

Trivia Night at the Sechelt Library

Director's Report With Special Supplement on Intellectual Freedom Sechelt Public Library

August 29 – September 19, 2024 By Leianne Emery

Table of Contents

1.	Cover Photo	3
2.	Highlights for August 29 – September 19	3
3.	Friends of the Library Book Faires	3
4.	Building Remediation – Exterior of DOS / Library Building	4
5.	Insurance Claim - Contents	8
6.	September Programming Photo Highlights	8
7.	Literacy Coalition Activities	12
8.	Found Buried in the Black Cabinets	14
9.	Canada Summer Jobs Program – Costs to Decision	16
10.	Royal BC Museum Hosts Engagement Get Together	16
11.	Grant Application to the SSC Hospital Auxiliary (SSC HA)	18
12.	Grant Application to Telus	18
13.	Partnership with Silverstone Care Centre	19
14.	UBCM – key messaging from the Association of BC Public Library Directors (ABCPLD)	20
15.	Special Supplement on Intellectual Freedom	25

1. Cover Photo

Friday September 6 was Sechelt Library's first ever Trivia Night! With over 60 people in attendance, a good time was had by all those who attended – and those who attended cannot wait for another! Justine Gabias, Adam Shepherd and Rhian Piprell acted as our hosts and announcers for the evening and ruth Moore was overseeing all the Food Bank donations. Participants in the Trivia Night raised \$160 in cash and 3 huge boxes of food for the Food Bank! Thank-you to Charlotte and Rhian for all the planning and Charlotte and Jolene for all the setup and cleaning afterwards.

2. Highlights for August 29 – September 19

- Contents Insurance Claim (Flood) first dribbles of compensation arrives
- UBCM "OVERDUE" Campaign
- Application for SSC Hospital auxiliary grant written
- Telus grant applied for
- Application for reimbursement on the Canada Summer Jobs Program sent in
- Construction Schedule for Phase 1 Building restoration
- First ever Sechelt Library Trivia Night
- Fall Fair Sept 7th was a great success
- Literacy Coalition Activities
- Black office cabinets 20+ year cleanup
- Royal Museum hosts info event
- Canada Summer Jobs Program
- Partnership with Silverstone

3. Friends of the Library Book Faires

These Book Faires have been and will be hosted at **Seaside Centre:**

July 19-21 (\$1601.70)

August 2-4 (\$1482.85)

August 16-18 (\$1,382.20)

September 20-22

These Book Faires will be hosted at **Sechelt Library Community Room:**

October 18-20

November 15-17

4. Building Remediation – Exterior of DOS / Library Building

My update previously sent to staff and Board Members:

To: Sechelt Library Staff and Board Members

Dt: September 4, 2024

Re: Update on Phase 1 - Library / DOS Building Restoration

Construction Schedule:

Jessica and I had a meeting today with Julie (DOS), Dylan (DOS), Andrew (SR Engineering), Cam (Signia) and Derek (Signia) regarding the changed construction schedule for the Phase 1 (south side) restoration of Library/DOS Building. The original intent was to commence all construction when the windows arrived (approx. late November 2024) but this has been changed to take advantage of the more advantageous weather during the fall and complete as much as possible prior to the window arrival.

Basic south side restoration will include:

- 1. Wall rot assessed and repaired (inside and out)
- 2. New windows installed
- 3. Siding removed and replaced with new fiber-cement siding (ie. hardie-board)
- 4. New aluminum awnings on both levels
- 5. New building trim
- 6. Refresh of all exterior beams and posts
- 7. Landscape improvements and beautification of lawn, benches and sitting areas
- 8. Trim or remove all wisteria
- 9. Removal of large tree and removal and relocation of rose bushes away from the building

The anticipated new construction schedule is as follows:

Mid-September 2024:

Exterior Foliage Removal:

DOS Parks Department removes foliage from south side of the building. This includes taking down the large tree beside the Coast Reporter bin and cutting down the wisteria to an 8ft trunk height. If the wisteria roots are impacting the foundation,

they will be removed altogether. Where possible, all foliage possible to be saved for use in other areas of Sechelt.

September 27, 2024 and onwards:

Set up of Exterior Security Fencing:

After the exterior foliage is removed, Signia will set up security fencing from approximately the area of the Coast Reporter Bin all the way down the south side sidewalk to the west side of the building (near rec centre). The garbage bin and bike rack will be relocated. The gravel path through the lawn area will still be open to the public wishing to walk through.

