



March 31, 2023

**VIA EMAIL**

Kevin Lowe  
Vancouver Public Library  
350 West Georgia Street  
Vancouver, BC V6B 6B1  
c/o Email: christina.decastell@vpl.ca

**Subject: Public Library Grants Award Letter**

Dear Kevin Lowe:

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Public Libraries Branch (PLB) is pleased to inform you that your library will receive the following grants to support public library services and provincial programs:

- **Per Capita Operating Grant 2023: \$1181731.32** - to support ongoing public library operations and participation in province-wide initiatives.
- **Resource Sharing Grant 2023: \$19705.28** - to support libraries in materials sharing by alleviating the costs involved in running and managing their interlibrary loan service.
- **BC OneCard Grant 2023: \$40207** - to enable active patrons of any public library in B.C. to use their library card to borrow from other libraries throughout the province.
- **Literacy & Equity Grant 2023: \$50800** - to support access to lifelong learning and literacy experiences through the expansion of library collections, programs, and services.
- **Enhancement Grant (one-time): \$738897.15** - this grant may be used over three years (2023-2025) to support local library service enhancement, including helping address shifting demands on services, collections, programs, and spaces. This grant may also be used to respond to local service priorities, making services more accessible and inclusive, and/or increasing climate readiness and resilience when facing future challenges.

The one-time, targeted Enhancement Grant is intended to supplement local government funding and is not intended to replace it. Enhancement Grant funding may be used over three years to enrich people's library experiences through augmented local services, programs, and collections and support libraries in working together to extend services.

The ministry will deposit the total amount of **\$2031340.75** electronically into the account of the financial institution that your library has designated. The ministry will email a notice to your library upon payment.

The *Public Libraries Provincial Grants Allocations* document is available [online](#) and lists the funds allocated to each library, federation, and partner for 2023.

Please ensure a copy is saved for use in preparing the library's financial statements. The public library board is responsible for ensuring that conditions of provincial funding (as outlined in this letter) are met each year.

## **Strategic Context**

Government has a mandate to make life better for people in B.C., improve the services we all rely on, and ensure a sustainable province for future generations. Libraries are a critical part of this mandate, contributing to vibrant and liveable communities, connecting people and supporting life-long learning and skills development. This funding gives libraries the flexibility to address local priorities while helping government to deliver on its priorities including: accessibility; inclusion; workforce skills development; and reconciliation.

Funding, although distributed as five library grants, may be combined to ensure libraries support provincial priorities and help fulfil the goals outlined in [B.C.'s Strategic Plan for Public Library Service](#).

## **Conditions**

In accordance with the conditions placed on these ministry grants, libraries must submit specific reports as outlined below. Continued provincial funding for the library is contingent on the completion and filing of these three reports:

- 2023 Provincial Public Library Grants Report - **due March 1, 2024**
- 2023 Statement of Financial Information - **due May 15, 2024**
- 2023 Annual Survey of B.C.'s Public Libraries - **due May 15, 2024**

Further reporting and accountability information, including instructions and templates, is available through the BC Government website ([Public Libraries - Reporting and Accountability section](#)). Libraries are expected to report on the use

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of the Enhancement grant as part of the accountability framework described above. To meet funding expectations of the enhancement grant, libraries must clearly describe how all funds were used.

Please be aware that the ministry will reclaim any portion of the grants should the library not use the funds for their intended purposes and meet the accountability requirements outlined in this letter.

Government is committed to open public access to information and bound by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA)*. The Province may release any or all information submitted in these reports to the public. The Province may release any or all information submitted for these reports to the public in accordance with the FIPPA.

Also, as a condition of assistance, recipients of this funding are asked to acknowledge the Province's assistance on written and digital materials wherever reasonable. The following acknowledgement may be used:

*"We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs."*

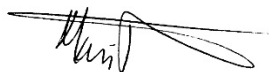
As a reminder, permission is required to use B.C.'s Visual Identity. As a third party, each organization must review these [guidelines](#) on the use of the BC Mark (logo).

## **Appreciation**

On behalf of the ministry, I would like to express appreciation to you, your board, and staff for your ongoing commitment and hard work. Your contributions and focus on meeting people's diverse needs help make B.C.'s communities more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable. Working together, we can ensure that British Columbians benefit from innovative, accessible, and equitable library services.

If you have any questions about this letter or grant use, please do not hesitate to call 1-800-663-7051 or email [PUBLIB@gov.bc.ca](mailto:PUBLIB@gov.bc.ca).

Sincerely,



Mari Martin  
Director

pc: Christina de Castell, Library Director