review of those past events and a look forward to upcoming events.

**Activities:**

In July and August, much has been accomplished in support of board priorities.

1. The board retreat working group, chaired by Trustee Kobayashi, met with staff in July and August to plan for our November board retreat (November 2). The finance committee chaired by Trustee Boyd met in August to review the first draft of the library’s 2020 budget. I would like to express my thanks to those trustees who volunteered their time and energy to attend these meetings. As well, I would like to express my appreciation to members of the planning and policy committee, chaired by Trustee Davis who met last week. All three groups will provide updates at the September board meeting.

2. I am now a member of the British Columbia Library Trustees Association (BCLTA) executive, along with my fellow board trustee Elysia Glover. We are excited by the plans that have been implemented by BCLTA and the other members of the BC Library Partners’ group (BCLA, Association of British Columbia Public Library Directors, British Columbia Libraries Coop) to promote increased provincial library funding. The ‘20 by 20’ campaign (to increase BC library funding from $14 million to $20 million) continues to develop. The upcoming Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) conference promises to provide much opportunity for moving things forward. Trustee Glover and I look forward to discussing these advocacy efforts with the Board at the September meeting. We will both be attending the BCLTA retreat in Vancouver September 27 and 28.

3. GVPL’s Annual Report for 2018 has been completed and hard copies will be available at the September meeting. Here is a link to the full report: [https://www.gvpl.ca/reports-plans/](https://www.gvpl.ca/reports-plans/)

**Correspondence:**

Over the summer, we received correspondence from a concerned library patron. A response from the Board is required. Staff have followed up and will present information relating to the matter at the September meeting. We will discuss our response.

I look forward to seeing you all again and engaging in discussion with you at the September board meeting.
Our Summer Reading Club (SRC) programs and events were hugely successful. The appealing theme ‘Imagine the Possibilities’ [https://www.gvpl.ca/src/] attracted over 9,000 children to participate in this year’s SRC, breaking last year’s record of 8540 – resulting in a 6.5% increase. A broad range of programming was offered across the system and many events, such as the Drag Queen Storytime, were fully booked with waiting lists. GVPL staff participated in numerous outreach events throughout our service area. Our annual Summer Reading Guest Program featured numerous community and provincial leaders who promoted not just reading in the library but the value of libraries in our communities and we are most grateful for their support.

Unfortunately, the Summer Reading Club program at the Saanich Centennial (SC) branch was cut short as a result of a significant flood at the G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre in late August. Staff have done an admirable job of making the necessary changes to ensure that SC library users can pick up materials and access library programs (including SRC medals) at alternate locations. However, the branch remains closed until further notice.

I will be attending the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) conference next week as a delegate representing public libraries at a number of UBCM events. The efforts of the B.C. Public Library Partners group have been remarkable and GVPL trustees continue to play a significant role in moving forward the provincial public library funding campaign.

The Canadian Federation of Library Association’s (CFLA) annual survey of challenged materials has been completed and GVPL collections staff provided the analysis of the submissions for this national initiative. Their work will be recognized in the upcoming CFLA article published for Freedom to Read Week early next year.

GVPL staff were also featured in the 2019 Pacific Northwest Library Association (PNLA) Conference in Spokane, Washington in August, presenting two conference sessions: ‘Becoming the Village- A community inspired approach to partnering with Indigenous Communities’ and ‘A hard look in the mirror: reflecting on the role of the librarian’.
To: GVPL Trustees

From: Maureen Sawa, CEO

Date: September 13, 2019

Subject: Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC) Government Relations Campaign – Accessing E-Content

Copies: Directors

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Recommendation

That the Board direct staff to proceed with the next phase of the CULC e-content government relations campaign.

Introduction

Following successful outreach by CULC members at the municipal level, the e-content campaign will now focus on building further momentum through outreach to federal election candidates in federal ridings within member library communities. An FAQ is attached to this memo which provides background.

Discussion

As outlined in the road map below, the intent is to ensure that federal candidates are aware of the e-content issues and then they will be asked for a commitment that, if elected, they will work with CULC to ensure that a solution to the e-content challenge is identified and implemented.

