



BPL Board Agenda

Regular Meeting

Date Thursday, January 15, 2026
Time 6:00pm
Location Boardroom
 Bob Prittie Metrotown Library
 6100 Willingdon Ave Burnaby, BC V5H 4N5

Chair Anna Lu

We respectfully acknowledge that Burnaby Public Library is located on the unceded territories of the [xʷməθkʷəy̓əm \(Musqueam\)](#), [Skwxwú7mesh \(Squamish\)](#), [səlilwətał \(Tsleil-Waututh\)](#), and [kʷikwəḷəm \(Kwikwetlem\)](#) Peoples. Each Nation has distinct histories and distinct traditional territories that fully or partially encompass the city of Burnaby.

We encourage you to learn more about the Host Nations whose ancestors have occupied and used these lands, including parts of present-day Burnaby, for thousands of years.

AGENDA	TIME	PAGE NO.
1. Agenda		
1.1 Motion to receive Agenda.		
2. Minutes		
2.1 Motion to adopt the minutes of the regular meeting held December 11, 2025 as circulated.		
3. Election of Officers	10 min	1-3
Election of Chair Chief Librarian calls for nominations, asks for aye and no votes, and announces the results of the election.		
Election of Vice-Chair Chair calls for nominations, asks for aye and no votes, and announces the results of the election.		
Election of InterLINK Board Representative and Alternate Chair calls for nominations, asks for aye and no votes, and announces the results of the election.		
Election of the Picard Trust Adjudication Committee Chair calls for nominations, asks for aye and no votes, and announces the results of the election.		

AGENDA	TIME	PAGE NO.
4. Reports	10 min	
4.1 Board Chair (verbal)		
4.2 Council Liaison (verbal)		
4.3 InterLINK Representative (verbal)		4-10
5. Items for Information		
5.1 Quarterly Report	10 min	11-23
5.2 Accessibility audits	10 min	24-25
5.3 Official Community Plans	10 min	26-30
5.4 Library Month donations	10 min	31-33
6. Correspondence		34-36
6.1 Re: Library book rate		
Motion to receive correspondence.		
7. Other Business		
8. Next Library Board Meeting		
February 20, 2026 at 6:00pm at Bob Prittie		
Metrotown Library		
9. Adjournment		
Motion that the regular meeting adjourn and that the Board resolve itself into an in camera meeting from which the public is excluded to consider patron bans.		



TO: CHAIR AND TRUSTEES
BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

FROM CHIEF LIBRARIAN
BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY

DATE: JANUARY 15, 2026

SUBJECT: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT The Library Board appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair, InterLINK Board representative and Alternate, and members of the Picard Trust Adjudication Committee.

THAT The Library Board defer the appointment of other Committee Members until the February Board meeting.

REPORT

At the January and February Board meetings, trustees elect a chair, vice-chair and representatives of several committees. This report provides background information on the roles. Trustees are encouraged to bring questions about the roles to the January meeting.

Chair and Vice-Chair

BPL Board Policy A3 ([Board Roles and Operations](#)), states that the Board shall, following the inaugural meeting of the Library Board but no later than the Board's February meeting, elect from among its members a Chair and a Vice-Chair. These officers shall be elected for a term of one year and may be eligible for re-election for not more than two additional one-year terms.

In 2022, 2023 and 2024 trustees elected Mandy Yang and Sarah Bartnik as co-chairs. In 2025, trustees elected Sangeeta Subramanian and Caroline White as co-chairs. Caroline White left the Board in February 2025, and trustees appointed Anna Lu as co-chair at the February 20 Library Board meeting. Sangeeta Subramanian left the Board in April 2025. Anna Lu became Board Chair, and Mandy Yang was appointed as Vice-Chair at the April 17 meeting.

Interlink Board Representative and Alternate

BPL Board Policy A3 (Board Roles and Operations), states that the Board shall, following the inaugural meeting of the Library Board but no later than its February meeting, appoint an InterLINK Board Representative and an alternate.

Public Library InterLINK is a federation of public libraries from the Fraser Valley to the Sunshine Coast and the Sea to Sky region that supports public libraries through resource sharing and collaborative programs. The InterLINK Board is composed of one representative from each of the eighteen member library boards. The InterLINK Board meets four or five times a year. Meetings are approximately two hours long and currently take place on Tuesdays at 5pm.

In 2024 and 2025, Gene Blishen was appointed InterLINK representative. Sarah Bartnik was appointed as alternate.

Picard Trust Adjudication Committee

BPL Board Procedures state that a Picard Trust Adjudication Committee is appointed at the January Board meeting.

Each year, two Picard Trust Awards of \$2500 each are given to BPL employees or residents of Burnaby. The awards are restricted to people who self-identify as Black, Indigenous or a person of colour. Adjudication of the Picard Trust award is by an ad hoc committee of three BPL trustees, with the Chief Librarian attending adjudication meetings as ex officio. The committee meets once or twice, in February or March, for approximately one hour.

2025 members: Anna Lu, Raj Hundal, Mandy Yang.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee reviews operating, capital and endowment fund budgets and actuals. In 2026, the Finance Committee is scheduled to meet three times:

- In April to approve the Statement of Financial Information and to review the previous year's operating, capital and endowment activity
- In July to approve budget priorities for 2025
- In October to review year-to-date spending and financial activity

2025 Members: Mandy Yang (Chair), Anna Lu, Hakam Bhaloo.

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee leads the hiring process for the Chief Librarian position, recommends Chief Librarian appointments to the Board, conducts an annual performance review of the Chief Librarian, reviews matters pending arbitration and reviews proposed collective agreements.

In 2025 the work of the Personnel Committee was extensive, as it focused on hiring a new Chief Librarian. In 2026, the work of the Personnel Committee will be focused on supporting the new Chief Librarian.

2025 Members: Sarah Bartnik (Chair), Gene Blishen, Raj Hundal.

Planning and Advocacy Committee

The Planning and Advocacy Committee guides the library's strategic planning process and reviews large-scale promotion or advocacy work. Because the strategic plan is from 2024-2027 it is recommended that the Board does not form a Planning and Advocacy Committee in 2026.

Beth Davies
CHIEF LIBRARIAN
BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY



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Joining Libraries Together

<i>Bowen Island Public Library</i>	<i>Pemberton & District Public Library Association</i>
<i>Burnaby Public Library</i>	<i>Port Moody Public Library</i>
<i>Coquitlam Public Library</i>	<i>Richmond Public Library</i>
<i>Fraser Valley Regional Library</i>	<i>Sechelt Public Library Association</i>
<i>Gibsons & District Public Library Association</i>	<i>Squamish Public Library</i>
<i>Lillooet Area Library Association</i>	<i>Surrey Libraries</i>
<i>New Westminster Public Library</i>	<i>Vancouver Public Library</i>
<i>North Vancouver City Library</i>	<i>West Vancouver Memorial Library</i>
<i>North Vancouver District Public Library</i>	<i>Whistler Public Library</i>

December 8, 2025

To: InterLINK Board
Cc: Administrators Advisory Group

Via email

Subject: Provisional 2026 InterLINK Budget

Dear Board Member,

Attached please find the provisional 2026 InterLINK budget. At its meeting on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, the InterLINK Board passed the following motion:

“THAT the Board of Directors of Public Library InterLINK adopt Schedule A as the Year 2026 Provisional Budget of Public Library InterLINK and authorize its onward transmission to member library boards for their consideration and comment

and

THAT a final vote on the 2026 InterLINK Budget take place at the first InterLINK Board meeting in 2026.”

