

Provincial Role and Responsibilities: Orientation for New Library Directors

Public Libraries Branch

Director Mari Martin and Library Consultant Adrienne Wass



British Columbians Grow, Innovate, and Thrive through Connected Public Libraries

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BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ministry of
Municipal Affairs

Today's Presentation

B.C.'s Public Library System

The Public Libraries Branch

Provincial Funding

Reporting and Accountability

Strategic Plan & Current Initiatives



B.C.'s Public Library System - Overview

The system is supported by multiple partners working together toward shared goals.

- B.C.'s public library system is strongest when everyone works together.
- We work with library partners and federations to improve library services continuously.
- Partners include:
 - Association of BC Public Library Directors (ABCPLD)
 - BC Library Trustees Association (BCLTA)
 - BC Library Association (BCLA)
 - BC Libraries Cooperative (BCLC)
 - BC ELN and Decoda



Public Libraries Branch Team

Public Libraries Branch Team



Mari Martin, Director
she/her



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Contact us at
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Latest News

- ✓ November 26th responsibilities for Public Libraries (Library Act) moved to **Ministry of Municipal Affairs.**
- ✓ **Honourable Josie Osborne**, appointed **Minister of Municipal Affairs**
- ✓ **Name change!** Reclaiming our **Public Libraries Branch** roots!
- ✓ Now located in the Local Government Division (areas include UBCM, Planning and Land Use, Advisory Services, Grants).



PLB's Role, Responsibility and Mandate

Ministry Role -- Director of Public Library Service, Library Act s.51(1-3)

- Implement mandate, strategic plan and government priorities
- Manage provincial grants and reporting (under direction of the Minister)
- Work with external partners to deliver and coordinate services
- Provide advice, guidance and other system support
- Administer the Act

Library Act Mandate (purpose):

- Governance framework for public libraries
- Promotion of the extension and improvement library services

Provincial Strategic Plan for Public Library Services

- Strategies and Actions for over 3 years

Key Points of the Library Act

- Mandates free basic library service.
- Provides the mechanism for the establishment and operation of public libraries.
- Authorizes the allocation of provincial grants for public library services.
- Encourages the extension and use of public library service throughout British Columbia.
- Enables the delivery of public library service in the province through independent library boards.
- Details the general powers and duties of the library board and board members (or trustees) –including hiring of a “chief librarian”, responsibilities and agreements.



71 public libraries
249 library branch locations
serving more than
360 communities



The Act - Types of Public Libraries

| Type | # | Creation | Governance |
|----------------------------|----|--|---|
| Public Library Association | 36 | Historic. No longer allowed under the <i>Library Act</i> . | Board: elected local gov't officials and/or elected library members (residents) |
| Municipal Library | 30 | Any municipality can create their own. | Board: members appointed by municipality |
| Regional Library System | 3 | Service agreement between 2 or more municipalities and 1 or more regional districts. | Board: regional and municipal elected representatives from participating local gov'ts |
| Integrated Library System | 2 | Historic. No longer allowed under the <i>Library Act</i> . | Departments within regional districts, managed by Regional District Board through RD staff. |

Library Federations

- There are six library federations in B.C.
- A library federation is a group of library boards in a similar geographic area who join together to provide expand library service to their members and their communities.
- Library federations do not run the local libraries.
- They support collaboration, professional development and resource sharing, sharing services delivered by their member libraries.
- Connect member with one another, enabling knowledge-sharing and a peer support network.



What can you ask us?

- What is the role of my library board under the Library Act?
- Why does my library need municipal type audited financial statements?
- How does my library participate in interlibrary loan?
- I don't understand a question from the Annual Survey. Who can I talk to?
- Can I get some feedback on our provincial grant report?
- My board has questions about the Library Act—are you able to join us for a discussion?
- What roles does a municipal council appointee play on the board?
- Where does the population data come from and how is it calculated?
- What is a library service area population? How do you know which areas our library serves?



Keep your contact information current!



Make sure the Public Libraries Branch has your current contact information.



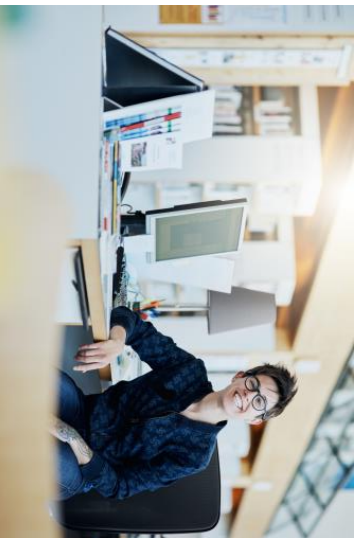
We will subscribe you to the Public Libraries Branch – Library Directors’ Listserv



Update your contact information through the Counting Opinions – Contact Information Survey.



We email important updates and opportunities throughout the year.



