

Director's Report Sechelt Public Library

October 31, 2021 – Dec 4, 2021 By Leianne Emery

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1. Did you know...

We have staff with some serious dedication and longevity in working with the Sechelt Public Library! In 2021, we have celebrated the following work anniversaries in excess of 4 years:

Janette	15 years
Claire	4 years
Jeff	6 years
Lorinda	17 years
Teresa	13 years
Rose	31 years
Beth	23 years
Sam	5 years

2. Canada Healthy Communities Grant

We were advised by Canada Healthy Communities Initiative at the end of October that we were finally successful in our application (after trying, being rejected then trying again) for \$7541 towards purchasing 20 Playaway units for adults that will ultimately go into circulation for our library patrons.

3. Funding Payments

All 2021 funding has ow been received by all funding partners.

	Beginning of Q1	Beginning of Q2	Beginning of Q3	Beginning of Q4
DOS	30%	30%	20%	20%
SCRD	25%	25%	25%	25%
SIGD	50% January 5	50% May 31	0%	0%

Funding received to date:

	Q1 pmt	Q2 pmt	Q3 pmt	Q4 pmt
DOS	Received	Received	Received	Received
SCRD	Received	Received	Received	Received
SIGD	Received	Received	N/A	N/A

4. Budget 2022 - 2026

2022 - 2026 Budget:

The budget submission and response to questions asked by the SCRD was submitted to the SCRD on November 15th. The report as submitted is included at the end of this Director's Report.

SCRD Special Corporate and Administrative Services Committee

Although we currently have a 5-year funding Agreement in place with our three main funders (SCRD, DOS and the SIGD), we will still be presenting a 5-year budget to the SCRD with a slightly different format to last year.

Pre-budget November 1 and 2 (we do not submit or present at this meeting)

Round 1 December 13-15 (we will present at this meeting)

Round 2 January 24-26, 2022

Final Adoption Plan February 24, 2022

Outstanding Salary and Benefit Component:

As this is the largest segment of the budget, it is not optimal that we do not yet have finalization of this process. The arduous process in ongoing and will not be completed by the end of 2021. We will have to accrue funds to 2022 to accommodate this estimated payout. (see also section 6)

5. Sea to Sky Library Champions Project (New to BC)

On November 16th, libraries from Sechelt, Gibsons, Bowen Island, Lillooet, Pemberton, Squamish and Whistler met with the team from New to BC to discuss the first of the Library Champions Project to be done with Sea to Sky and Sunshine Coast libraries.

"NewToBC is all about making connections. It is a library settlement initiative that connects newcomer immigrants and refugees with essential settlement information, public libraries, other service provider organizations, and, ultimately, BC communities. NewToBC plays a unique role in the settlement sector by offering services that are responsive to the evolving needs of newcomers, that complement and raise awareness about resources and services offered by public libraries and other service provider organizations, and that support BC communities as they welcome growing newcomer populations."

Sea to Sky and Sunshine Coast Library Champions Schedule for Winter/Spring 2022 Day: Thursday Time: 6:00 to 8:00PM					
Day/Date	Topic	Library Participation			
Thursday January 20 6:30-7:30	Information Session	Optional appearance/welcome at first 15 minutes			
Thursday February 10	Introductions Communication skills	Optional appearance/welcome at first 15 minutes			
Thursday February 17	Effects of Immigration, Resiliency, Cultural awareness	Not required			
Thursday February 24	Library Presentation and Debrief	Optional and depending on numbers of participants in region – short presentation on library resources			
Thursday March 3	Community Resources: NewToBC SIIC	Not required			
Thursday March 10	Social Media Networking and Outreach	Optional			
Thursday March 17	Presentations, Outreach	Optional			
Thursday March 31	Outreach check-in and TBD	Optional			
Thursday April 7	Outreach check-in and TBD	Optional			
Thursday April 28	Celebration, Project Feedback	Recommended for first part of session (30 minutes)			

6. Program Guides – December 2021



REGISTRATION

All programs are FREE!

Call (604) 885-3260 or drop by the library to register.

