



May 19, 2022

Honourable Nathan Cullen
Minister of Municipal Affairs
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Cullen:

Thank you for believing in Public Libraries and providing this much-needed one-time investment.

Libraries are at the heart of communities. Open to all, we provide one of the few free places where people of all ages, backgrounds, and capabilities can gather, share ideas, and develop skills. Over the past two years, libraries have, as you said, “shown their mettle.” We have been a stable presence in communities upended by emergencies – providing books to children when schools were closed; virtual storytimes for families at home; Zoom lessons to seniors isolated from families; computers to job seekers; support to individuals navigating changing health regulations, vaccine passports and appointments.

By providing this one time funding, you’ve lightened some of the financial burdens we’ve incurred over the past two years serving our communities. Pandemic costs associated with cleaning and public health, the increased price of and demand for ebooks, significant inflation – these have left libraries struggling. While businesses raise prices to meet their bottom line, our only option is to cut services.

Libraries are eager to support this government’s commitment to making life more affordable in our province. By growing your investment in libraries, you are ensuring that all British Columbians continue to have access to the spaces, services, and skills they need to thrive.

We are looking forward to meeting with you again soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Walters." The signature is fluid and cursive.

Susan Walters
Chair, Association of BC Public Library Directors
Director, Richmond Public Library

Cc: Tara Faganello, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division; Marijke Edmondson, Strategic Advisor, Local Government Division; Mari Martin, Director, Public Libraries Branch; Leigh Anne Palmer, Executive Director, Association of BC Public Library Directors