Site Work Trailer and Construction Waste Bin Placed:

Signia will be placing their office site trailer, construction material waste bin, and scaffolding in the first five parking spaces at the rec centre nearest to the library.

Exterior Wall Assessment:

Signia will commence assessments on the building's south side exterior walls. The wall exterior will be removed to assess the extent of the damage and rot to the wall structures. These results will determine the extent of the necessary repairs on the structure and the interior.

Interior Wall Repair:

Repairing the interior of the south side wall will affect the library - programs, collection accessibility, and space available to the public. Signia will complete all necessary work one section at a time as to minimize impact on the library, staff and patrons. In each section, it will likely be necessary to move some parts of the collection, furniture and other items while work is proceeding. Some sections, like biography, can remain but shelves will be covered in poly. If the collection cannot be moved, it will impact public accessibility for a short period of time. Signia will block each section off with protective poly and barriers.

The basic construction sections will tentatively be 1 teen area, 2 children's areas (between the beams), magazine/public computer and biography.

Window Replacement:

All south side windows will be removed and replaced. After the windows arrive (date not yet known), the contractors should be able to replace one or two windows per day.

Other Exterior Work:

- 1. Removal of wooden trellis on both floors and replacement with new aluminum awnings
- 2. Removal of exterior siding and replacement with new pre-painted hardy board
- 3. Removal of brick walls, likely only under the large windows (if necessary) and replacement with fibre-cement siding (ie. hardie-board)
- 4. Removal and replacement of exterior trim
- 5. Placement of special trim for mounting seasonal Christmas lights
- 6. Sanding and restoration (to a natural color) of all reddish colored beams and posts
- 7. Restoration of all exterior wooden benches
- 8. Improvements to the landscape and sitting areas

Note:

All construction power will routed from the current electric car charging station in the front of the library (not the back). This electric charging station will not be available to the public for the duration of the construction.

Thank-you, Leianne Emery

UPDATES:

Update September 10, 2024

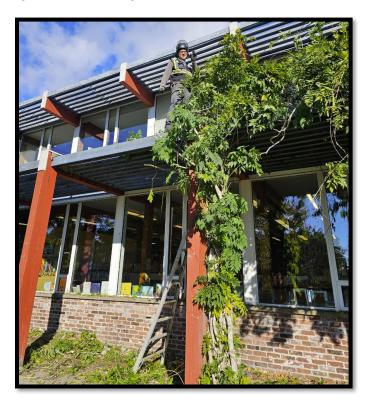
Philip from Monster Environment and Derek from Signia were on site taking core samples from the interior of the library south wall for purposes of an official hazard assessment scope. They were doing due diligence for the testing of asbestos. As this building was built in the 1990's, the likely-hood of asbestos presence in the mud is not strong but they need to proceed as per their safety protocols.

Update: Week of September 16, 2024

The District of Sechelt parks department has been systematically readying the grounds at the south side (front of the library) in regards to the landscaping removal and removal of wooden slat awnings. They are trying to save the three wisteria tree roots but everything else has now gone or is going. It looks SO different! The Signia contractor will be mobilizing on site on Tuesday, October 2 setting up the trailer and site fencing. The following week the scaffolding will be erected.



Before – lush and beautiful





September 16, 2024 week, Kevin Bradley and Holden (DOS) were chopping down the wisteria and landscape this week. Landscape teams are carefully removing tree roots

5. Insurance Claim - Contents

A complete claim has now been filed for all items lost and replaced/repaired during the January 17, 2024 flood and Claims Pro (the intermediary between the client and the insurers) has requested full reimbursement from the **SIX** (6) different insurance companies involved. That means that for every item we had to replace we will have **six** (6) different reimbursement allocations of varying percentages. Insurance companies – share the risk share the reward. As the payments go through the DOS, we sent them a list of our claim to make it easier to identify which payment are ours. To date we have received partial claim reimbursement of \$16,128.

6. September Programming Photo Highlights

Trivia Night!











Fall Fair – September 7, 2024







COMMUNITY



Figure 1988 Proto Fiona Williams and Vanessa Choo handed out seedings for the winter garden: blue curly kale, purple sprouting broccoli, red russian kale and merveille des quatre saisons lettuce.



Jaeden Myciak won a prize for entering his sunflower into the sunflower draw. He received his sunflower seed when a volunteer from the fall fair came to his classroom at Kinnikinnick Elementary in June.