InterLINK Board members should request that the provisional budget be placed as an information item on the agenda of the next meeting of their home board. As noted in the above motion, member library boards are asked to comment on this budget. Member library boards are not required to pass a motion to "approve" the budget; however, boards could pass a motion to receive the budget as an item for information.

As a reminder, the provisional 2026 InterLINK budget shows an increase in the total member levy to \$585,966, in line with the original 2026 forecast of member levies, had the 2025 increase happened as planned. In discussions with their home boards, InterLINK Board members may wish to highlight Schedule B, which provides the 2026 member levy for each library as well as a

comparison to the 2022-2025 levies. Schedule C provides the total 2026 member levy and projected net borrower levy (if applicable). The final non-resident borrowing numbers for 2025 will be provided in the final 2026 InterLINK Budget as noted.

Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Leigh Anne Palmer", written in a cursive style.

Leigh Anne Palmer

Executive Director



2026

PROVISIONAL BUDGET

November 25, 2025

2026 InterLINK Operating Budget				
Schedule A				
	2025 Budget			2026 BUDGET
REVENUES:	Budgeted	YTD (Sept)	Projected	Budgeted
Provincial Grant	\$ 605,180	\$ 605,180	\$ 605,180	\$ 605,180
Prov. Grant - COVID / Enhancement	200,000	134,243	200,352	154,000
Net Borrower Library-Contribution	68,150	68,503	68,503	80,000
Member Levies	525,000	525,001	525,001	585,966
Interest Income	35,000	26,004	40,000	15,000
New to BC - Federal + Prov grants	455,000	205,517	205,517	50,000
Admin-New to BC - federal	45,000	19,813	19,813	-
Staff Development	13,000	8,735	12,600	12,500
Consortial Purchasing	30,000	43,975	49,574	35,000
Misc / 1 time proj. (not grant funded) Incl. Lib NTBC	150,000	196,742	225,000	105,000
Transfer from Compensation Reserve				17,334
Total Revenues	\$2,126,330	\$1,833,713	\$1,951,540	\$1,659,980
EXPENDITURES:				
One time Projects / Expenditures (not grant funded)	155,000	186,438	240,000	105,000
GRANT Expenditures - COVID / Enh. (for fisc.year)	200,000	159,067	200,352	154,000
OFFICE-Audit & Legal	25,000	1,162	25,000	20,000
OFFICE-Board/Committee Expenses	15,000	3,982	5,000	8,000
OFFICE-Building Maintenance	5,500	2,541	4,500	5,500
OFFICE-Technology	4,200	2,401	3,500	4,500
OFFICE-Equipment	3,000	1,508	4,000	3,000
OFFICE-Expenses-Miscellaneous	1,000	174	500	1,000
OFFICE-Insurance	7,200	7,101	7,101	7,500
OFFICE-Website hosting	2,500	1,735	2,300	2,000
OFFICE-Rent	40,000	29,674	40,000	41,500
OFFICE-Utilities	8,500	6,005	8,500	8,500
OFFICE-Postage/Shipping	1,500	237	600	1,200
OFFICE-Expenses/Supplies	2,500	1,069	1,600	2,000
PROGRAMS-Audiobooks-Acquisitions	100,000	51,450	100,000	100,000
PROGRAMS-Audiobooks-Supplies & storage	3,500	2,118	2,900	3,500
PROGRAMS-Audiobooks-Catalogue	5,500	4,154	5,500	5,500
PROGRAMS-Consortial Purchasing	30,000	49,574	50,000	35,000
PROGRAMS-New to BC - Federal & Prov.	455,000	155,515	205,515	50,000
PROGRAMS-ILK admin costs for NBC	20,000	7,498	7,498	-
PROGRAMS- Staff Development	10,000	5,800	7,600	12,500
PROGRAMS-Resource Sharing-Courier Charges	72,000	44,518	65,000	62,000
PROGRAMS-Resource Sharing-Del Suppl / storage	10,000	4,267	10,500	8,000
PROGRAMS-Resource Sharing-Hosting	17,000	-	17,000	17,000
PROGRAMS-Resource Sharing-UBC ILL Charges	5,500	-	5,500	5,500
PROGRAMS-Resource Sharing-Vehicle Operation	26,000	21,751	29,000	28,000
PROGRAMS-Shared Service	7,000	7,370	8,000	7,300
PROGRAMS-YSC	33,280	5,007	30,000	33,280
STAFF- Professional Development	4,400	3,702	3,900	3,000
STAFF-Benefits	50,500	38,624	50,500	52,500
STAFF-Salaries & Wages	455,000	338,010	455,000	473,200
Sub-Total Operating Expenses:	1,775,580	1,142,452	1,596,366	1,259,980
Trfr.Capital Asset Reserve	10,000	10,000	10,000	-
Net Provider Comp.(Operating Bdgt)	272,600	274,012	274,012	320,000
Net Provider Comp.(Borr.Library)	68,150	68,503	68,503	80,000
Total Oper. Exp. & Comp.	\$2,126,330	\$1,494,967	\$1,948,881	\$1,659,980
Excess (Deficit)	\$0	\$338,746	\$2,659	\$0

2026 InterLINK Provisional Operating Budget Member Levies Schedule B

Library	Population 2025	2022 InterLINK Member Levies	2023 InterLINK Member Levies	2024 InterLINK Member Levies	2025 InterLINK Member Levies	2026 InterLINK Member Levies	Variance from 2025
BIPL	4,677	473	546	625	651	\$ 775	\$ 124
BPL	298,986	32,753	33,735	41,618	43,610	\$ 49,555	\$ 5,945
CPL	174,314	19,412	19,968	24,537	26,219	\$ 28,891	\$ 2,672
FVRL	911,608	86,877	106,478	129,092	135,609	\$ 151,092	\$ 15,483
GibPL	13,657	1,503	1,673	2,008	2,100	\$ 2,264	\$ 164
LALA	4,068	474	521	622	646	\$ 674	\$ 28
NWPL	92,433	10,322	10,714	13,198	13,856	\$ 15,320	\$ 1,464
NVCL	67,989	7,504	7,775	9,635	10,201	\$ 11,269	\$ 1,068
NVDPL	102,022	11,906	12,181	14,627	15,284	\$ 16,909	\$ 1,626
PemPL	7,081	776	850	1,058	1,131	\$ 1,174	\$ 43
PMPL	38,942	4,538	4,648	5,665	6,125	\$ 6,454	\$ 330
RPL	242,966	27,480	27,964	34,333	35,795	\$ 40,270	\$ 4,475
SecPL	20,552	2,260	2,505	3,053	3,203	\$ 3,406	\$ 203
SqPL	29,105	2,651	3,008	3,799	4,007	\$ 4,824	\$ 817
SPL	700,544	75,687	79,479	97,523	103,225	\$ 116,110	\$ 12,885
VPL	757,974	78,881	89,840	108,984	113,346	\$ 125,628	\$ 12,282
WVML	52,342	6,109	6,250	7,460	7,725	\$ 8,675	\$ 950
WhPL	16,151	1,719	1,865	2,163	2,268	\$ 2,677	\$ 409
TOTAL	3,535,411	\$ 371,325	\$ 410,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 525,000	\$ 585,966	\$ 60,966
COST PER CAPITA: \$ 0.1260 \$ 0.1293 \$ 0.1485 \$ 0.1657 \$ 0.1642							

SUMMARY:

The direct cost per capita is arrived at by dividing the total member levy cost of \$585,966 by the total estimated population of **3,535,411**.