Stay connected and informed



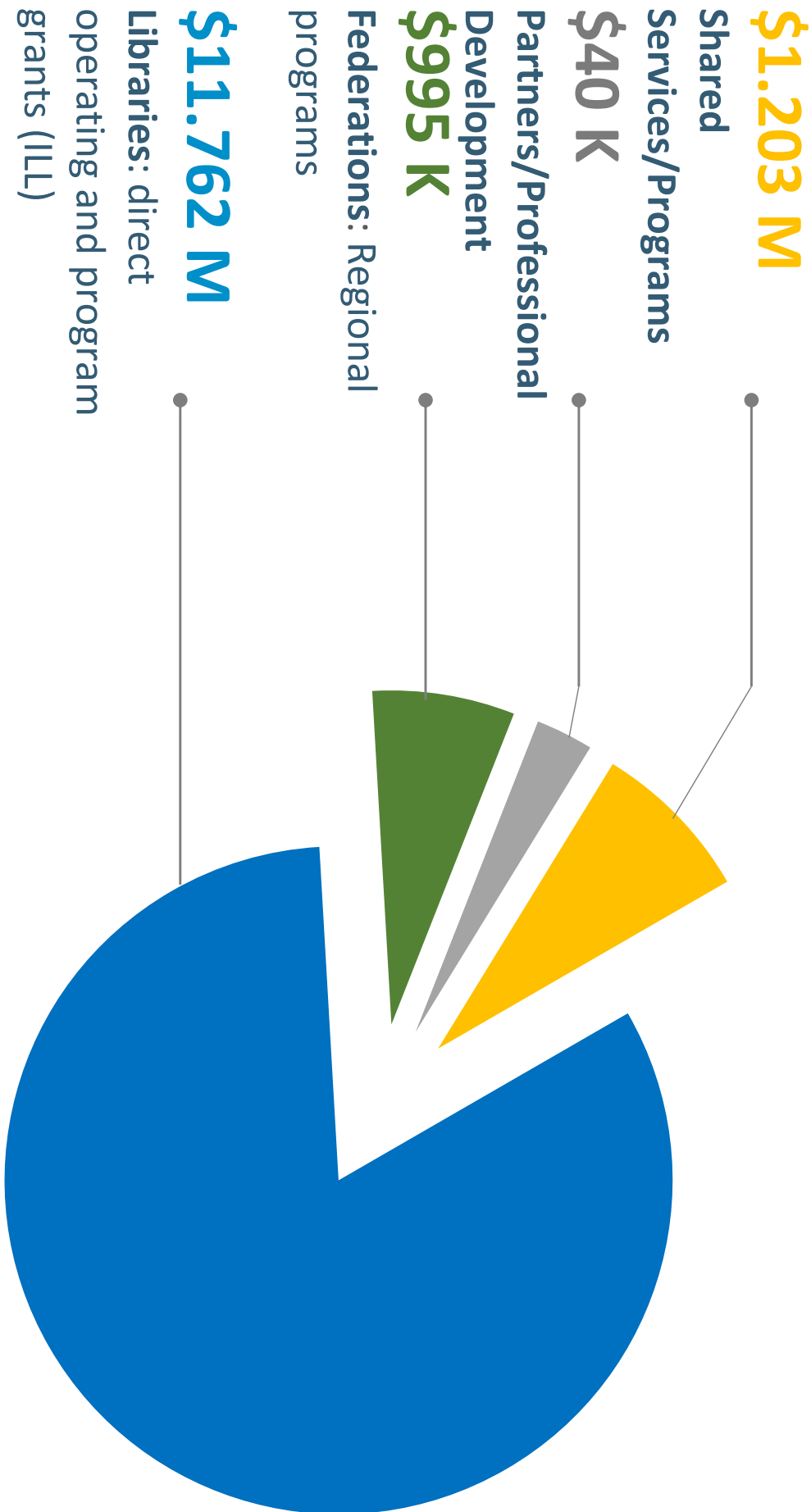
Provincial Funding Overview

The Province provides funding to public libraries to support:

- Equitable access to information, programs, and services across the province
- Greater collaboration between libraries
- Information technology infrastructure, such as SITKA, Consortia Purchasing and LIBPress (website)
- Province-wide programs including:
 - BC Summer Reading Club
 - Interlibrary loan
 - BC OneCard
 - Accessible Library Collections (NNEELS)
 - And more!
- Check out the [Quick guide to Grants!](#)