RENE BREMER PHOTO

Ella and Hunter Duncan with the pumpkin they brought to exhibit from their garden.

BEYOND THE HARVEST FALL FAIR: More than 70 households came to the fall fair Sept. 7 at Sechelt Library and learned more about food security with the live displays of microgreens and sprouts, took home some writer vegetable seedlings and learned how to clean seeds with the Sunshine Coast Seed Saving Collective. Children and adults brought in exhibits of their sunflowers for a draw, plus vegetables, fruit and flowers were judged. There were several prizes handed out from several local businesses.

- Submitted by Irene Bremer

7. Literacy Coalition Activities

The Sunshine Coast Literacy Coalition, of which Sechelt Library is a member, meet multiple times per year and plan activities that encompass a wide range of activities focused on all types of literacy promotion and awareness. Funds for our activities are derived from Dakota Literacy Solutions and various fundraisers, Raise a Reader, sock sales etc. Charlotte, Sam and I represent Sechelt Library on the Coalition and participate in all these activities.

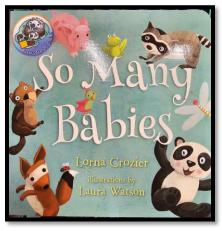
Our current and upcoming activities include:

September 2024 **Books for Babies**

Sechelt Library, Sechelt Healthcare and Pender Harbour Health help distribute 100 Books for Babies Special packages

Our own Library Board Member, Rhian Piprell was a founder of this amazing BC wide program!







September 17, 2024 Wildflower Picnic

Botanical Garden, Sechelt

For kindergarten kids and their families

Author and illustrator entertainment

Cupcakes and more food and drink







November 2024 **Sock sales**

Roberts Creek Christmas Craft Sale

Director's Report

January 24, 2025 Family Day Celebration to kick off official Literacy Week

Entertainment and Food at Roberts Creek Hall

June 2025 **Pride in the Park**

All day festivities in Mission Point Park

Literacy Coalition has a table full of games, prizes, crafts and books

2025 Teen Writing Contest

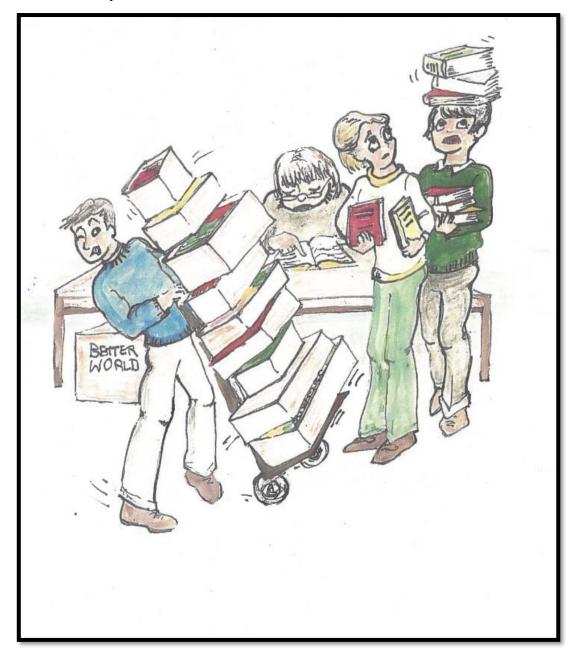
2025 Human Library

8. Found Buried in the Black Cabinets



On the heels of cleaning out the overfull mezzanine, we (Jessica and I) have embarked on a mission to clean up and sort through all the cabinets in my office which are full of files ranging back to the early days of the library. It was a <u>very time-consuming</u> task so we realize why noone else has ever done it. We used much discretion (and accountant recommendations) in determining what should be kept and what did not need to be kept. Coastwide Recycling came and took almost 350 pounds of paper to be shredded.

Many things were found buried in those large black cabinets...but here is a gem of a drawing we found loosely stored in a random file:



The blue stickie note says, "Good morning Margaret (Chief Librarian at the time). This is for you by Sharon Russel of the FOL. Its James, Margaret, Pat and Lois"

9. Canada Summer Jobs Program – Costs to Decision

Costs of having a summer student were originally not included in our 2024 budget due to an already negative budget and a lack of space to put any additional staff in our very cramped staff area. Despite this, we decided to move ahead with the federal summer student application in early 2024 as we decided the pros really outweighed the cons.

