



April 24, 2020

Hi Mari,

Thank you for taking the time to speak with us this morning.

As discussed, we're sending this email to provide support for the proposed virtual Summer Reading Club, and underline the urgency for this project to get started.

The Summer Reading Club is a tradition that thousands of children and their families look forward to every year. It promotes literacy, love of reading, and a connection to libraries. Up until now, it required a physical visit to your local library.

But as we all know - times are changing. Whether it's the wildfires of last year, or COVID-19 this year, we need a more robust and flexible way to support children and families. That's why BC library directors are so excited by and supportive of a virtual Summer Reading Club.

As we mentioned on the phone this morning, getting this project started is time sensitive. In the absence of a virtual shared platform, we're starting to hear things from our members that are concerning, such as:

1. Libraries are starting to investigate doing their own versions of a virtual Summer Reading Club. We are running the risk of having multiple platforms across the province.
2. Equitable access - what happens to smaller libraries who don't have the funds to create their own versions of a platform?
3. Duplication of staff time and resources - in this time of economic constraints, more than ever, we need to take advantage of economies of scale.

We understand that the BC Library Association has put forward a proposal to the Libraries Branch to create a virtual Summer Reading Club platform. We are hopeful this project will be able to move forward and provide continuity for this important children's literacy program.

Thank you for your time.

The ABCPLD Board

Scott Hargrove, Chair (Fraser Valley Regional Library)
Elizabeth Tracy, Vice Chair (Whistler Public Library)
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