*Masks required for all indoor programs

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday: Tuesday Wednesday: 10-6 Thursday: 10-5 Friday: Saturday: 10-5 10-3 Sunday:

CONTACT

(604) 885-3260

info@sechelt.bclibrary.ca

Holiday Hours

Dec 24th 10AM - 1PM Saturday Dec 25th - Closed Sunday Dec 26th - Closed Monday Dec 27th - Closed Tuesday Dec 28th - Closed Dec 31st - 10AM - 1PM Friday Saturday Jan 1st - Closed Monday Jan 3rd - Closed

Christmas Dav

December 24, 2021

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy **Evening** by Robert Frost

Whose woods these are I think I know His house is in the village though; He will not see me stopping here To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queen To stop without a farmhouse near een the woods and frozen lake The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake To ask if there is some mistake. The only other sound's the sweep Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep, But I have promises to keep, And miles to go before I sleep And miles to go before I sleep

This work entered the public domain in 2019

ONE-ON-ONE SUPPORT

Accessibility Services FREE

One-on-one assistance with Daisy audio players, and other accessibility programs and resources for individuals with visual impairments. Appointment required.

Genealogy Tutoring FREE Curious about your history? Want to discover your family tree?

Appointment required.

Tech Education FREE Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 10:00-12:00 30 minute one-on-one sessions with our local tech expert, Appointment

Repair Café FREE

aturday, Dec 11th, 10:30-2:30 Free, while you wait, repair to domestic appliances and devices by volunteers from Gibsons Repair Café.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Happy Holidays

Happy Holidays and a hearty thank you to all the hard working volunteers of the Friends of the Sechelt Library. Looking forward to new book faires in





ADULTS

Dungeons & Dragons Tuesday, Dec 7, 14, 21 5:30-8:30 Library Lobby

Adventure begins at the library! Come and delve into the fantastic stories of Dungeons and Dragons and take part in creative story gaming. Teens and adults of all ages.

Call or email to go on a waitlist for a new table.

Writers Group

Thursday Dec 2, 3:30 - 5:00 Community Room Creative writing for fun. Led by experienced author Sherryl Latimer, this group is open to all ages and skill levels.

Registration Required

Adult Card Making Thursday, Dec 16, 11:00-12:00 Community Room Join Ruth Moore for a free card-making class! All supplies provided. Registration Required

Monday, Dec 6, 13 2:00-3:30 Community Room Fun ukulele jam for all levels. **Drop In** imited Seating

Astronomy Group Meeting

Friday Dec 10, 7:00PM - 10:00PM **Via Zoo**m resentation by Sunshine Coast Astronomy Club

Procrastination Support Group

ign up for a meeting at some future date.

Adult Colouring Contest

Pick up your entry at the Library and drop it off by December 22nd with your name and phone umber.

Holiday Movie

Saturday Dec, 18, 2:00 Community Room Ho Ho Ho! Come Watch The Muppet Christmas Carol at the library. Hot cocoa and popcorn will be provided. Call or email the library to register.

Chronic Pain Education & Support Group

Tuesday, Dec 21, 11:00 - 1:00 Community Room Regular education and support group for people experiencing unrelieved pain.

Monday, Dec 6, 13, 10:30-11:30 Community Room and via Zoom Join Julie Morgan for this gentle form of yoga.

Stitchin'

Monday, Dec 6, 13, 20 11:30-1:00 Community Room
Bring your knitting/crochet/stitching project and enjoy a friendly stitchin' session with other crafters. Wool and needles available if you want to knit scarves & hats for others this winter.

General Fiction Book Club

Tuesday Jan 11, 1:00-2:30 Community Room Read Medicine Walk by Richard Wagamese in preparation for the next book club meeting on the 2nd Tuesday in January.

Mystery Book Club Tuesday Jan 18, 1:00 - 2:30 Community Room Read Woman in Cabin 10 by Ruth Ware In preparation for the next book club meeting on the

Aromatherapy Workshop Thursday Dec 2, 11:00 Community Room Make your own essential oil blend and bath salts with facilitator Randi Johnson. Wellness Workshop in partnership with Welcoming Communities. Limited Space. Registration Required.

Winnie The Pooh Storytime & Tea

Friday Dec 3rd, 3:45 - 5:00 Community Room
Celebrating the writing of A.A. Milne and NEW
the beloved stories of Winnie-the-pooh. An adult story time with Richard Austin.

A Dickens Christmas

Monday Dec 13, 6:00 - 8:00 Tuesday Dec 14, 2:00 -4:00 Community Room

A Reading of A Christmas Carol by local actor Richard Austin. Dickens-inspired treats & refreshments too. Please bring an item for the food bank to spread Seasonal Cheer. Registration Required.

New Book Clubs

Interested in a specific type of book club? Let's talk. Email: info@sechelt.bclibrary.ca

CHILDREN & TEENS

Cookie Decorating

Saturday Dec 4, 1:00 - 4:00 Community Room Come decorate yummy cookies with us! Register for a 30-minute time slot and receive everything you need to decorate

Holiday Movie

Saturday Dec, 18, 2:00 Community Room Ho Ho Ho! Come Watch The Muppet Christmas Carol at the library. Hot cocoa and popcorn will be provided. Call or email the library to register.

StoryTime Saturday, Dec 4, 11, 18, 10:30 -11:00 Children's

Recommended for families with children 5 and under. Join us on Saturday for a drop-in Family Storytime for books, songs, and play.

Holiday StoryWalk® Wednesday Dec 15 - Monday Dec 20 Rockwood

Read a book while enjoying nature with a family StoryWalk®. Visit anytime during the week. All Ages Welcome.

Teen Book Club 🗍

Thursday, Dec 9, 3:30-4:30 Teen Area Read *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner, and discuss it with us. Snacks provided! Ages 13-19.

After School Drop In

Tuesday, Dec 7, 14, 21, 3:00 - 5:00 Community Room

Hang out, work on homework, use a computer or iPad, or do an activity. Ages 9-18.

- Dec 7 - Arts and Crafts
- Dec 14 - Board Games
- Dec 21 - Movie

Teen Anime Club

Friday, Dec 10, 3:00-5:00 Community Room Join us every other Friday to watch anime and discuss manga. Snacks provided. Ages 9-18 The content is rated Pg13 or TV14

Dungeons & Dragons

Tuesday, Dec 7, 14, 21 5:30-8:30 Library Lobby Adventure begins at the library! Come and delve into the fantastic stories of Dungeons and Dragons and take part in creative story gaming. Teens and adults of all ages. Call or email to go on a waitlist for a new table.

Teen Advisory Group & Teen Book Reviews

Have a say in what Teen programs we offer,

review books and earn volunteer hours. Ages 13-19. Email sam.iversen@secheltlibrary.ca to join our Discord Server.

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Aromatherapy Workshop



Make your own essential oil blend and bath salts in this Wellness Workshop, presented by Randi Johnson in partnership with Welcoming Communities.

Thursday December 2nd - 11am

in the Community Room at the Sechelt Library

To register, call 604-885-3260, email info@sechelt.bclibrary.ca, or drop by the library



WINNIE-THE-POOH Storytime

A Reading & Tea for Adults with Richard Austin

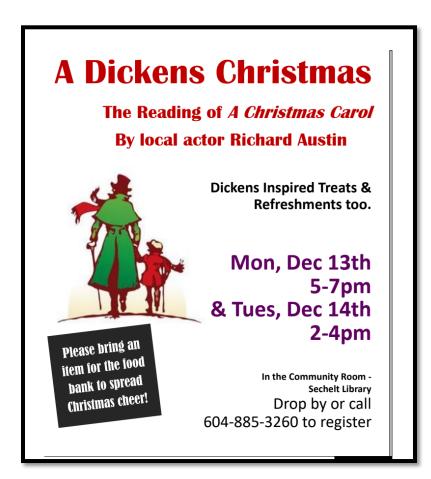
Celebrating the writing of A.A. Milne and the beloved stories of Winnie-the-Pooh



Friday December 3rd - 3:45pm

in the Community Room - Sechelt Library

To register, please call 604-885-3260, email info@sechelt.bclibrary.ca, or visit the library.



7. Union Job Reclassification

- Stage 1: Complete. All job descriptions have now been revised and rewritten into their draft state.
- Stage 2: Complete. Local union representative (Sam) approval of initial revamps of the job descriptions.
- Stage 3: Complete: CUPE Union head, Kari, to approve initial job description revamps
- Stage 4: Complete. Each staff member reviews their own newly created job description
- Stage 5: Complete. Initial banding and rating the jobs in a variety of categories to accurately reflect pay scale for job duties and responsibilities.
- Stage 6: Not complete. Final rating and banding process has not yet been achieved and we are working within the strict Union process to complete. Still ongoing...

8. Staffing Updates

We will have a brief in camera session during the Board Meeting to discuss certain staffing topics.