Winding through the onerous government GC Key and application process took us about 3 months (of technical torture) but we were ultimately successful in receiving finding for the Summer Student. We were fortunate to have had Lydia Bradley with us for two months and without her assistance in helping Sam, we could not have pulled off the extensive Summer Reading Program we had in 2024.

The federal government paid the wages up to minimum wage (\$17.40 per hour) and the library paid for the balance of the wage we offered (\$21.50 - \$17.40). As we have non-profit status, the MERCs associated were also reimbursed by the federal government (MERCs in this sense are Mandatory Employment Related Costs - Worksafe, EI and CPP).

Ultimately, after all the costs were in, and the federal reimbursement process was completed with the government, we ended up adding to our own budget expenses \$1148.00. Worth it.

10. Royal BC Museum Hosts Engagement Get Together

Teresa will be attending this meeting on September26 as I will be in a Friends of the Library Meeting.



We Want to Hear From You!

Thursday, September 26, 2024

1:00-3:00 pm

Sunshine Coast Museum and Archives 716 Winn Rd, Gibsons, BC

You're invited to a community conversation hosted by the Royal BC Museum and the Sunshine Coast Museum and Archives.

Together, we'll explore how galleries, libraries, archives, and museums across the province can become more welcoming, inclusive, and representative

for all visitors. This collaborative discussion will dive into the key themes and challenges our sector is addressing as it adapts to the changing needs in our society.

We encourage active participation, idea-sharing, and welcome the opportunity for community building.

Light refreshments will be served.

Director's Report

11. Grant Application to the SSC Hospital Auxiliary (SSC HA)

We received a grant in 2022 from the SSC HA to fund our Sechelt Library Chair Yoga Program. It has proven very successful and popular with our citizens. The grant received allowed us to fund:

2022: 30 classes with almost 450 attending

2023: 36 classes with almost 650 attending

2024: 13 classes with almost 160 people attending (numbers as at Sep 19, 2024)

We completed another grant application to the SSC HA in the hope of receiving funding to continue this invaluable program but realized afterwards that we were four months to early! We will resubmit in January 2025. It should be noted that without external grant funding, we will not be able to continue this valuable chair yoga program within the confines of our annual operating budget.

12. Grant Application to Telus

We have put together a virtual reality program concept and applied for funding through a Telus Grant. We have just been informed that we are now in stage 2 of the grant application review process. If successful, this grant (\$6k) would cover costs for equipment and software for a new and exciting virtual reality ongoing program.



13. Partnership with Silverstone Care Centre

We are embarking on an exciting new partnership with the newly built Silverstone Care Centre in Sechelt! They have a problem and we have the solution. Silverstone needs books for their many library areas and this was not considered in the budget of the original plans. Sechelt Library is going to be filling the shelves of these libraries across Silverstone's two floors and 8 family homes with books we have selectively taken (weeded) from our collection. These books will include almost all shelving locations we have across adult, young adult (formerly teen), primary and intermediate children – and of course magazines.





14. UBCM – key messaging from the Association of BC Public Library Directors (ABCPLD)

The summary letter below represents all you need to know about the Association of BC Public Library Director's campaign called "OVERDUE", for the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), September 16-20, 2024.

Leianne

Association	of B.C. Dublic Lib	cany Directors			
Association of B.C. Public Library Directors AUTHOR					
Funding for B.C. Public Libraries					
TITLE					
	DATE DUE				
2009	2018				
2010	2018 2019				
2011	2020	7 107			
2012	2027				
160	2022	T.			
Ch.	2022				
30.11	2023				
2015	2024				
2016					
2017					

A Guide to UBCM Convention 2024 for public library advocates

The UBCM Convention gives an opportunity to raise awareness about the increased challenges BC's public libraries are helping governments to meet in communities across the province, and to position an ask for the next government to increase the annual provincial grant to BC public libraries. The Association of Public Library Directors is using the UBCM Convention to launch an awareness campaign called "Overdue", highlighting that an increase to the annual provincial grant is overdue, in alignment with the message the Public Library Partners have been bringing to government.

The Convention comes one week prior to the provincial election campaign. The theme of UBCM's provincial election advocacy campaign is "Stretched to the Limit", and outlines the growing financial pressures on local governments due in part to gaps in provincial services. The "Overdue" campaign speaks to these financial pressures on local governments and asks all parties to address underfunded library services through an increase to the provincial grant.

