



Vancouver Public Library

## MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: April 16, 2019  
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TO: Library Board  
FROM: Kurt Heinrich, Chair, CRPD Committee  
**SUBJECT: Provincial Grants to Public Libraries**

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### **SUMMARY**

This report provides information about the reduced funding received by VPL from the Province of BC in 2019 and that will be received in 2020, and recommends next steps.

### **PURPOSE**

This report is for decision.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Board direct the Chief Librarian to draft a proposed resolution intended for the Union of BC Municipalities, for Council consideration, requesting that the Province of British Columbia increase funding to public libraries, and discuss this with InterLINK federation members.

### **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

The Community Relations, Planning and Development Committee discussed the reduction in the Provincial grant to VPL in 2019, and recommended that the VPL Board take steps to seek increased funding for libraries, through drafting a proposed resolution for the Union of BC Municipalities, and discussing the issue with MLAs.

## **BACKGROUND**

Public libraries in British Columbia are governed by the provincial Library Act. The Province of British Columbia provides \$14 million in grants to libraries annually. There are 71 public libraries in BC, with 247 locations.

The budget of VPL annually is \$54.25 million, with 91% of the funding provided by the City of Vancouver. In VPL's 2019 budget, the Province of BC contribution was identified as \$1,316,300, representing 2.43% of the overall VPL budget, based on grants in prior years.

## **DISCUSSION**

VPL received the Provincial Grant allocation letter dated March 26, 2019 and learned that the amount granted to VPL in 2019 is \$1,240,007, a variance of \$76,293 or 5.8% from the budgeted amount for 2019, and a reduction of \$49,755 or 3.9% from 2018. This reduces the provincial contribution from 2.43% of the overall VPL annual operating budget to 2.29%.

The reduction has occurred due to increased resource sharing in the province and shifting population. The operating grants are based on per capita calculations, which are now using the 2016 Census population rather than the higher annually updated Provincial population estimate. The resource sharing grants are based on use of VPL materials by people living in other regions, and the amount per use has been reduced in order to keep the total disbursements within the Province's \$14 million budget.

Staff have contacted the City of Vancouver to advise of the revenue shortfall and will be monitoring the budget. In 2020, VPL expects to receive a similar amount.

	<b>2017 Actual</b>	<b>2018 Actual</b>	<b>2019 Actual</b>
Per Capita Operating	1,169,202	1,169,202	1,126,986
OneCard	67,215	46,722	40,207
Resource Sharing	22,837	23,110	22,086
Literacy/Equity	50,728	50,728	50,728
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,309,982</b>	<b>1,289,762</b>	<b>1,240,007</b>

## **FINAL REMARKS**

Provincial funding for libraries has been static for many years, increasing the pressure on the City of Vancouver and the Library's limited revenue options to address inflationary pressure and demand for new and expanded services.