



BC Public Library Partners
c/o BC Library Trustees Association
108-9865 140th Street
Surrey, BC, V3T 4M4

March 26, 2019

RE: Mayors' Caucus, Prince George, BC, March 31st to April 2nd.

The BC Public Library Partners¹ send greetings to the Mayors of British Columbia and wish you all the best during your time together in Prince George.

You are all familiar with your local library and the important role that each of you have in ensuring the continued development of public library services in your communities. We commend all of you for the leadership you demonstrate when you support your public library with direct funding and resource support. Thank you!

As you know, public libraries bring unique value to the economic and social development of your communities. Across this province they are the only place that provides equitable access to skilled staff and the information and tools necessary for participating in learning, exploring new ideas, employment, business start-ups, family literacy and programming, newcomer integration, and the myriad of other ways that individuals and community come together to share ideas, aspirations, and resources.

We strongly believe that the 71 public library systems that deliver public library services across BC are making a positive difference to what is important to individuals and families in your communities and to what is important to your goals and Official Community Plans.

Public libraries are community economic anchors and business incubators. As an economic anchor, public libraries bring people to local businesses and strengthen community vibrancy, livability, and a sense of belonging.

As a business incubator, public libraries provide expertise, shared resources, and space for entrepreneurs and business start-ups. Many successful business plans got their start in the public library. As well, public libraries through the value they place on life-long learning support workers in acquiring skills and knowledge for changing economies and secure employment.

¹ The BC Public Library Partners are the BC Library Trustees Association, the BC Library Association, the Association of BC Public Library Directors, and the BC Libraries Cooperative.

Public libraries work with local First Nations and Indigenous organizations to honour the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. Throughout BC, public libraries have been part of meaningful events and initiatives that further reconciliation and strengthen municipal governance and service relationships with First Nations.

For us, and the members our organizations represent, this is an exciting time to be sharing the unique value proposition of public libraries with you.

On May 11th, following the annual BC Library Conference, we will be hosting a BC Public Libraries Summit in Surrey BC. The topic for the Summit is Future Focused Public Libraries: value, investment and results. We look forward to seeing many of you and your councillors at the Summit.

Sincerely,



Babs Kelly,
Executive Director, BCLTA

On behalf of the BC Public Library Partners:

Scott Hargrove, Chair, Association of BC Public Library Directors
Elizabeth Tracy, Vice Chair, Association of BC Public Library Directors
Annette DeFaveri, ED, BC Library Association
Shirley Lew, President, BC Library Association
Dana McFarland, Board Chair, BC Libraries Cooperative
Kevin Millsip, Managing Director, BC Libraries Cooperative
Sharon Herbert, Manager, BC Libraries Cooperative
Jerrilyn Schembri, President, BC Library Trustees Association