9. "Typical Week" for the BC Province Stats

As part of the onerous reporting we do each year for the province of BC, "Typical Week" are some of the stats we provide. The province allocates 1 specific week each year where we have to provide 4 separate stats. It was a week I though a bit slower than our normal but it is what it is. Here are the stats for the week of October 18th at the library:

- 1. In library use of materials = 158
 - very hard to calculate unless we watch everyone like a hawk. This represents what patron sit in the library and read or use. I would bet this number is about 1/3 of what it is in reality.
- 2. Number of reference transactions = 657
 - This represents the questions or assistance (except for directions) we answer or assist patrons with in person, over the phone or via email.
- 3. Number of public access workstations = 128
 - This means we had 128 patrons use one of the libraries public computers
- 4. In person visits = 1,362

10. Christmas at the Library

We are starting to decorate the library for the Christmas season and to make it feel festive and happy for all our patrons. Thankyou to our holiday decorator, Lorinda, for contributing to this annual endeavor.







11. Arrival of the Puppets

The puppets have arrived! The puppets have arrived! These adorable animals have been purchased and added to our programming assets to assist Sam with the highly entertaining Children's Storytime.



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12. Contemplation of Ukulele Purchases

We are looking into obtaining a number of ukuleles (and cases) to add to our library assets. Our current ukulele music program is very popular and we think it would be beneficial, for a number of reasons, to have ukulele is available for patrons to borrow through our library collection. Two children's single string ukes were donated by Mark Trevis which we may put into two children's STEAM kits.



Gillian with a "normal" ukulele and Jason with a single string kids ukulele

13. Official "Ask" to the BC Province by Library Partners Group

Here is the one-time ask submitted to the province in preparation for the partner's upcoming meeting with Minister Osborne.

The BC Public Library Partners

The BC Public Library Partners









The BC Library Partners are seeking a one-time grant to help libraries recover from the pandemic and strengthen services to help communities adjust to a post-pandemic reality. Funding to support the initiatives outlined below would help libraries meet community needs by temporarily filling the growing inflationary gap, recover pandemic costs, and for many, off-set impending budget cuts until long-term sustainable operational funding is achieved.

Background

- There are 71 public libraries across BC, serving rural communities of 400 people to large urban municipalities of over 600,000 people. They are essential to their local communities and economies, serving over 29 million library users every year and employing over 2260 FTE staff who are predominantly female.
- Libraries offer a range of services to serve and support all ages and address community issues and needs, including:
- Newcomers, Indigenous people and Nations, families, seniors, students, job seekers, small business owners and the underhoused
- During the pandemic, libraries worked hard to maintain and build relationships that supported the mental health and resilience of their communities, pivoting quickly to put more focus on the services that their communities needed the most; expanding digital collections, introducing virtual programming and implementing "takeout" models to support community members with limited or no digital connections.
- Library funding has been frozen since 2010.
- Libraries were unable to take advantage of pandemic supports such as CEWS, CERS, or CEBA, while at the same having to bear increasing costs of new physical safety measures and procedures as well as decreased funding from some municipal funders.

Costs and Timeline

BC public libraries are requesting a one-time grant of \$15 million, to be used over 3 years. Since different parts of the province have unique needs as they cope with and emerge from the pandemic, individual libraries will determine how to spend funds to best meet those local needs, providing resources, services and infrastructure to support their communities to adjust and adapt.

Examples of possible projects include:

Expanding access to technology, both in the library and for people to use at home

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- Many libraries have aging computers and technology with more people requiring computer access to fill out government forms, re-skill, or connect to family, some libraries need to improve their current infrastructure to meet those needs.
- People are working, learning, and socializing at home via technology. More than ever, access to the internet is a requirement to participate and thrive in society. However, 5% of people in BC do not have home internet and only 38% of rural communities and Indigenous rural communities have access to recommended broadband internet speeds. Libraries provide access to internet workstations and Wi-Fi, resulting in over 6.8 million internet use sessions annually and help to fill this gap with lending hotspots, laptops, tablets, and other technology people will need to participate in a post-covid world.
- Making permanent adjustments to physical spaces to support social distancing
- o Recognizing that covid may be with us for some time, and that people's needs and comfort levels in public spaces have changed, libraries are determining what changes they made during covid will become permanent. This could include creating or improving outdoor spaces for programming use, transitioning from temporary to permanent barriers, and investing in easier to clean and sanitize furniture.
- o As public spaces, libraries continue to spend additional funding required to support public health requirements and recommendations, including enhanced cleaning measures, hand sanitizer, and masks for staff and public.
- Growing digital collections to meet increased demand.
- During the pandemic, libraries saw a dramatic increase in the demand for digital content when libraries were shut down and people were isolating.
- That demand remains strong, as some people have permanently changed their format preference and many others are still limiting their regular activity and strive to minimize public interactions or their use of public spaces.
- Digital content often costs 3-5 times as much as a physical item, and libraries are struggling to meet this demand with budgets that have not kept pace with inflation and the changing format costs.
- Supporting and developing community health and information literacy
- Covid has shown us that it is essential to improve health and information literacy, libraries are perfectly positioned to do that, as a trusted source of information.
- Libraries may purchase additional materials and resources for their collection, bring in speakers or offer programs that will build these skills in their communities.
- Fostering reconciliation, diversity, equity and inclusion to help build community
- Covid highlighted the inequalities in our communities we know that Indigenous, Black and racialized people, people with disabilities, and those who were already marginalized were disproportionately affected by the pandemic.
- o At the same time, people have become increasingly polarized, at a time when they most need to come together to recover from the impacts of the pandemic.
- Library collections, resources, and programming can help to build community understanding and cohesion.
- Libraries are trying to ensure they are inclusive and welcoming to all, both as community institutions and as employers – this may require working with consultants who have lived experience and expertise, offering additional staff training, and development of new, and more complex and demanding, processes and policies.