Please note that COVID affected non-resident borrowing starting in 2020, thus levies were temporarily reduced, but have been moving up to "normal" as forecast for, and approved by the AAG and Board in 2022 and 2023. The large amounts of interest earned from receiving Operating Grants early temporarily resulted in a slower pace of increases being recommended (instead of increasing to \$574,000, 2025 levies were \$525,000.)

Public Library InterLINK

2026 Calculations - circ activity and levies (Projected)

(using 2025 PLSB pop. estimates)

2025 projected Circulation Activity; Membership Levy based on Data and Budget inputs for 2026)

(using \$0.50 per Net Loan)

Schedule C - p. 1

Library	Population 2025	Items Lent 2025 Projection	Items Borrowed 2025 Projection	Net Activity 2025 Projection	Net Lender Income \$0.50/net item Projection (0.40/item fr. subsidy)	Net Borrower Levy at \$0.10 per net item Projection
BIPL	4,677	1,860	14,075	(12,215)		\$1,222
BPL	298,986	544,833	265,911	278,922	\$139,461	
CPL	174,314	181,984	373,776	(191,792)		\$19,179
FVRL	911,608	163,168	496,897	(333,729)		\$33,373
GibPL	13,657	18,025	23,152	(5,127)		\$513
LALA	4,068	27	658	(631)		\$63
NWPL	92,433	81,441	140,948	(59,507)		\$5,951
NVCL	67,989	88,597	233,044	(144,448)		\$14,445
NVDPL	102,022	218,748	137,362	81,386	\$40,693	
PemPL	7,081	1,587	5,022	(3,435)		\$344
PMPL	38,942	191,201	64,380	126,821	\$63,411	
RPL	242,966	185,440	105,602	79,838	\$39,919	
SecPL	20,552	23,792	20,332	3,460	\$1,730	
SqPL	29,105	2,382	9,243	(6,861)		\$686
SPL	700,544	325,868	199,413	126,455	\$63,228	
VPL	757,974	411,616	454,197	(42,581)		\$4,258
WVML	52,342	138,466	44,177	94,289	\$47,145	
WhPL	16,151	15,127	5,973	9,155	\$4,578	
TOTALS:	3,535,411	2,594,162	2,594,162	-	\$ 400,163	\$ 80,033

budget numbers are rounded

Only net
borrowers pay
this levy

Public Library InterLINK
Compensation Model - 2025/2026
Schedule C - p. 2

2026 PROPOSED MEMBER LEVIES					
Based on 2025 population estimates from Lib. Br.					
Library	Proposed 2026 Member Levy	PROJECTED Net Borrower Levy at \$0.10 per net item (rounded) to pay in 2026 re: 2025	Total 2026 Prop. Memb. Levy + PROJ. Net Borrower Levy	2025 Member Levy & Actual '24 Net Borrower Levy paid in 2025	Variance betw. 2026 Memb. Levy + PROJ. Net Borr. Levy vs 2025 Memb. Levy + Actual Net Borr. Levy
BIPL	\$775	\$1,222	\$ 1,997	\$1,817	\$ 180
BPL	\$49,555		\$ 49,555	\$43,610	5,945
CPL	\$28,891	\$19,179	\$ 48,070	\$42,121	5,950
FVRL	\$151,092	\$33,373	\$ 184,465	\$166,819	17,645
GibPL	\$2,264	\$513	\$ 2,776	\$2,100	677
LALA	\$674	\$63	\$ 737	\$653	84
NWPL	\$15,320	\$5,951	\$ 21,271	\$18,862	2,409
NVCL	\$11,269	\$14,445	\$ 25,713	\$23,691	2,023
NVDPL	\$16,909		\$ 16,909	\$15,284	1,626
PemPL	\$1,174	\$344	\$ 1,517	\$1,437	80
PMPL	\$6,454		\$ 6,454	\$6,125	330
RPL	\$40,270		\$ 40,270	\$35,795	4,475
SecPL	\$3,406		\$ 3,406	\$3,857	(450)
SqPL	\$4,824	\$686	\$ 5,510	\$4,770	740
SPL	\$116,110		\$ 116,110	\$103,225	12,885
VPL	\$125,628	\$4,258	\$ 129,886	\$113,346	16,540
WVML	\$8,675		\$ 8,675	\$7,725	950
WhPL	\$2,677		\$ 2,677	\$2,268	409
TOTALS:	\$ 585,966	\$ 80,033	\$ 665,999	\$ 593,503	\$ 72,496

2026 proposed levies are \$585,966 vs \$525,000 in 2025; projected net borrowing costs are \$80,033 vs \$68,503 for 2024 borrowing (paid in 2025). Budget borrowing numbers are rounded.

TO: CHAIR AND TRUSTEES
BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

FROM: CHIEF LIBRARIAN
BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY

DATE: JANUARY 15, 2026

SUBJECT: STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT Q4 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Library Board receive this report for information.

REPORT

Connect the Community

- Develop library services that serve the diversity of people living in Burnaby.
- Lower and minimize barriers to library services.
- Provide library services to communities in their preferred language.
- Connect people to the services and resources they need.
- Create opportunities so that library users learn from and feel more connected to each other.

NEW MEMBERS	Q4 2025	Q4 2024	Increase/Decrease	
			Number	%
	6,680	7,413	-733	-10%

HLAS – PATRONS SERVED	Q4 2025	Q4 2024	Increase/Decrease	
			Number	%
	710	744	-34	-5%

COMMUNITY WORK – VISITS	Q3 2025	Q3 2024	Increase/Decrease	
			Number	%
	206	211	-5	-2%

HLAS staff creativity and innovation

Living quite a distance away, a son reached out to Home Library and Accessible Service (HLAS) to see if the library could support his father who is living with a perceptual disability. HLAS staff hit the road and visited the caller's parents at their Burnaby home and brought with them some audio player options including a Victor Reader. None of the players that the staff brought were able to provide a clear enough sound for the man's hearing aids. After some conversation with the couple, staff learned that their cellphone could connect via Bluetooth to the man's hearing aids. On the spot, HLAS staff pivoted and were able to help the wife download the Libby app to their phone and then download an audiobook which the man was able to hear much more clearly. Staff then followed up with some simple step-by-step instructions so that they could download another audiobook from Libby next time.