UBCM delegates who are public library advocates are encouraged to:

- Speak to the increased cost pressures and service demands on public libraries, the fact that the annual provincial grant has been frozen since 2009, and that an increase to the annual provincial grant is overdue
- Invite delegates to attend the BC Public Library Partners' Clinic "Measuring Social Impact of Public Libraries", Thursday September 19 from 7:00 am to 7:45 am, Room 11 VCC
- Help distribute "Overdue" buttons and postcards to delegates starting Wednesday (Connect with Cari Gawletz, ABCPLD Chair, through the Whoova app or at director@gfpl.ca or meet Cari on Tuesday near the Delegate Services Desk in the main lobby of the Vancouver Convention Centre between 11:30 12:30.

Who to speak to:

- Any and all delegates! This is an opportunity to identify library champions.
- In workshops and clinics that address pressures on local governments to deliver public services.
- If Resolution NR 67 "Provincial Core Funding for Evolving Public Libraries" makes it to the Floor of Convention and is debated.

NR67 Provincial Core Funding for Evolving Public Libraries (Nanaimo City, Oak Bay, Powell River, qathet RD)

Whereas core funding for public libraries in British Columbia has remained unchanged since 2009, limiting their ability to expand and evolve their programming as demand for their services increases:

And whereas the operational requirements of public libraries increasingly require significant and diverse resources to provide front-line community services, including supporting patrons with mental health and addiction issues as well as barriers to housing, providing critical locations of refuge during extreme weather events, providing services to new Canadians, and supporting the process of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to recognize the evolving and challenging situation for public libraries as well as their unique role as community spaces, and increase annual core funding for libraries to \$30 million in keeping with the request made by the BC Public Library Partners and the recommendation of the province's Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services:

And be it further resolved that this increase in core funding be increased on a yearly basis in keeping with cost of living and inflationary pressures.

EB63 Sustainable and Equitable Funding of Library Services Port Alberni

Whereas public libraries play a vital role in communities by providing access to resources, promoting literacy, supporting job seekers and small businesses, advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and promoting equity and inclusion;

And whereas public libraries in British Columbia are primarily funded by levies paid by local governments, and provincial funding for libraries has remained stagnant; while the costs to deliver library services and the demand for library services have increased exponentially over time:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM appeal to the Province of British Columbia to provide longterm sustainable funding for public libraries in BC;

And be it further resolved that the Province ensures that BC libraries receive regular increases to provincial government funding in subsequent years.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to maintain and increase its funding for public libraries (2023-EB54, 2022-EB59, 2020-EB41, 2019-B28, 2019-B29, 2018-B24, 2017-B60, 2016-B95, 2014-B17, 2012-B71, 2011-B27, 2010-B46, 2008-B57, 2007-B56, 2006-B55, 2006-B56).

Key Messages:

Background

- For many years, the Association of BC Public Library Directors in partnership with BC Public Library Partners have been advocating for an increase to the annual core funding grant from the Province of BC.
- We are grateful for the \$45 million in one-time funding provided in early 2024, the \$8 million in 2022 as pandemic relief, and the \$3 million in 2020 for the enhancement of digital services, technology, and broadband connectivity initiatives.
- However, inflationary cost pressures, and the increased service pressures, mean that public libraries are having to do more with less.
- BC's public libraries have had a static funding model from the provincial government since 2011.
- One-time investments, while appreciated and maximized, do not sustain operational costs, address emerging needs due to societal pressures, or enable local library systems to put in place long-term planning and sustained community supports.
- We have been articulating this advocacy message through a regular, sustained, multiparty government relations approach since 2022.
- With the provincial election approaching, and the political landscape in BC rapidly shifting, the Association of BC Public Library Directors wants to raise awareness about the static provincial funding and its impact on library services, with a message that an increase to the annual provincial grant is "overdue".

"Overdue" campaign

- We are activating a mini-awareness campaign during the UBCM Convention September 16-20 called "Overdue."
- Our objective is to raise awareness about the state of static funding from the province, its impact on public library services, and to state our advocacy request for an increase to the annual provincial grant.
- We are speaking with local government elected leaders, MLAs in this current government, and candidates for elected office in the 2024 General Election, in addition to other stakeholders who are delegates at the UBCM convention.
- The campaign consists of:

- Postcards and buttons highlighting the advocacy message "Overdue" to be distributed around the Thursday September 19 clinic on Social Impact of Libraries
- Media advisory and potential earned media
- The text of the postcard reads:

Since a 25% cut in 2009, provincial funding to BC's public libraries has been largely frozen.

That's 15 years of cost increases, population growth, and increasing service demands -without sustained funding.

Public libraries make life more affordable for families. They contribute to building a strong future-facing workforce. They are community hubs to integrate newcomers, connect people to services, and provide a safe place to be.

By providing critical supports – knowledge, culture, health, reconciliation, belonging, and our democracy – BC's public libraries are quietly fulfilling government mandates.

Investment in public libraries is essential to BC's post-pandemic recovery, competitiveness, and resilience. Without consistent core funding, local libraries will need to reduce service.

We're OVERDUE.

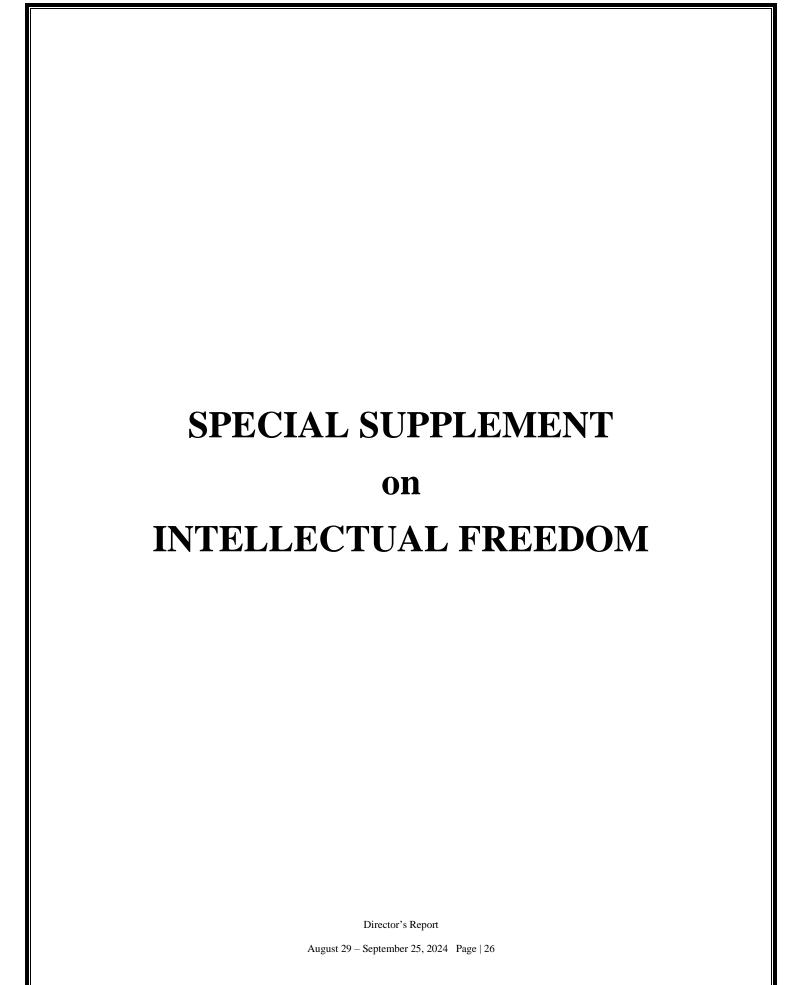
It's time to increase the annual provincial grant to BC's public libraries!

A message from the Association of BC Public Library Directors

I just extracted this from the 2023 UBCM resolution Handbook:

Section	Description	Handling
EXTRAORDINARY RESOLUTIONS (ER)	Extraordinary resolutions—to amend the UBCM Bylaws or to ask the Province to amend the UBCM Act	Considered Individually
SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS (SR)	UBCM Executive resolutions on priority issues	Considered Individually
ENDORSE BLOCK (EB)	Resolutions that support established UBCM policy Recommendation: Endorse or Endorse with Proposed Amendment	Considered as a block
NOT ENDORSE BLOCK (NEB)	Resolutions that are contrary to established UBCM policy Recommendation: Not Endorse	Considered as a block
NO RECOMMENDATION (NR)	New Issues Recommendation: No Recommendation or No Action Required	Considered Individually
REFERRED RESOLUTIONS (RR)	Resolutions referred to similar resolutions found elsewhere in the Resolutions Book Resolutions referred to policy papers and/or special sessions held at Convention Resolutions to be referred back to the sponsor or Area Association Resolutions recommended Refer to UBCM Executive	Not admitted for debate

15. Special Supplement on Intellectual Freedom



"Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and facilitate access to constitutionally protected expressions of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, including those which some individuals and groups consider unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable. To this end, in accordance with their mandates and professional values and standards, libraries provide, defend and promote equitable access to the widest possible variety of expressive content and resist calls for censorship and the adoption of systems that deny or restrict access to resources."

