



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

REPORT

Legislative Services

To:	Mayor Cote and Members of Council	Date:	June 13, 2022
From:	Jacque Killawee City Clerk	File:	05.1035.20
		Item #:	2022-426
Subject:	Library Board Letter		

RECOMMENDATION

THAT The City of New Westminster write to the MLA for New Westminster, MLA for Richmond-Queensborough, and the BC Minister for Education; and

THAT The City of New Westminster submit the following motion to UBCM:

WHEREAS libraries in British Columbia are largely financed by levies paid by local governments, and where provincial library funding has remained stagnant for the past 10 years;

AND WHEREAS public libraries are central to communities, provide equitable access to vital resources, including internet, computers, digital library tools and in-person services from expert staff which are essential for low-barrier services and support job seekers and small businesses, that increase literacy in communities, that advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and that promote equity and inclusion;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of the BC Municipalities call on the Government of British Columbia to provide long-term sustainable funding for public libraries in BC and that the Province ensure that BC Libraries will henceforth receive regular increases to Provincial Government funding in subsequent years.

AND THAT The City of New Westminster share the above motion with BC municipalities.

PURPOSE

To provide Council with a resolution that can be forwarded to UBCM in support of the Library Board Request.

BACKGROUND

On May 27, 2022 the Library Board requested to delegate to Council and submitted the letter attached to this agenda for Council's consideration. The letter contains the following motion:

WHEREAS public libraries are central to communities, providing equitable access to vital resources, including internet, computers, digital library tools, and in-person services from expert staff; and

WHEREAS public libraries provide British Columbians with low-barrier services, that support job seekers and small businesses, that increase literacy in communities, that advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and that promote equity and inclusion; and

WHEREAS libraries in British Columbia are largely financed by levies paid by local governments, and where provincial library funding has remained stagnant for the past 10 years

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT The City of New Westminster write to the MLA for New Westminster, MLA for Richmond- Queensborough, and the BC Minister for Education; and

THAT The City of New Westminster submit the following motion to UBCM:

Whereas libraries in British Columbia are largely financed by levies paid by local governments, and where provincial library funding has remained stagnant for the past 10 years:

And whereas public libraries are central to communities, providing equitable access to vital resources, including internet, computers, digital library tools, and in-person services from expert staff;

And whereas public libraries provide British Columbians with low-barrier services, that support job seekers and small businesses, that increase literacy in communities, that advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and that promote equity and inclusion;

Therefore be it resolved that the City of New Westminster urge the Government of British Columbia to provide long-term sustainable funding for public libraries in BC;

And be it further resolved that the Province ensure that BC Libraries will henceforth receive regular increases to Provincial Government funding in subsequent years.

AND THAT The City of New Westminster share the above motion with BC municipalities.

DISCUSSION

In reviewing the letter staff realized that the motion the Library Board proposed to submit to UBCM did not meet the criteria for a UBCM which needs to have only 2 whereas clauses and a single Therefore clause. Staff therefore propose an alternate motion for Council's consideration that meets the UBCM requirements. This motion was created in conjunction with Councillor Nakagawa. The motion is as follows:

THAT The City of New Westminster submit the following motion to UBCM:

Whereas libraries in British Columbia are largely financed by levies paid by local governments, and where provincial library funding has remained stagnant for the past 10 years:

And whereas public libraries are central to communities, providing equitable access to vital resources, including internet, computers, digital library tools, and in-person services from expert staff which are essential for low-barrier services and support job seekers and small businesses, that increase literacy in communities, that advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and that promote equity and inclusion;

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM urge the Government of British Columbia to provide long-term sustainable funding for public libraries in BC and that the Province ensure that BC Libraries will henceforth receive regular increases to Provincial Government funding in subsequent years.

When staff send the motion to UBCM the letter from the Library Board will be attached to provide the context for the motion.

This motion will be submitted before the final deadline for motions which is June 30, 2022 but will not have been approved by the spring LMLGA meeting. This may lead to the resolution not being included in the resolution book for UBCM.

The Library has also let staff know that this resolution is part of a larger campaign with other municipalities as of April, Creston, Cranbrook, North Vancouver City and Burnaby has passed similar Council resolutions.

OPTIONS

The options before Council are the following:

1. THAT The City of New Westminster write to the MLA for New Westminster, MLA for Richmond-Queensborough, and the BC Minister for Education; and
THAT The City of New Westminster submit the following motion to UBCM:
WHEREAS libraries in British Columbia are largely financed by levies paid by local governments, and where provincial library funding has remained stagnant for the past 10 years;
AND WHEREAS public libraries are central to communities, providing equitable access to vital resources, including internet, computers, digital library tools, and in-person services from expert staff which are essential for low-barrier services and support job seekers and small businesses, that increase literacy in communities, that advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and that promote equity and inclusion;
THEREFORE be it resolved that the UBCM urge the Government of British Columbia to provide long-term sustainable funding for public libraries in BC and that the Province ensure that BC Libraries will henceforth receive regular increases to Provincial Government funding in subsequent years.
AND THAT The City of New Westminster share the above motion with BC municipalities.
2. That Council endorse the recommendation as presented in the Library Board letter.
3. That Council provide other direction to staff.

Staff recommend option 1

APPROVALS

This report was approved by:

Jacque Killawee, City Clerk

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer