



March 1, 2022

File No. 0400.50

Dear AKBLG member local governments,

Re: Request for Provincial Government to increase its funding to public libraries

On behalf of Cranbrook City Council, I am writing to share the City of Cranbrook's resolution regarding public library funding from the Provincial Government.

The City of Cranbrook endorsed the following resolution which calls for the UBCM to lobby the Province / Ministry of Municipal Affairs to increase its public library funding to address regulatory requirements as well as offsetting the inflationary increases to operating costs. The resolution reads as follows:

Whereas libraries in British Columbia are largely funded by the property tax base of local governments, and provincial library funding has remained stagnant for the past 13 years;

And whereas public libraries are central to communities, providing equitable access to vital resources, including internet, computers, digital library tools, and in-person services from expert staff;

And whereas public libraries provide British Columbians with low-barrier services, that support job seekers and small businesses, that increase literacy in communities, that advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and that promote equity and inclusion;

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC be requested to immediately increase funding to public libraries in BC and to provide long-term sustainable funding, including regular increases, in future years.

We are requesting consideration and a motion of support from all AKBLG member local governments for submission of a motion for debate at the 2022 UBCM convention.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to reach out should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mike Peabody
Acting Mayor

MP/kt

Copy: Cranbrook City Council
Mark Fercho, CAO
Marnie Dueck, City Clerk/Corporate Officer