



June 11, 2021

VIA EMAIL

Public Library Board Chair
c/o Board Chairs List
Email: library-board-chairs@lists.lib.gov.bc.ca

Subject: 2021 Public Library Grants Award Letter

Dear Public Library Board Chair:

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 operations and provincial programs for 2021:

- **Per Capita Operating Grant** - to support ongoing public library operations and participation in province-wide initiatives.
- **Resource Sharing Grant** – to support libraries in materials sharing by alleviating the costs involved in running and managing their interlibrary loan service.
- **BC OneCard Grant** – to enable active patrons of any public library in B.C. to use their library card to borrow from other libraries throughout the province.
- **Equity and Literacy Grant** - to support access to life-long learning and literacy experiences through the expansion of library collections, programs and services.

The ministry will deposit funds electronically into the account of the financial institution that your library has designated. The ministry will email a notice to your library upon payment.

Public libraries are receiving the same grant amounts now as they did in March 2020. We have decided to keep funding stable to libraries again this year by not making any adjustments from 2020. As a result, no library system will experience a reduction.

The [Public Libraries Provincial Grants Allocations document \(2021\)](#), which lists the funds allocated to each library, federation and partner in 2021, is available online. 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 below) are met each year.

Strategic Context

Provincial funding to public libraries is focused on increasing access to information and services throughout the province while enabling each library to respond to the diverse needs of its communities. Through collaboration, the PLB and libraries can provide people with access to the services, technology, digital and learning resources they need to reach their full potential.

Funding, although distributed as four grants, may be used in mutually supportive ways to ensure Provincial priorities are fulfilled. The priorities and areas of focus for 2021 continue to be based on the strategies and actions 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:

- *2021 Provincial Public Library Grants Report* (due **March 1, 2022**)
- *2021 Statement of Financial Information* (due **May 15, 2022**)
- *2021 Annual Survey of Public Libraries* (due **May 15, 2022**)

Further reporting and accountability information, including instructions and templates, is available in the [Public Libraries - Reporting and Accountability section](#).

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.

As of the time of writing this letter, British Columbia is still under a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To support the continuation of public library services wherever possible, libraries are receiving this funding even if their regular operations are disrupted. Significant changes in the use of these funds, however, must be first brought to the attention of the ministry and pre-approved.

Government is committed to open public access to information and bound by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The Province may release any or all information submitted in these reports to the public and will be making them available on the website.

Also, as a condition of assistance, recipients of this funding are asked to acknowledge the Province of British Columbia'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 on the use of [BC's Visual Identity](#). As a Third Party, each organizations must review this [guide](#) on the use of the BC 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, particularly in the face of pandemic challenges. Your contributions and focus on your communities' diverse needs help make them stronger and more resilient. Working together, we can ensure that British Columbians will 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 the Public Libraries Branch at LLB@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mari Martin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mari Martin
Director

Attachment: [Public Libraries Provincial Grants Allocations: 2021 Grants \(view online\)](#)

pc: Public Library Directors (email list)