Provincial Funding for Public Libraries \$14M/year



Provincial Reporting and Accountability

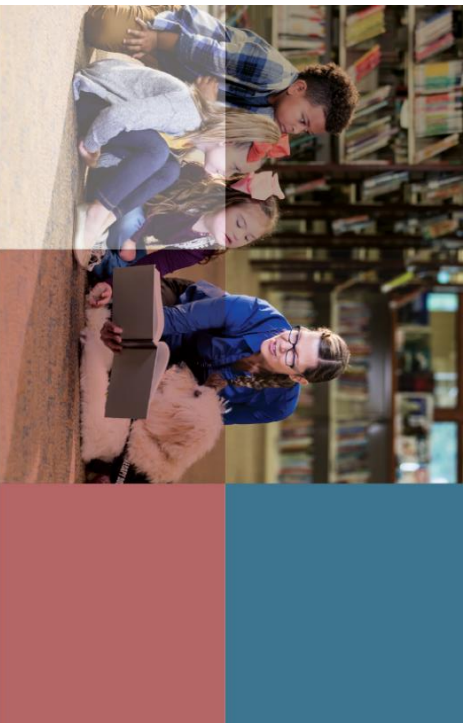
- PLB is accountable for use of public funds.
- Oversight happens through:
 - Grant Award Letter (to Board Chair)
 - Annual Grant Allocation Document (PDF)
 - Reporting (Internal and External)
- Libraries demonstrate accountability through:
 1. Provincial Public Library Grant Report (PLGR) (including Tech grant report)
 2. Annual Survey (data on libraries)
 3. Statement of Financial Information (SOFI)



The information you and your board provide is vital to informed decision-making. It helps us develop policy, build programs, provide advice to government and more.



Provincial Strategic Plan (2020-23)



Libraries provide opportunities for people to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to reach their full potential and participate in a strong, sustainable economy.

Four key strategies:

Improving access for British Columbians: Supporting a connected library network to deliver user-centred programs and services through the province

Building capacity: Reducing barriers for library staff and board members to access training opportunities so that they can continue to provide quality and future-focused library services

Advancing citizen engagement: Increasing opportunities for people to access the information and resources they need to thrive.

Enhancing governance: Leading at the provincial level and supporting governance education

News Release: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EDUC0019-000652>



Current Initiatives



Provincial-wide licensing

Access: [Tumblebooks](#), [Linked-in.com](#), [Overdrive](#)



Digital Initiative Project -
Connectivity

Micro-grants for connectivity improvements, consultation support, networking



Library Technology Grant

Library hardware upgrades, lendable technology, programs



Also working on:

Updating the ILL Code;
Privacy Guidelines; and
New Library Directors' Guide.



Thank you



Home > Sports, recreation, arts and culture > Arts & Culture >

- Accessible Library Collections
- BC OneCard
- Facts and Stats
- Summer Reading Club
- Community Literacy
- Tools and Resources for Library Administrators

Public Libraries



British Columbians Grow, Innovate, and Thrive through Connected Public Libraries

Public libraries are at the heart of B.C.'s diverse and unique communities. Libraries are a place to learn and explore. Libraries are future focused, providing British Columbians from all walks of life access to information, services, and resources. Libraries offer free access to the Internet, accessible reading materials for people with print disabilities, programs for people of all ages, access to digital resources, books, magazines, newspapers, and so much more!

Learn about Programs and Services

- Accessible Library Collections
- BC Public Libraries Facts and Stats
- BC One Card
- Community Literacy
- Summer Reading Club

Tools and Resources for Library Administrators

- Legislation and Governance of Public Libraries
- Provincial Funding for Public Libraries
- Reporting and Accountability Requirements
- Information for Library Trustees
- Provincially Supported



Menu

Your Public Library

Did you know your B.C. public libraries have over 15 million print and digital items for loan and offer a variety of programs and services for all ages?

Find hours of operation, programs, services, and locations for your public library below.

* Find your public library.

Provincial Vision and Strategic Plan

Public libraries are an integral part of Government's vision for a province that works for everyone. We are enabling libraries to deliver the connected and digitally enhanced programs, services, and information resources British Columbians need now and into the future.

* Provincial Strategic Plan for Public Library Service 2020 (PDF, 1.5MB)

Contact us:

llb@gov.bc.ca

www.gov.bc.ca/publiclibraries

Learn more about:

- Reporting and instructions
- Strategic Plan
- Annual Survey (data on public libraries)
- Legislation and governance
- Provincial programs (ILL, BC OneCard)
- Resources for trustees
- Grants and funding



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Appendix A

2020 Provincial Library Funding Breakdown

| Grant | 2020 Actual |
|--|---------------------|
| Per Capita Operating | \$9,856,846 |
| Resource Sharing | \$322,378 |
| BC OneCard | \$822,886 |
| Literacy/Equity | \$759,451 |
| Direct to Libraries Grants Total | \$11,761,561 |
| Resource Sharing (Software) – BC ELN | \$138,339 |
| Technology – BC Libraries Cooperative | \$980,100 |
| Association Operating – BCLA, BCLTA | \$40,000 |
| Alternate Formats - NNELS | \$85,000 |
| Federations | \$995,000 |
| Partner/Services Grants Total | \$2,238,439 |
| Total Annual Grants | \$14,000,000 |
| Digital Initiatives Project/Tech Grants (one-time) | \$3,000,000 |



Provincial Funding for Public Libraries – Grant Allocations

Local & Provincial Government Funding

\$14M (2010-2019)

Provincial Funding
5.5% of total public library funding in 2019

\$239M (2019)

Local Government Funding
Total Local Government funding has increased 38% since 2010 (\$175M)