Burnaby Neighbourhood House seniors' group

Community Librarian Andrea Lam has been connecting with a seniors' group at the Burnaby Neighbourhood House. Andrea has been able to build trust with the seniors attending and learn about some of the challenges that they face in accessing services, navigating the digital divide, and developing social relationships. Helping the seniors feel seen and heard has been an important part of Andrea's role with this group.

Operating Plan Project Updates	
Project	Update
Multilingual Services	Project complete.
Harm Reduction	Project complete.
Courtesy Phones	An evaluation of the Cameron phone has been completed and includes recommendations and considerations for rolling out courtesy phones at Metrotown, Tommy Douglas, and McGill. Branch Managers are planning for introduction of courtesy phones at these branches by end of Q1 2026.
Accessible Services	The SPARC audits of physical facilities, HR, and technology have been completed. Staff are working on prioritizing and implementing recommendations.

Create Welcoming & Innovative Spaces

Provide additional BPL facilities and services to people across Burnaby.

Indigenize the design and naming of library spaces in relation with Host Nations.

Celebrate Burnaby's diverse communities in BPL spaces.

Provide a refuge for people in response to affordability and the climate crisis.

Create accessible, flexible spaces that respond to evolving community needs.

Create physical and digital spaces that inspire play and imagination.

VISITS TO BRANCHES	Q4 2025	Q4 2024	Increase/Decrease	
			Number	%
Metrotown	138,502	130,009	8,493	7%
McGill	89,268	97,970	-8,702	-9%
Tommy Douglas*	71,066	82,677	-11,611	-14%
Cameron	61,842	61,080	763	1%
TOTAL	360,679	371,736	-11,057	-3%

*Due to TD's footcount camera being broken in December 2025, the branch's Q4 total is an estimate

ONLINE VISITS	Q4 2025	Q4 2024	Increase/Decrease	
			Number	%
Website	196,029	191,183	4,846	3%
Catalogue*	898,192	559,250	338,942	61%

*Q4 catalogue visits spiked due to Bibliocommons technical issues in December 2025

ROOM USE BY COMMUNITY GROUPS	Q4 2025	Q4 2024	Increase/Decrease	
			Number	%
Metrotown	760	863	-103	-12%
McGill	53	0	53	100%
Tommy Douglas	169	185	-16	-9%
TOTAL	982	1,048	-66	-6%

Community Room thanks

Metrotown staff received a handwritten note from a group that regularly books the branch's community rooms: "On behalf of our team, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to you! Our team is a non-profit organization with around 40 members whose average is over 67. Your support has made our elderly neighbours no longer feel lonely and isolated. It has created a healthy, vibrant and livable lifestyle for our community."

Halloween Celebration

Teen Services invited every Access class in Burnaby to the Metrotown Library on October 31 for a Halloween celebration. More than 150 Access students, teachers and education assistants from across the city attended the event, many in costume. They took part in scavenger hunts and games, singing and dancing, and analog and digital creative activities. The Burnaby Art Gallery attended and set up a haunted art gallery showcasing supernatural-themed works of art. Julia's Studio funding allowed us to provide creative activities at the event that included printmaking, a paper pumpkin patch, and a magic cauldron-themed papercraft activity. Participants were delighted with the event, and teachers and education assistants appreciated having "well thought out inclusive activities for each student at every level."



New children's shelving at Metrotown

New shelving was installed in the children's library at Metrotown to replace the remaining older units that were not addressed in the recent renovation. Over the course of three days, contractors installed the new pink shelving while library staff moved affected collections to temporary storage in the branch meeting rooms and supported seamless access for the public. The result is a refreshed, vibrant space that inspires play and imagination for children and families.



McGill carpet replacement

In October, the carpet flooring at the McGill branch was replaced for the entire space, following the City's replacement cycle schedule. The work was completed in a little more than three weeks with minimal service disruption. This is a beautiful upgrade to the space with patrons and staff commenting on how lovely the new flooring is.



Operating Plan Project Updates	
Project	Update
Strategic Facilities Plan	Project complete.
McGill Renovation	Project complete.
Indigenous Placemaking	The consultation phase of the project is complete. Staff will now transition to the design phase of the project.
Cultural Celebrations	Guidelines have been finalized and shared with the Board. A draft planning document and draft performer/partner contract has been created, and will be finalized by Q2 2026. The final component of this project is a pilot event to test the plan.

New Cameron

Construction on site has entered a period of rapid and visible change. Over the past few months, extensive concrete work has pushed the concrete structure to roughly 80% completion. Structural steel installation began in November. Mass timber production is underway offsite, with on-site installation expected to start later this month. Concrete pours will continue for the next several months as the construction team integrates steel and timber components over the large work site. The project is expected to be completed in Q1 2028 with handover to the Library in Q2 2028.

Cameron library staff are working on selecting furniture, fixtures and equipment for the new library, and finalizing plans for technology and audiovisual components.



Cameron Library and Recreation Centre, view from Northeast, December 17, 2025

Encourage Curiosity & Learning

Provide library services and collections that feed people's curiosity, learning and imagination.

Engage library users in advancing equity issues.

Engage library users in understanding the impacts of settler colonialism, and ways in which we can advance Truth and Reconciliation.

Increase information literacy and civic engagement among library users.

Facilitate community participation in brave dialogues on big issues.

CIRCULATION – PHYSICAL ITEMS	Q4 2025	Q4 2024	Increase/Decrease	
			Number	%
	666,790	673,235	-6,445	-1%

CIRCULATION – DIGITAL	Q4 2025	Q4 2024	Increase/Decrease	
			Number	%
	128,388	118,879	-9,509	8%

TECHNOLOGY USE	Q4 2025	Q4 2024	Increase/Decrease	
			Number	%
Computer Sessions	60,949	49,577	11,372	23%
Digital Studio Sessions	805	642	163	25%
TOTAL	61,754	50,219	11,535	23%

PROGRAMS	Q4 2025	Q4 2024	Increase/Decrease	
			Number	%
	212	206	3	3%

DIGITAL RESOURCES	Q4 2025	Q4 2024	Increase/Decrease	
			Number	%
	33,506	23,885	9,621	40%

Digital painting software drop-ins at the Digital Studio

The Digital Studio held its first two drop-ins for Procreate, a digital painting program available on iPad, in November and December. Attendees learned about the software and created a variety of art; one attendee planned to turn her art into Christmas cards. Attendees also provided feedback on additional digital art-related programs and services that they would like to see.

Best 2025 Reads at McGill

In December, McGill staff asked the community to share their best reads for 2025 on a board in the library. This was paired with a book display of staff recommendations. The bulletin board quickly filled up with suggestions of books from all ages. The resounding best read most mentioned by our patrons was: “Dog Man”. We look forward to using our space and our displays to connect with the community through different engagement activities in the new year.



