



March 12, 2026

Reference: 190439

Gladys Atrill
President, North Central Local Government Association
507-1488 4th Avenue
Prince George BC V2L 4Y2
Email: admin@nclga.ca

Dear Gladys Atrill:

Thank you for your letter of January 26, 2026, outlining the resolutions endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association at your 2025 Annual General Meeting and Convention. We appreciate the leadership that local governments across your region continue to demonstrate in supporting public libraries as critical community hubs.

Thank you for sharing the three resolutions proposed by northern communities regarding provincial funding. While these resolutions were not admitted for debate at the 2025 UBCM Convention, I appreciate how this highlights the concerns raised in Resolutions R27, R28, and R29 regarding stable operating funding and capital needs, particularly in rural and northern regions.

The province recognizes the social and economic pressures facing libraries and their communities, including those identified by local governments through the broadly endorsed UBCM Resolution SR3. Local governments navigate increasingly complex service demand and the libraries in your region continue to provide vital supports—offering access to learning, digital inclusion, community programming, and services that assist people experiencing housing instability, mental health challenges, and other barriers. Our enhancement funding of \$56 million (\$3 million in 2020, \$8 million in 2022 and \$45 million in 2023) distributed to libraries since 2020 is also making an impact. The annual provincial library grant funding of \$14 million is maintained in the 2026 Budget released on February 17, 2026.

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The ministry also values the strong tradition of cooperation within the library sector. Libraries working together—through shared programs, resource-sharing initiatives, and participation in province-wide services—enhances the resilience and impact of public library service across British Columbia.

The north has long demonstrated leadership in this area, contributing actively to sector organizations and collaborative initiatives that help advance provincial priorities and strengthen equitable access for communities of all sizes.

While we are not able to commit to changes in funding at this time, I thank you for bringing these resolutions forward and for your continued leadership in supporting public library services in your region. By way of this letter, I am sharing your correspondence with Mari Martin, Director of the Public Libraries Branch, who is available if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Boyle', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Christine Boyle
Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs