



File

Ref: 116233

September 21, 2017

Ms. Kyla Epstein
Chair
Vancouver Public Library Board
350 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 6B1

Dear Ms. Epstein:

Thank you for your letter of congratulations on my recent appointment as Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology for the Government of British Columbia.

It is an honour to serve British Columbia and our citizens. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities offered by this portfolio.

Once again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Ralston", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bruce Ralston
Minister

OCT - 4 2017



Ms. Kyla Epstein
Chair
Vancouver Public Library Board
350 West Georgia St
Vancouver BC V6B 6B1

Dear Ms. Epstein:

Thank you very much for your warm letter of congratulations. Your support is greatly appreciated.

I am honoured to have been appointed Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and excited to work with so many interested stakeholders to strengthen our mental health and addiction systems and make a difference for the people and families struggling to get the support they need.

Our immediate priority is to urgently address the overdose crisis. In response to what we've heard from people on the front lines about what is most urgently required, we are taking action to save lives now. Some of the steps we are taking include: expanding overdose prevention sites; significantly increasing access to naloxone and people trained to administer it; improving access to pain management services, and to safe medications - especially prescription hydromorphone.

We have also started taking the first steps to develop a transformative mental health and addictions strategy - to improve access to treatment for those who need it, with a focus on early prevention and youth mental health. As the issues facing the mental health and addictions system are complex and inter-related, we are taking an all-of-government approach.

We work closely with the Ministries of Health, Children and Family Development, Education, Housing and Justice, as well as community service agencies, local governments, First Nations and indigenous peoples, health and addictions researchers and advocates, and the whole range of service providers. In all of this work, we are committed to developing solutions in collaboration with people with lived experience and their families. Together we will identify the most effective ways to deliver quality mental health and addiction services across BC.

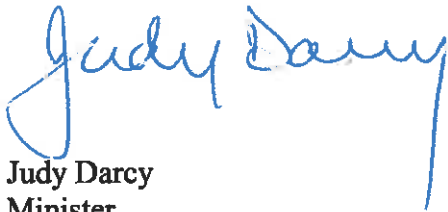
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Our mental health and addictions strategy aims to build an organized, well-coordinated, and resourced system of care for mental health and addictions focused on promoting wellness, prevention, early intervention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery for people and their families. The plan will begin addressing the fragmented mental health and addictions care system so that treatment is seamless, available and effective for everyone who needs it – working toward a system where you can “ask once, and get help fast”.

In the past weeks I have met with frontline providers and advocates from many areas of the province. I have been moved by their compassion and dedication to helping people, despite the many challenges in the system overall. I know that with a collaborative approach, we can build upon the efforts of those working in the field of mental health and addictions to transform supports for British Columbians and create a seamless, coordinated system of care.

Again, thank you for writing, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judy Darcy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long, thin tail on the 'y'.

Judy Darcy
Minister



Vancouver Public Library
Board of Trustees

October 11, 2017

The Honourable Mélanie Joly
Minister of Canadian Heritage
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Melanie.Joly@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Joly,

Re: 2018 Federal Budget – Library and Archives Canada

On behalf of the Vancouver Public Library (VPL) Board, I would like to express appreciation to you and the Federal Government for your inspiring investments in and emerging vision for culture, heritage, and the arts in Canada. It is refreshing to see these three pillars of society recognized as key factors to the success of our country.

I am writing briefly to express the VPL Board's support of the Canadian Urban Libraries Council and Canadian Federation of Library Association's requests that the Federal Government invest \$30M over the next five years (2018-2022) to support a coordinated national initiative to digitize Canada's rich documentary heritage, and to build the digital infrastructure required to make this material available to all Canadians. We see the digitization and preservation of and access to this material as a critical Canadian endeavour that not only helps us understand our complex history, but use of and exposure to these resources help build a more inclusive, creative, and empathetic society moving forward.

In addition to this important investment, we would like to highlight one other pressing issue. With limited inequitable exceptions, First Nations communities across Canada do not have public libraries or access to public library services. Public libraries are critical social infrastructure that ensures every member of a community, regardless of their life circumstances, has access to the information, knowledge, and culture they need to fully participate in the social, economic, and cultural life of their local community, this country, and the world. The VPL Board does not have a proposed solution to this gap, but we highlight it as one of the many systemic inequities we need to address as Canadians and to signal our hope that your Department, or another, will work with First Nations communities so they can define

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Vancouver Public Library

what this type of library infrastructure should look like in their communities and to work with them to create it, including by offering direct financial support.

Finally, I would like to thank you again for the Federal Government's support of the revitalization and expansion of our Central Library. As the most visited indoor public space in Vancouver, the Central Library plays a vital role in the cultural life of Vancouver, including providing free supports and platforms for many artists in Vancouver. Work is proceeding and we look forward to sending you an invitation to the opening in the spring of 2018.

Thank you for your consideration of this submission and, on behalf of the VPL Board, I wish you and your colleagues well as you continue in your work to balance the budget in our increasingly complex world.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'K. Epstein', with a horizontal line underneath.

Kyla Epstein, Chair
Vancouver Public Library Board

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