From the Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries

Canadian Federation of Library Associations



An excerpt:

6.0 Material Acquisitions and Disposal

6.1 Purpose and Statements

The development of the Library collection is guided by the library's Mandate, Values, and Strategic Priorities and should reflect the needs of the community.

The selection and purchase of library materials is the responsibility of the Library Director/Chief Librarian. The selection of any item for the library's collection does not constitute endorsement of the content of the item by the Library.

The Sechelt Public Library Board endorses the Canadian Federation of Library Associations' Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries and the British Columbia Library Association Statement of Intellectual Freedom.



Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries

Canadian Federation of Library Associations

CFLA-FCAB is the united voice of Canada's libraries. We work to influence public policy, advance library excellence, and raise the visibility of libraries in Canada to advance our national intellectual, social, economic, and cultural success.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations recognizes and values the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as the guarantor of the fundamental freedoms in Canada of conscience and religion; of thought, belief, opinion, and expression; of peaceful assembly; and of association.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations supports and promotes the universal principles of intellectual freedom as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which include the interlocking freedoms to hold opinions and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

In accordance with these principles, the Canadian Federation of Library Associations affirms that all persons in Canada have a fundamental right, subject only to the Constitution and the law, to have access to the full range of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, and to express their thoughts publicly. Only the courts may abridge free expression rights in Canada.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations affirms further that libraries have a core responsibility to support, defend and promote the universal principles of intellectual freedom and privacy.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations holds that libraries are a key institution in Canada for rendering expressive content accessible and affordable to all. Libraries are essential gateways for all persons living in Canada to advance themselves through literacy, lifelong learning, social engagement, and cultural enrichment.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and facilitate access to constitutionally protected expressions of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, including those which some individuals and groups consider unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable. To this end, in accordance with their mandates and professional values and standards, libraries provide, defend and promote equitable access to the widest possible variety of expressive content and resist calls for censorship and the adoption of systems that deny or restrict access to resources.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and foster free expression and the right to safe and welcoming places and conditions. To this end, libraries make available their public spaces and services to individuals and groups without discrimination.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and defend privacy in the individual's pursuit of expressive content. To this end, libraries protect the identities and activities of library users except when required by the courts to cede them.

Furthermore, in accordance with established library policies, procedures and due process, libraries resist efforts to limit the exercise of these responsibilities while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups.

Library employees, volunteers and employers as well as library governing entities have a core responsibility to uphold the principles of intellectual freedom in the performance of their respective library roles.



Intellectual Freedom

British Columbia Library Association Statement on Intellectual Freedom It is in the interest for libraries and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expression, including those which are unorthodox or unpopular with the majority.

- It would conflict with the public interest for libraries to establish their own political, moral or aesthetic views as the sole standard for determining what books and other materials should be published or circulated.
- 2. It is contrary to the public interest for libraries or librarians to determine the acceptability of a book solely on the basis of the personal history or political affiliation of the author.
- 3. There is no place in British Columbia for extra-legal efforts to coerce the taste of others, to confine adults to the reading matter deemed suitable for adolescents, or to inhibit the efforts of the writers to achieve artistic expression.
- 4. It is not in the public interest to force a reader to accept any book with the prejudgment of a label characterizing the book or author as subversive or dangerous.
- 5. It is the responsibility of library administrators and librarians, as guardians of the peoples' freedom to read, to contest encroachments upon that freedom by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large.
- 6. It is the responsibility of libraries and librarians to give full meaning to intellectual freedom by providing books and other materials that enrich

7.	the quality of thought and expression. By the exercise of this affirmative responsibility, librarians can demonstrate that the answer to a bad book is a good one, the answer to a bad idea is a good one. Non-book materials should be judged by the same criteria as books.
	Director's Report
	August 29 – September 25, 2024 Page 32