



*Office of the Chair*

October 31, 2022

Nominations Subcommittee  
City of Vancouver  
453 W 12th Ave  
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Dear Nominations Subcommittee:

**RE: Library Board Appointments 2023**

At its October 26, 2022 meeting, the VPL Board passed the following motion:

*THAT the Board direct the Chair to write to City Council requesting that:*

- *Council no longer appoint VPL Board members from Vancouver Park Board and Vancouver School Board;*
- *The VPL Board size be reduced from 13 to 11 members; and*
- *On a forward basis, the Vancouver Park Board and Vancouver School Board be offered a non-voting liaison role on the VPL Board to participate in regular public meetings.*

The Library Board asks for Council's support in implementing these motions.

The Library Act s.5(2) requires that municipal library boards have between 5 and 13 members, one of which must be a member of municipal council. The appointees from the Vancouver Park Board and Vancouver School Board are not required by the Act, and have been historically implemented as part of the group of appointees that are residents or electors under s.5(2)(b) of the Library Act.

The intention of the above changes is to shift the appointments from the Vancouver Park Board and Vancouver School Board to non-voting liaison roles. This change will better (1) recognize the obligations that these elected officials have to attend the meetings of their respective boards, (2) recognize the operational-level relationships that have developed since this tradition was established in the 1970s, and (3) support the Library Board's ability to meet quorum requirements.

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2022 Trustees:

*Tim Bottomer*  
*Melody Ma*

*Clr Pete Fry*  
*Stuart Mackinnon*

*Kurt Heinrich*  
*Raji Mangat*

*Victor Huang*  
*Harlan Pruden*

*Zahra Hussein*  
*Karen Spears*

*Kevin Lowe*  
*Abeer Yusuf*

Should Council support this governance change, the Library Board will then request that the Vancouver Park Board and the Vancouver School Board appoint a liaison to the Library Board, as they do for other organizations and committees, to maintain the governance connections between these bodies. Council participation will not be necessary for these liaison appointments.

With this change, we further request that the Library Board be reduced from 13 to 11 members. This change will ensure an appropriately sized Library Board that is aligned with the size of other Vancouver governance bodies, including Vancouver City Council (11 members), Vancouver Park Board (7 members) and the Vancouver School Board (9 members).

As part of these governance discussions, the Library Board also considered its interest in supporting UNDRIP through Indigenous representation on the Board, and specifically appointment of representatives of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. We look forward to continuing discussions about these possibilities as the work of the UNDRIP Action Plan and specifically section 3.13 continues, and considering how this may influence VPL governance in the future.

If you have any questions about this transition, please contact me or Chief Librarian & CEO Christina de Castell. On behalf of the VPL Board of Trustees, please accept our deep appreciation for City Council's ongoing support of the Vancouver Public Library.

Yours sincerely,



Kevin Lowe, Chair  
VPL Board of Trustees

cc. Christina de Castell, Chief Librarian & CEO  
Paul Mochrie, City Manager