

VIA EMAIL

March 26, 2014

Dear Library Board Chairs,

The Ministry of Education is pleased to inform you that you will receive a series of grants to support your operations and shared infrastructure costs for 2014.

The 2014 grants to libraries will be paid out in two payments.

The grants allocated in the first payment have been directed to smaller libraries, federations and partners to ensure essential operations are supported and scheduled cost sharing agreements are met.

The second payment has been made to the remaining larger libraries and federations to allocate the balance of library grants for 2014. The Ministry will deposit those funds electronically into the account at the financial institution that your library has designated. A notice will be mailed to you once payment has been made.

Please find attached to this letter the detailed expectations for these grants, as well as the detailed allocations for each library.

Provincial funding for libraries, while distributed as four grants, should be considered jointly, and used in mutually supportive ways to ensure that our priorities are met and that collectively, libraries across the province remain strong. Funding for individual public libraries is distributed as the following:

- Operating Grant;
- Resource Sharing Grant;
- BC OneCard Grant; and
- Library Literacy Grant.

In accordance with conditions placed on all government grants, libraries must submit specific documents as outlined below. Continued provincial funding for your library is contingent on the completion of three reports:

1. *2014 Provincial Library Grants Report* (due March 1, 2015),
2. *2014 Statement of Financial Information (SOFI)* (due May 15, 2015), and
3. *2014 Annual Survey of Public Libraries* (also due May 15, 2015).

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The BC government is committed to open public access to information and is bound by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The Province may release any or all information submitted for these reports to the public and libraries are asked to consider that fact in their responses.

Please be aware that the Ministry will reclaim any portion of the grants should the library not use the funds received for the purposes outlined in the attached grants description and the priorities and expectations letters.

Thank you and best wishes to your board and staff for their continued success in maintaining your public library as a vital service for everyone in your community, and as an integral part of the British Columbia library community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Beverley Shaw".

Beverley Shaw
Acting Director

Attachments

1. 2014 Expectations and Priorities (below)
2. 2014 Library Grant Allocations

ATTACHMENT
2014 Priorities and Expectations

Provincial Investments

Provincial funding for public libraries, federations and library organizations is helping to support high quality library service for all British Columbians and aiding libraries as they meet new challenges.

In addition to the direct library grants, the Province invests in a variety of shared services, resources and infrastructure that benefits all libraries and communities:

- Library federations to enhance local and regional delivery of library services;
- BC Libraries Cooperative to facilitate collaborative initiatives and shared operational infrastructure and resources;
- Sitka integrated library system;
- Web Content Management Solution;
- BC Summer Reading Club;
- Auto-Graphics license for Outlook Online (co-funded and administered with BC Electronic Library Network);
- National Network for Equitable Library Service: Canadian Accessible Library Service project (alternative formats);
- Support for BC Library Association and BC Library Trustees Association; and
- Commons Online Community.

Funding is focused on support for equitable access across the province, while ensuring that each library continues to be focused on and responsive to the needs of their community.

Expectations with Provincial Funding

Grant funding for the library sector should support initiatives which take advantage of economies of scale, leverage mutual interests, and enhance the stability of libraries by improving organizational infrastructure and encouraging the broad sharing of resources. There is an expectation for libraries to continue examining and participating within shared services models, within their federations, through the BC Libraries Cooperative, and beyond.

Provincial Priorities

In 2014, library funding should address the following BC Government priorities:

1. **A focus on equitable access** to library services for all British Columbians, including efforts to extend library service, both physical and digital, to under-represented populations (e.g. Aboriginal users and visually impaired).
2. **Increased connections and supports for education transformation and the BC Jobs Plan** particularly in the areas of personalized learning, and workforce/employment supports.
3. **A focus on collaboration and cooperation between libraries and other partners.** For example, the development of shared service models and resources which extend or improve seamless access.
4. **Accountability and transparency** in relations with the public, supporting open governance through strong planning, effective measurement, modeling decision transparency and clear reporting of outcomes for library programs and services.
5. **Community engagement and planning.** For example, actively supporting community priorities and initiatives, and building collaborative community partnerships.

The 2014 Provincial Library Grants report should provide details as to how these funds have been used in light of these priorities.

Moving Forward

BC's libraries are re-inventing themselves to meet the demands of an ever-changing world, where the knowledge and skills of citizens are as important to a healthy community as any other economic resource. In this new knowledge economy, libraries are a central hub. As we continue to grow and adapt, we look forward to continuing to working closely with libraries to provide the highest quality library service for all British Columbians.