More loanable technology for Home Library & Accessible Services patrons

Responding to patron need and to enable choice for Home Library and Accessible Service (HLAS) patrons, the department has added some more loanable technology to our collection including: envoy connects (portable audiobook players), headphones, mini speakers and portable DVD/CD/MP3 players. By providing a variety of items, HLAS staff can better support patrons with their individual needs in order to continue to make library materials as accessible as possible.

Digital literacy programs

Librarian Patrick hosted a *Computer Basics* program at Cameron. During time for questions at the end, patrons were curious about AI; Patrick shared resources, and patrons engaged in a lively debate about the topic. The digital literacy team is exploring more AI programs in 2026 in response to increased patron interest. Librarian Maité facilitated a program on *What is Cloud Storage?* Feedback from attendees will inform an upcoming Digital Studio program called *Digitization Project Planning and Next Steps* planned for early 2026.

Partner programs

This fall, BPL staff hosted two programs with the Amici Curiae Friendship Society on accessing legal support, including a session called *I Want a Divorce: Legal Options for Queer & Trans Folx*. The online program offered information catered to members of the

queer community who are navigating the family law system in a setting that prioritized accessibility and the participants' safety and comfort. Both sessions with Amicia Curiae were delivered in English, Mandarin, and Japanese, making these our first adult multilingual programs. This fall, we also hosted programs on personal planning with Nidus, employment drop-in Sessions with WorkBC, and a session on government benefits with Seniors First BC.

Access Classes and Julia's Studio

Teen librarians made several visits to Access classes at high schools across the city during the first four months of the new school year. Access classes are for students, ages 13-19, with diverse abilities, including disabilities and neurodiversity. As part of these visits, librarians provide creative activities for students to collaboratively work on together. The students especially enjoy activities that highlight holidays, celebrations and changing seasons. Bringing Julia's Studio to these students allows them to explore their creativity and when we arrive, they always excitedly ask; "what are we making today?" Below are photos of some of the recent creative activities we have provided in Access classrooms over the past few months:



Gim Wong screening

On November 15, the City of Burnaby issued a formal apology for the historic discrimination against people of Chinese Descent. A few weeks before this monumental date, BPL collaborated with the Chinese Canadian Historical Society of BC and the City of Burnaby to host a film screening of *Gim: The Life and Legacy of a Chinese Canadian*.

The documentary film traces the life of the late Second World War veteran, lifelong motorcyclist, and Burnaby resident Gim Wong. In 2005, Gim Wong embarked on an extraordinary cross-country ride, at 82 years of age, to demand recognition and reconciliation for the Chinese Head Tax. The film used candid conversations with Wong's children, old photo scrapbooks, and archival footage to explore Wong's lasting legacy. The screening was followed by a panel discussion featuring filmmaker Daniel Chen.

Misinformation series

This fall, staff developed a three-part misinformation series. Librarian Rebecca created an interactive workshop on how to spot misinformation and disinformation for patrons, where participants gained practical tools, tips, and resources to build media literacy skills. Librarian Ryan hosted a guest speaker presentation with Dr. Ahmed Al-Rawi, the founder and director of The Disinformation Project and an Associate Professor at Simon Fraser University. Dr. Al-Rawi discussed the concept of "disruptive information" and how critical thinking and fact-checking skills can help people manage fake news, misinformation and disinformation. Librarian Kris coordinated a workshop on Climate Misinformation with educator Jennifer Nathan during Climate Action Week in November. The workshops were well attended and patrons expressed interest in learning more about misinformation and the related topic of AI.

Library class visits

Since hearing from schools in 2021 that half of Burnaby's Kindergarten students start school without English proficiency, the children's team has focused on providing outreach and school visits to Kindergarten classes. A parent of a grade two student on a class visit to Metrotown told librarian Ashley how amazing school visits to the library were to her. She shared that back in Romania they didn't have anything like the public libraries here, just her father's personal library of many books. Here in Burnaby, she couldn't possibly recreate that in her home, so she worried that her daughter would not be much of a reader. Then her daughter entered Kindergarten and her class was invited to the library. She was so excited to visit this special place with her classmates! Now she comes with her family to the library all the time and is a voracious reader like her mother and grandfather before her.

Operating Plan Project Updates	
Project	Update
Mobile Self-Checkout	Project complete.
Readers' Advisory Strategy	Staff completed the research and assessment phase and are finalizing a set of guiding principles and criteria for readers' advisory activities.
Self-serve Checkout Replacement	This project will replace all self-serve checkout machines at BPL. The project team has completed its requirements gathering, including a survey of staff needs. The team is now working with the City on an RFP to be posted in Q1 2026.

Curiosity Collection	Library staff are connecting with other library systems about their approaches and workflows for managing non-traditional library collections, and will be developing guidelines and procedures for BPL in Q1 2026. A refresh and expansion of this collection will begin in Q2.
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Strengthen Organizational Culture

Encourage connection, creativity and fun.
Weave equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility into BPL's culture and governance.
Strengthen staff and trustee commitment to the principles of Truth and Reconciliation.
Support staff mental health and wellness.
Balance the goals of the organization with the capacity and resources needed.
Support a learning culture for staff and trustees.
Create a supportive environment where members of equity deserving groups can lead and shape the organization.

Women's History Month panel at the city

In October, in celebration of Women's History Month, Community Librarian Andrea was invited to join a panel for a lunch-and-learn hosted by the City of Burnaby's EDI team. This year's featured speakers showcased the achievements and contributions of women from diverse backgrounds working in various positions throughout the City of Burnaby. Andrea took this as an opportunity to reflect and share her lived experience and knowledge that she has gained through working in community, acknowledge barriers that she has overcome, and bring to light the paths that she has had to navigate as woman of colour. Andrea was honoured and excited to be part of such an amazing panel this year.

Latinx library panel at UBC

This quarter, Community Librarian Emily took part in a panel, hosted at the UBC's School of Information, for Latinx students and library workers. Emily shared about their career path, their work as a Community Librarian, and they answered questions about what it's like to work in libraries in Canada. It was a great opportunity to connect and share with current students and new professionals.

Operating Plan Project Updates	
Project	Update
Incident Response	Implementation continues, in tandem with recommendations from the Violence Risk Assessment Report.
Staff Communication	Project Complete.
Indigenous Learning	Project on hold due to issues with consultant.

Implement anti-racism commitments	Work is concluding on a project to improve professional development opportunities for staff who are Black, Indigenous or a person of colour, and beginning on a project to revise BPL's respectful workplace program.
Circulation Tasks	The project team is streamlining tasks across branches. Next steps are to rollout the updated procedures and train all circulation staff.
Customer Service Training	Project is in the research phase and next step, in 2026, is to develop content.
Page Role Review	This project is on hold until a page classification review process is complete.
Implement Scheduling Software	Work continues on this project, with the goal of a first-phase rollout in Q2 2026.

Comments and suggestions from patrons

Thank you so much for the books I could borrow. All the books from Korea really help me a lot.

Note from a patron with a box of chocolates

I just found the Burnaby staff created list for affordable computing – linux and other free software, and I was really pleased to see such a well curated list of resources!

