



Board of Trustees

December 11, 2024

The Honourable Ravi Kahlon, M.L.A.
Minister of Housing & Municipal Affairs

By email: Ravi.Kahlon.mla@leg.bc.ca

Dear Minister Kahlon,

On behalf of the Board of the Vancouver Public Library (VPL), congratulations on your recent re-election as MLA for Delta North, and appointment as Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, encompassing the BC Libraries Branch.

For all British Columbians, public libraries are critically important community infrastructure. They make life more affordable, improve access to services that people count on, and support the development of strong and sustainable economies. Public libraries are community hubs that welcome newcomers, connect people to services, and to one another. By providing these critical supports, VPL and all of BC's public libraries are actively fulfilling government priorities.

Public libraries are supported by investments from local governments, provincial government, and philanthropic contributions. VPL relies on consistent core funding from the Province to meet the demand for services.

We are grateful for the additional one-time \$45M Provincial Enhancement Grant announced in March 2023. VPL's share (\$1.714M, to be spent over 3 years) is being allocated to help address urgent community needs through a combination of increased security and community access workers, as well as additional training for staff who are working in an increasingly complex environment.

With over 4.5 million visits a year, VPL is proud to remain the busiest urban library per capita in Canada. While we appreciate the one-time support from the Province, ongoing and sustainable provincial funding is needed to continue providing the high level of service our community relies on.

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Ziming Yang*

Within the next year, we are looking forward to opening our newest library at Oakridge and unveiling a revitalized Children's Library at Central in downtown Vancouver. It would be our pleasure to host you at these events.

In the meantime, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can strengthen our partnership with the Province. We would also be pleased to provide you with a tour of the Central Library and to share more with you about our services. Please contact Chrysalyn.Tolentino@vpl.ca to set up a time at your convenience.

Thank you for your commitment to serving our community. Once again, our congratulations on your re-election and we look forward to meeting with you soon.

Sincerely,



Kevin Lowe, Chair
Vancouver Public Library Board



Christina de Castell
Chief Librarian & CEO

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