Alignment with Government Mandate and Vision

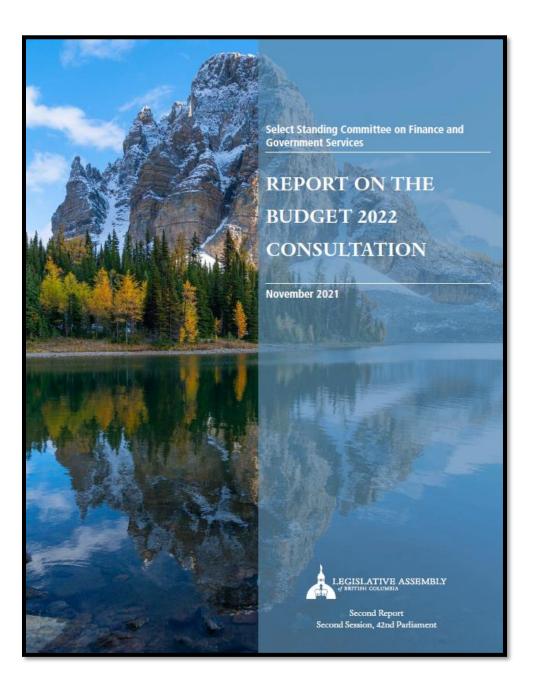
As we emerge from one of the most difficult times in recent history we ask for enhanced support for libraries, as an essential part of the social safety net that fosters resilience and equity within communities. As low-barrier social infrastructure, libraries promote belonging and equity for those they serve; They support literacy both traditional and technological, which supports economic development for all; They provide well-trained and compassionate staff, offering connection to essential social and government services in an environment without stigma. At the sectoral level, libraries are working to advance collective progress on connectivity, increase sectoral action on the climate crisis and promote deeper progress on reconciliation.

\$15 million over 3 years will give libraries the support that they need to both successfully navigate the pandemic recovery, and to help advance the Government's vision and key priorities.

As Eric Klinenberg says in *Palaces for the People*, "There's a term you don't hear these days, one you used to hear all the time when the Carnegie branches opened: **Palaces for the People**. The library really is a **palace**. It bestows nobility on **people** who otherwise couldn't afford a shred of it. **People** need to have nobility and dignity in their lives. And you know, they need other **people** to recognize it in them too."

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14. Official Report on the 2022 Budget Consultation





November 15, 2021

To the Honourable Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia

Honourable Members:

I have the honour to present herewith the Second Report of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services for the Second Session of the 42nd Parliament. This report covers the Committee's work in regard to the Budget 2022 Consultation as approved by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

Janet Routledge, MLA Chair

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Many libraries highlighted the key role they play by serving as community hubs, reducing isolation, connecting people to information and resources, and promoting equity. Several presentations emphasized that this role has become even more important as a result of the pandemic and described ways that libraries facilitated access to government forms and assistance and pivoted to find new ways to support their communities during this time. The British Columbia Library Association noted that libraries and library workers will be key to strengthening and rebuilding the economy as they offer access to information and educational resources, teach new skills, provide physical space, and level the playing field for those in need. The Surrey Public Library Board emphasized the value of libraries, citing a 2020 report by the Canadian Museum Association and Library Archives Canada that found that every dollar spent on public libraries generates \$4.60 worth of benefit back to the economy.