Library patron

I have been a patron of McGill library for a long time, since the 80's actually, long before it has become what it is now, a beautiful building with a scenic view of the mountains and the surrounding areas from inside the library. Compared to the other libraries in Burnaby, McGill is the best one with the most helpful and friendliest staff I've encountered.

McGill patron

Thank you very much for your help, your dedication and your kindness. We enjoyed the mini library program very much!

HLAS patron from a Burnaby care facility

Thank you for the many deliveries you have made. You have given me a great deal with the numerous hours of listening. My life is so much fuller because of it.

HLAS patron

I was reminded today how much worse my life would be without your service.

HLAS patron

I just wanted to share a quick shout-out to the collections team — I had two separate patrons say how happy/surprised/delighted they were that we carried so-and-so title(s). Specifically, Panjabi language books (the patron had come from Surrey, really pleased that we had them because they couldn't find them anywhere else), and another patron complimented our adult fiction collection while affectionately clutching two titles. I know we can quantify things through circulation numbers, but that doesn't always capture the level of appreciation that patrons feel when they can get their hands on what they're searching for.

BPL public service staff message to Collections team

I must commend librarian Alex who went out of his way to assist me when I needed it most. I had to download and print some urgent business documents that were in different formats and I could not do it. He stayed with me for an extended amount of time and helped me do it correctly, and made sure I had everything I needed at the end. I did, and I was in time for my very important personal meeting. Greatly appreciated.

Tommy Douglas patron

I would like to suggest a program for Farsi-speaking families at the library. It could include story reading in Farsi, interactive plays, and activities like crafts and music connected to stories. The goal is to engage children, support language development, and create a welcoming space for families.

Tommy Douglas patron

Is there a possibility of the library being open 'til 8 every night?

Tommy Douglas patron

Beth Davies
CHIEF LIBRARIAN
BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY



TO: CHAIR AND TRUSTEES
BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

FROM: MANAGER, FINANCE & FACILITIES
BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY

DATE: JANUARY 15, 2026

SUBJECT: BUILT-ENVIRONMENT ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Library Board receive this report for information.

REPORT

In 2024-2025, BPL took part in an InterLINK facilities accessibility audit. InterLINK contracted SPARC BC to conduct audits of all four BPL locations. The accessibility audits cost \$27,950 and were funded from the BPL Endowment Fund. This report summarizes recommendations from all the audits.

No-cost or minimal cost recommendations

All four audits have recommendations that include no-cost actions to improve accessibility, for example by increasing clearance between furniture items and removing free standing items such as book trucks and step stools. There are also recommendations that are specific to a particular branch, based on workflow or design. Most of these recommendations are achievable, and next steps are for Branch Managers and Public Service Supervisors to review. Some recommendations are not practical, for example tucking in chairs in the teen space at McGill (not easy to do when teens are using the space).

Recommendations that involve projects in process

There are some recommendations that are part of next year's operating plan projects, for example that courtesy phones and Self-Serve Checkout machines be at an accessible height.

Signage recommendations

Some recommendations are specifically about signage. These recommendations will be passed on to City of Burnaby for future signage projects, for example adding international symbol of access to entrances. All other signage recommendations within the library will be reviewed by Branch Managers and the Public Engagement & Awareness team. An example of this is adding additional wayfinding signage.

Furniture recommendations

Recommendations of furniture involve replacement of existent furniture or adding furniture. Height adjustable tables and chairs with arm rests are a couple of examples of these recommendations. This will be taken into consideration when replacing or purchasing new furniture.

Other facility recommendations

All four branches have actions with associated costs to improve accessibility that will be considered for future projects or to pass on to Lands and Facilities. Potential funding sources include accessibility grants and the Library Endowment Fund. Some of these recommendations include adding braille signage and assisted listening devices in community rooms.

Outside recommendations

Most of these recommendations focus on parking, for example, more lighting and clearer signage and clearance between accessible parking spots. These recommendations will be shared with Lands and Facilities.

Recommendations for future renovations

Some recommendations involve extensive and expansive renovations of library facilities. Some of these renovations will be shared with Lands and Facilities to add to a list of potential projects. Other recommendations involve extensive work on recent renovations and temporary facilities: these recommendations will not be passed on for cost reasons. Renovating all public washrooms, including the recently renovated washrooms at Metrotown, is an example of this.

This report has captured some of the recommendations made by SPARC BC. Branch Managers and the Manager, Finance and Facilities will be looking at these recommendations in detail and will focus on attainable actions and to cost and prioritize future projects that make sense to pursue.

Franca DeLuca
MANAGER, FINANCE & FACILITIES
BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY



TO: CHAIR AND TRUSTEES
BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

FROM: CHIEF LIBRARIAN
BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY

DATE: JANUARY 15, 2026

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT The Library Board receive this report for information.

REPORT

On December 9, Burnaby City Council will vote on adoption of the Official Community Plan (OCP) bylaw. This report contains information about OCP goals, objectives and policy actions that impact BPL.

About the Official Community Plan

The Burnaby 2050 Official Community Plan (OCP) presents a long-term vision for the future of Burnaby. It reflects a three-year process that included four phases of community engagement to raise awareness and gather information about the community's priorities for the future.

The OCP includes a policy framework that emphasizes key City priorities such as addressing climate change; supporting equity, diversity and inclusion; and seeking reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. These three perspectives serve as plan lenses that are reflected throughout the policy framework. The framework is organized into five goals:

1. Foster complete communities that are sustainable, equitable and accessible to everyone
2. Create welcoming public spaces, cultural opportunities and a sense of belonging for all
3. Support a diverse and thriving economy
4. Create and maintain efficient and well-connected transportation and infrastructure networks

5. Lead in climate action and protect, enhance and restore the natural environment

The five goals are supported by 32 objectives and more than 250 policy actions.

The complete Official Community Plan is at <https://pub-burnaby.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=83303>.

OCP Goals, objectives and policy actions relevant to BPL

The remainder of this report highlights goals, objectives and policy actions that impact library services, priorities, planning and facilities.

Goal 1: Foster complete communities that are sustainable, equitable and accessible to everyone

Objective 1.3: Maintain and create community facilities and services to meet the needs of a growing and diverse population

Policy Actions

1.3.1 Deliver and support a broad range of community facilities to serve a growing and changing population, with attention to geographical and service gaps.

1.3.2 Locate community facilities with specialized users or larger audiences in areas with rapid transit, such as uses for arts and cultural, recreational and social purposes.

1.3.3 Maximize co-location of compatible community amenities, such as community facilities, non-market housing and non-profit spaces, on City-owned property

1.3.5 Engage and collaborate with Host Nations, Indigenous Peoples living in Burnaby and Indigenous organizations to understand community and cultural space needs.

1.3.6 Develop strategies, regularly update data and streamline City processes to ensure the City delivers new and diverse community amenities that serve the needs of a growing and changing population.

1.3.7 Diversify opportunities to locate or integrate City-owned community facilities and spaces in suitable private developments through in-kind contributions.

