

**For Immediate Release
September 11, 2017**

Sechelt Library Is Falling Behind in Local Government Funding

September 11, 2017 Sechelt, BC: The Sechelt Library is initiating discussion for the next Five Year Funding Agreement with local government (Pender Harbour, Halfmoon Bay, District of Sechelt, the Sechelt Indian Government District and Roberts Creek). The library has conducted an analysis of the current agreement, relative to libraries of similar size in British Columbia, and will be presenting the results to the District of Sechelt Finance, Culture and Economic Development Committee on Wednesday September 13 at 1:00 p.m.

Despite a commitment by Funders to move toward parity for local government support per capita, as shown in the *Ministry of Education British Columbia Public Libraries Statistics*, the library is actually falling farther behind as shown in statistics tracked from 2013 to 2016.. By way of comparison, in 2016 the Powell River Public Library received \$69.56 per capita, the Gibsons & District Public Library received \$50.59 per capita, and the Sechelt Public Library received \$31.17 per capita. The provincial average of local government per capital funding for public libraries of similar size to the Sechelt Library was \$49.11.

Sechelt Library visits are increasing by approximately 10,000 people each year. With the increased traffic, a new interlibrary loan service, and the popularity of new programs, staff struggle to keep up with the workload. "Only a small amount of the work needed to run the library is seen by the public," reports Chief Librarian Margaret Hodgins. " In 2016, the staff responded to over 45,000 questions, processed over 14,000 interlibrary loans, and provided quality programs for both children and adults that were enjoyed by over 3000 participants. "

The Library presentation given to the Finance, Culture and Economic Development Committee is available to view on the library's website: sechelt.bc.libraries.coop/

The provincial library statistics are available at: *Ministry of Education British Columbia Public Libraries Statistics* at <https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/bc-public-libraries-statistics-2002-2016>

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The Sechelt Public Library Association is governed by an independent board of elected trustees and proudly provides full library services to the Lower Sunshine Coast communities. In 2016, the library received 120,665 in-person visits, provided the community with 13,612 public computer sessions, lent over 190,000 items, processed over 14,000 interlibrary loans and library staff answered over 45,000 questions from the public.

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