Several libraries noted that public libraries have not had an increase in core provincial funding in over a decade. The Vancouver Public Library Board of Trustees and Richmond Public Library noted that while one-time grants are helpful and appreciated, libraries cannot maintain or improve core services without

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an increase to operating funding. Many organizations, including the BC Libraries Cooperative, explained that without periodic adjustments for inflation, a frozen budget delivers less over time. Nelson Public Library explained that stagnant provincial funding shifts costs to municipalities which have more restricted revenue options. Other organizations, including Cranbrook Public Library and the Town of Creston, linked a need for funding to the ability of public libraries to meet the increasingly complex demands of their communities. Overall, sixteen libraries, associations, and organizations called for increased operational funding of \$22 million for public libraries with ties to inflation and population increases.

Two submissions made recommendations for funding specific to rural libraries. Grand Forks & District Public Library explained 25

that in rural areas, public libraries are often one of the only places that people can access the internet, meet and interact with others, find educational and entertainment opportunities, and be inside without buying anything. They noted that many small libraries do not have professionally trained library staff due to a lack of funding. Similarly, Canadian Union of Public Employees British Columbia stated that small rural libraries have fewer resources to fund needed services and many rural and Indigenous communities have little or no access to library services.

15. Official Letter sent by Josie Osborne, Minister of Municipal Affairs

After a meeting held with Josie Osborne, Mayor Siegers, Mayor Bill Beamish, SCRD Chair Lori Pratt, Heather (Gibsons Library) and myself, the following letter was received from Josie Osborne on Oct 27th:



October 27, 2021

Ref: 268091

Their Worship Mayor Darnelda Siegers and Members of Council District of Sechelt PO Box 129 Sechelt BC VON 3A0

Their Worship Mayor Bill Beamish and Members of Council Town of Gibsons PO Box 340 Gibsons BC VON 1V0

Lori Pratt, Chair and Members of the Board Sunshine Coast Regional District 1975 Field Rd Sechelt BC V7Z 0A8

Dear Mayor Siegers, Mayor Beamish, and Councillors, Chair Pratt and Board Members:

Thank you to your delegations for meeting with me during this year's virtual Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Annual Convention two-week process. It was a pleasure to hear from you in my first UBCM Convention experience as Minister, and the issues you brought forward were of great interest to me.

During the meeting you and the library staff also in attendance highlighted the important role public libraries play and have continued to play throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, including assisting newcomers, seniors and vulnerable populations; serving the role of public gathering place; and providing books and other materials to residents at home. Beyond books, libraries bring people together and provide important social connections. I also appreciated hearing how your libraries are considered a community asset for potential new residents and businesses.

.../2

Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Office of the Ministe

Mailing Address: PO Box 9056 Stn Prov Govt Victoria BC V8W 9E2 Phone: 250 387-2283 Fax: 250 387-4312 Location: Parliament Buildings Victoria BC V8V 1X4

http://www.gov.bc.ca/muni

Their Worship Mayor Darnelda Siegers and Members of Council Their Worship Mayor Bill Beamish and Members of Council Lori Pratt, Chair and Members of the Board Page 2

You shared how, locally, libraries extend access to government services, such as in the absence of a Service Canada location. I appreciated hearing how libraries are helping people to photocopy, access and fill out government forms and very recently helping people download and print B.C.'s proof of vaccination card. These are all invaluable services to communities, particularly those that are more isolated.

I understand that you have requested the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to review the amount of provincial funding currently allocated to public libraries. As we discussed at the meeting, in spring 2020, government invested \$3 million in one-time funding to improve electronic collections, public computing and connectivity. I am pleased to hear you were able to use this funding to create STEAM kits for children and enhance your digital services. Libraries provide important public services, and you have my commitment to continue to strongly advocate for the work they do and the people they support.

The ministry supports co-operative approaches, at both the provincial and regional level, to extend and improve library services. Ministry staff are always willing to discuss specific issues with libraries and local governments. If you have any questions, please contact Mari Martin, Director, Public Libraries Branch, by email at: Mari.Martin@gov.bc.ca, or by telephone at: 250 886-2584.

I found it very valuable to hear from you and other communities directly at the UBCM Convention. Meetings such as this help me better understand the issues or opportunities your communities are facing.

Thank you again to your delegations for taking the time to meet with me. I look forward to seeing you—hopefully in person—at UBCM Convention next year.

Sincerely,

Josie Osborne Minister

pc: Mari Martin, Director, Public Libraries Branch

Leianne Emery, Library Director, Sechelt Public Library

Heather Evans-Cullen, Library Director, Gibsons and District Public Library