1.3.8 Leverage City-owned property or funding, as appropriate, to support public or non-profit operated community facilities and services that provide benefits to the public.

1.3.9 Through collaboration, continue to explore opportunities to access under-used or off-hour spaces in civic and public facilities and spaces, particularly for school-age care, community meeting space, community services, recreation programs and emergency response (e.g. extreme weather response, epidemic, etc.)

1.3.11 Foster high-quality visitor experiences by providing accessible and well-maintained facilities, spaces and programming with an emphasis on multipurpose use and climate-friendly built design.

1.3.12 Increase access to City-owned facilities, spaces and services and build a sense of belonging by providing no- and low-cost programming and ensuring inclusivity in City policies.

1.3.21 Continue to foster and plan for libraries as key public places with expansive facility uses that meet various educational, social and cultural purposes

Objective 1.6: Promote convenience within and between neighbourhoods

Policy Actions

1.6.3 Concentrate destination facilities and places in Downtown and in the Town Centres.

1.6.4 When siting community facilities, explore opportunities for clustering with complementary uses and points of interest, such as playgrounds beside outdoor cafes, or the co-location of recreation centres, library facilities or child care facilities.

Goal 2: Create welcoming public spaces, cultural opportunities and a sense of belonging for all

Objective 2.1: Create inclusive public spaces that are accessible and respond to everyday needs

Policy Actions

2.1.1 Minimize barriers to accessibility and provide spaces for all people to connect, recreate, participate in public events and take part in social activities.

2.1.2 Enable the adaptive use of space to meet the needs of diverse and multi-generational users, allow for varied activities and respond to different weather conditions.

2.1.3 Apply built design principles and consider the needs of all users to prevent exclusionary and discriminatory practices when maintaining and developing public spaces.

2.1.4 Apply universal accessibility and design standards when planning and designing new or upgraded indoor and outdoor City facilities and spaces.

2.1.5 Expand public washroom accessibility in high-use indoor and outdoor City facilities and public spaces.

2.1.6 Design publicly accessible outdoor and indoor spaces to be multi-functional and flexible with a range of uses like social gathering, cultural expression, food growing and vending, physical activity and with adaptability to climate change and extreme weather where applicable

Objective 2.3: Raise the visibility of Host Nations' connections to the land and resources, while supporting access to places of cultural significance

Policy Actions

2.3.1 Continue to engage with Host Nations to identify opportunities and strategies to increase the visibility of Indigenous histories and awareness of colonialism in

Burnaby, the connection of Host Nations to these lands and the presence of First Nations for thousands of years.

2.3.5 Develop guidelines for City and non-Cityowned projects to recognize places of historical and cultural significance, such as traditional use areas, where applicable, through public realm design and in public art.

2.3.6 Continue to engage with Host Nations and Indigenous people living in Burnaby on community heritage and placemaking initiatives to conserve important stories and places that enhance cultural safety and acknowledge the original stewards of these lands.

2.3.7 Support the sharing and practice of Indigenous cultural heritage in City-owned and private publicly accessible facilities and spaces. 2.3.8 Work with Host Nations and Indigenous Peoples living in Burnaby to develop creative approaches to storytelling, community programs and exhibits to support the sharing of Indigenous histories and cultural expression. E

Objective 2.4: Encourage placemaking by recognizing the histories of diverse communities

Policy Actions

2.4.1 Continue to engage with community members representing diverse cultures and lived experiences on heritage and placemaking initiatives, to record and preserve meaningful stories and places that reflect Burnaby's histories and cultures.

2.4.2 Support the preservation, practice and sharing of cultural heritage in public spaces and facilities, including City-owned and publicly accessible private spaces.

2.4.4 Develop policy and guidelines to support formal commemoration of places, people and events in City-owned spaces.

2.4.5 Develop guidelines for City and non-City owned projects to recognize places of diverse historical and cultural significance where applicable, through public realm design and in public art.

Objective 2.7: Foster a sense of safety and belonging for everyone

Policy Actions

2.7.1 Foster cultural safety and cultural competency of Host Nations and Indigenous Peoples living in Burnaby by reflecting their cultures, such as through facility design and naming, placemaking, awareness building, public art, signage and education at City-owned facilities and spaces

2.7.2 Foster belonging by providing opportunities to share, practice, express and represent diverse cultural histories and stories in publicly accessible spaces, programming and public art.

2.7.3 Continue to support more public events, celebrations, programming and public activations to foster community connection and well-being.

2.7.4 Continue to work with persons with disabilities, family members of people with disabilities, disability non-profit sector and the Access Advisory Committee to improve accessibility in Burnaby, in alignment with the Accessible British Columbia Act.

2.7.5 Ensure a good standard of service in City operations and programs for all Burnaby community members, by considering diverse needs and experiences, in alignment with the City Equity Policy.

Objective 2.8: Promote civic engagement, build relationships and connect with diverse communities to enhance the planning and delivery of City services and projects

Policy Actions

2.8.1 Continue to explore creative, equitable and relevant ways to engage and build relationships with the community.

2.8.2 Use an equity lens to identify groups—such as newcomers, racialized communities, renters, persons with disabilities, low income, unsheltered persons, seniors and youth—that are often underrepresented in civic processes. Engage with these individuals and groups to improve community services and build relationships.

Next Steps

Many of the goals, objectives and policy actions in the OCP align clearly with goals and priorities in the [BPL 2024-2027 Strategic Plan](#). In addition, the Official Community Plan's timeline aligns with the timeline for BPL's Strategic Facilities Plan: both provide direction to 2050.

Next steps are to

- Work with city staff as they implement OCP objectives and policy actions, making sure that BPL interests are taken into consideration.
- Incorporate key OCP policy considerations into City of Burnaby communication, including budget requests
- Incorporate key OCP policy considerations into long-term library facilities and service planning and the next BPL strategic plan.

Beth Davies
CHIEF LIBRARIAN
BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY



TO: CHAIR AND TRUSTEES
BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

FROM: CHIEF LIBRARIAN
BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY

DATE: JANUARY 15, 2026

SUBJECT: LIBRARY MONTH DONATION CAMPAIGN

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT The Library Board receive this report for information.

REPORT

At the September 2025 Library Board meeting, trustees received a report on BPL's current donation approach and historical donation levels, a summary of neighbouring libraries' approach to donations, and an outline of next steps for fundraising going forward. These next steps included a campaign in Library Month in October 2025. This report summarizes that campaign and provides information on potential next steps.

Current Donations Approach

BPL's [Donations and Sponsorship policy](#) states that:

Burnaby Public Library is a public institution funded primarily by taxes from the local and provincial governments. While recognizing the legitimacy and primacy of tax revenue in providing library service, the Library Board acknowledges the importance of gifts and donations from individuals, non-profit organizations and private enterprise in enhancing library service.

BPL is a registered Canadian charity. BPL includes information about donating to the library on the [Support the Library](#) page on bpl.bc.ca.

Patrons can donate at each library branch, or online. Donations to the library are tax deductible. Patrons can also donate property and securities, and can include BPL as a beneficiary in a will or life insurance policy.

