



May 3, 2018

Ref: 202137

Kyla Epstein, Chair  
Vancouver Library Board  
**Email: [kyla.epstein@gmail.com](mailto:kyla.epstein@gmail.com)**

Dear Ms. Epstein:

Thank you for your letter of April 3, 2018, regarding the 2017 UBCM Resolution B60 on Public Library Funding. I appreciate you sharing the accomplishments of the Vancouver Public Library with me, and highlighting the importance of the diversity and challenges that exist in public library services across the province, particularly in rural and First Nation communities.

I recognize the important contributions libraries make in supporting the well-being of British Columbians. Public libraries will continue to play a key role in helping us achieve our government's goals. In collaboration with library partners, such as Vancouver Public Library, BC Library Trustees Association and the BC Libraries Cooperative, we are making progress on key projects, including:

- Internet connectivity improvements;
- Training and leadership enhancement for staff and trustees; and
- Establishing new partnerships between libraries and government engagement initiatives such as "How We Vote."

I know the cost of delivering library services has increased with changing technology and other demands, such as delivering services in smaller communities. As such, I can confirm the Ministry of Education is looking at the overall strategic priorities of the Libraries Branch and how it relates to funding libraries. As you may know, the Ministry of Education consults regularly on priorities and projects with the BC Library Trustees Association, the BC Library Association, the Association of BC Public Library Directors, and the BC Libraries Cooperative.

I have shared your suggestions with Ministry staff and would like to assure you, your thoughts will be taken under consideration, including the needs of smaller and rural communities.

Again, thank you for bringing these important issues to my attention.

Sincerely,

Rob Fleming  
Minister

pc: Christina de Castell, A/City Librarian, Vancouver Public Library,  
Mayor Gregor Robertson, City of Vancouver,