Given that the federal government’s approach to the e-content challenge is likely to be different depending on which party takes power, CULC is seeking commitments to help solve the problem from candidates of all parties, rather than seeking support for a specific policy proposal at this time. The following is a summary of the process CULC has requested member libraries to participate in:

Road Map

- Most federal election candidates will be familiar with their local libraries and the importance of public library systems to their communities. However, other than some incumbents running for re-election (for example, the sitting MPs that CULC has engaged), candidates are likely unfamiliar with the problems that libraries face in accessing e-content, and the negative impact to local library users and the community.
- We are recommending three tools for your outreach to local candidates:
  1. An addressed letter to each candidate for the major political parties in your riding - so Liberal, Conservative, NDP, Green, and Bloc (in Quebec);
  2. A request for a meeting with each candidate, to further inform them on the e-content issue, and to seek their support during the campaign and if elected; and
  3. Social media messaging that will be provided to you and that can be used to further inform and engage candidates on the e-content issue.
1. Why is CULC launching a campaign to improve access to e-content?

Multinational publishers, including Amazon, which are primarily headquartered outside Canada, are limiting public library access to e-content, and, even when a publication is made available, are making it prohibitively expensive to acquire. Licensing restrictions, embargoes, and high costs make it difficult for libraries to provide important services that contribute to a thriving and engaged democracy. Public libraries and the early literacy programs they provide are integral to developing proficient readers and to ensuring that children succeed in school. Digital literacy programs also help ensure that citizens develop capacity to contribute to our digital world. Additionally, for many, including seniors, the visually impaired, low income families, youth, and new Canadians, public 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 members participate in the campaign?

CULC members are being provided with materials to be used for their communications with federal election candidates in advance of the October 21, 2019 federal election. These materials will be updated but consistent with previous material used in our previous successful outreach with municipalities. Materials will include op-eds for local newspapers, talking points for discussions with candidates, and draft social media messaging which CULC members can use in their own social media feeds. To build the required momentum, we ask that all members take the time to utilize the material in outreach to your local federal election candidates as part of this campaign.

3. How does the inability to access e-content impact libraries and their users?

Those restrictions and costs make it difficult for libraries to provide services integral to public library users. Public library services are invaluable to developing readers and ensuring kids succeed in school. Digital literacy programs ensure folks can successfully contribute to our digital world. Additionally, for many, including seniors, the visually impaired, low income families, youth, and new Canadians, public libraries are a crucial tool for participation in their communities – from education to searching for jobs to consuming Canadian cultural materials. Restrictions on library access to e-content hampers our capacity to provide modern, digitized services to those and other demographic groups.

4. What digital publications are difficult to access for public libraries?

To some degree, all types of digital content - including fiction and non-fiction books, newspapers, magazines, and periodicals – have become either prohibitively expensive or not available to public libraries. This is especially true for digital content 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 2 years – whichever happens first. A paper edition would be expected to last 3 to 4 years at a substantially reduced cost. The book is currently not available to Canadian libraries in any e-audio
format. As well, a bestselling book like David Baldacci’s ‘The Fallen’ is available to libraries in hard copy for $22.80 and in digital form for $87.00.

5. How successful was CULC’s municipal outreach in regards to the e-content campaign?

The municipal campaign was very successful. We have seen supportive resolutions for the e-content campaign from municipalities across the country, including Toronto, Vancouver, Ottawa, Mississauga, Cambridge, the Okanagan, Surrey and Markham. We have also seen significant media coverage including a featured story on CBC’s The National. Most significant, Penguin Random House has committed to striking a Canadian Public Advisory committee and open discussions on a model that can work for libraries, authors, and Penguin Random House.

6. Is this problem restricted to multinational publishers?

The problem we have identified is especially apparent with multinational publishers, and also applies to Amazon.

7. Why do libraries feel election candidates can assist in solving this problem?

CULC’s goal in reaching out to candidates is to increase understanding of the e-content issue amongst all parties and to ensure those candidates that are successful in being elected are committed to finding a solution. Once elected, we will ensure these allies are provided material to continue raising this issue until an appropriate solution is found.

8. 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 currently has regulations under the Copyright Act in relation to book importation (which do not currently address e-content) and is best-placed to provide a comprehensive, Canada-wide solution to the e-content issue.

9. What is CULC’s proposed solution?

We are asking the Federal government to help overcome the barriers that Canadian library users face in accessing e-content. We see three options for the federal government – first, we ask that the federal government initiate discussions with both CULC and multinational publishers to find a collaborative solution; should these efforts be unsuccessful we would ask the federal government to investigate legislative or regulatory options that would address the access to e-content issue.