Donations are mostly placed in BPL's endowment fund, which at the end of 2024 had an estimated balance of \$2.2m, of which approximately \$475,000 is interest.

Other than the Support the Library page, BPL has not engaged in active fundraising.

Library Month Campaign

In 2025, BPL began to more actively seek donations, with a focus on Library Month in October. The intent of the Library Month campaign was to raise awareness of BPL as a place to donate money. The campaign highlighted the valuable role libraries play in Canadians' lives, and encouraged patrons to feel proud of using BPL and to support their library.

Staff created a variety of collectable, waterproof stickers to encourage patrons to donate and show off their library pride. Anyone who donated a suggested amount of \$5 could choose from four sticker designs, available at the service desk at all our locations. Patrons could donate online, or at any service desk.



Public Engagement & Awareness staff and Administration staff, worked with branches to develop marketing materials, talking points and procedures to make the campaign visible to patrons and straightforward for staff.

Campaign Outcomes

The number of donors and the dollar value of donations increased significantly from October 2024 to October 2025. Although the total dollar value of donations was low, the increase in the number of donors points to a certain success in raising awareness, which was a major goal of the campaign.

	October 2024	October 2025	% change
Number of donors	10	50	400%
Total donations	\$503.74	\$1147.33	128%

Many library staff were enthusiastic about the stickers, and anecdotally, a number of the donors in October 2025 were library staff. Future campaigns should consider the appeal of stickers to potential donors, and look at alternative ways to recognize donations. Leftover stickers will be repurposed for future marketing or patron recognition efforts.

Anecdotally, the campaign also increased awareness among staff of the ability of patrons to donate to BPL, and the procedures involved in doing this.

Next Steps

BPL is well funded by the City of Burnaby, primarily through property taxes. Any campaign needs to acknowledge and appreciate this ongoing support, and stress that donations can supplement our existing budget to expand and improve services for our growing community.

In 2026, BPL plans to launch a library newsletter, which will increase our reach to library patrons, including potential donors. Once the newsletter is established, we can include regular fundraising pitches. These could potentially tie into other fundraising initiatives, for example another Library Month campaign in October 2026.

In the future, BPL staff will also look at the potential of targeted campaigns, for example for a particular program or service, or for a particular type of donation (eg bequests).

In all these activities, staff will look for trustee support in getting the word out to trustees' own networks and communities.

Beth Davies
CHIEF LIBRARIAN
BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY

December 18, 2025

Honourable Terry Beech
terry.beech@parl.gc.ca

Dear MP Beech,

I am writing regarding the proposed amendments to the Canada Post Corporation Act in Bill C-15, an Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on November 4, 2025. These amendments significantly impact libraries across Canada and the services that we provide to ensure Canadians—especially those facing disability, distance, or limited local resources—can equitably access reading materials, information, and culture.

Threatening the equitable access that Canadians rely on is Division 2, section 197 of Bill C-15 that would repeal paragraphs 19(1)(d) to (g.1) of the *Canada Post Corporation Act*. This includes the provisions in 19(1)(g1), added by Private Member's Bill C-321 in 2013, which created a reduced postal rate for library materials, including items sent through interlibrary loan—reforms that passed with support from all political parties. It would also remove paragraph 19(1)(g)(i), which currently guarantees postage-free mailing of books and other materials for the use of people who are blind, and underpins the Materials for the Use of the Blind Regulations (C.R.C., c. 1283), which Canada Post treats as the full program terms.

The consequences would be serious and immediate:

- Libraries across Canada rely on affordable postage to operate robust interlibrary loan networks, so that a person in a small town or remote community can access the same depth of collection as someone living near a major research library.
- Homebound readers, seniors, people with disabilities, and residents of rural, remote, Indigenous and minority language communities often depend on materials delivered by mail from public and academic libraries.
- People who are blind or have low vision or rely on the free-post program to receive accessible formats such as braille, audio, and large-print materials. Eliminating the statutory guarantee would threaten their ability to receive reading materials at all. This program is used widely by organizations in the public library and academic library sector.

Repealing reduced postage rates for library materials

If Bill C-15 proceeds with section 197 as drafted, libraries will face substantial new costs at a time when budgets are already stretched. That will inevitably mean fewer interlibrary loans, fewer books by mail, and reduced access to reading and information for the very people who most rely on these services.

Interlibrary loans are an essential part of how libraries in Canada operate and rely on the provisions of the Canada Post Corporation Act to provide access to materials for the millions of library users in Canada. If Canada Post can increase rates without any oversight from Parliament or the Government of Canada – as C-15 would permit - libraries across Canada will be devastated, put a strain on already stretched library budgets and threaten their ability to offer this essential service for access, equity and literacy for all.

Repealing free postage for literature for the blind

Free postage for the blind has been a service that has been offered by Canada Post for over a century. If C-15 becomes law as written, it would have the immediate effect of repealing the Materials for the Use of the Blind Regulations (C.R.C., c. 1283) which according to Canada Post are the complete program terms and requirements. This proposed change would have a profound impact on the critical services that libraries and supporting organizations provide to people who are blind or low-vision in Canada, and on our collective ability to fulfill our mandates to serve this vulnerable community.

The proposed repeal could also place Canada in conflict with the Universal Postal Convention, which requires that items for the blind sent to or from an organization serving blind people, or to or from a blind person, be exempt from postal charges.

We are particularly troubled that both changes were introduced without prior notice or consultation with affected library organizations or with the disability communities most directly impacted. Given the importance of these services for equity, literacy, and inclusion, this lack of engagement undermines confidence in the government's stated commitments to people with disabilities and to accessible public services.

In the past few days, both Canada Post and the federal government have come out with statements that they are committed to continue providing free mailings for the visually impaired, through their Literature for the Blind program, and reduced rates of postage for library materials. While these assurances are welcomed, the statements also continue to support the amendments which repeal these very clauses which guarantee regulatory protection. Ensuring these services are enshrined in legislation, rather than being controlled by Canada Post and its Board, protects them from further change without consultation, at the discretion of a Board that may not prioritize equitable access to reading across Canada for all.

If Bill C-15 proceeds with section 197 as drafted, libraries and accessible-reading providers will face substantial new costs at a time when budgets are already stretched. That will inevitably mean fewer

interlibrary loans, fewer books by mail, and significantly reduced choice of format for accessible reading materials such as braille, audio and large print. These proposed changes reduce access to reading and information for the very people who most rely on these services.

Burnaby Public Library therefore respectfully calls on the government to:

1. Withdraw the proposed repeal of paragraphs 19(1)(d) to (g.1) of the Canada Post Corporation Act from Bill C-15;
2. Maintain statutory protections for both the reduced-rate library materials program and the free-post program for people who are blind or have low-vision, rather than leaving these vital services solely to the discretion of Canada Post's Board.

I am asking that you please work to ensure the government withdraws these amendments to the Canada Post Corporations Act.

Sincerely,



Anna Lu
Chair, Board of Trustees
Burnaby Public Library