



## Media Release

### **New Nanaimo Wellington branch coming to Central Nanaimo this Spring**

*Monday, February 20, 2017, Nanaimo, BC:* Central Nanaimo library customers can soon look forward to a new and improved Wellington branch at the conveniently located Country Club Centre. The current facility, which welcomes more than 100,000 visitors a year, is no longer adequately serving the more than 20,000 residents in the Wellington area due to its small size, restricted parking, age, and required maintenance.

"During our public consultation in 2015, we heard loud and clear from the community what they want their library to be," says Director of Library Services Jamie Anderson. "When we factored in community needs, the cost of renovating the current facility, and opportunities to improve library services, it became clear that a new location was the most viable option. I'm confident that the purpose-built space at Country Club Centre will exceed our community's expectations."

Due in part to its age, the Nanaimo Wellington branch ranked high on the priority list for improvement in VIRL's [Consolidated Facilities Master Plan](#). The location at Country Club Centre:

- Meets our budget
- Provides the necessary space
- Has improved parking
- Is within the immediate service area
- Has access to a major transit hub and flexible hours
- Is accessible for people with disabilities and has an outdoor book drop

In addition to an exciting new location, the purpose-built facility will provide:

- Space for a community-tailored collection, including new books, magazines, newspapers, DVDs, and CDs
- The same hours of operation as the current facility
- New public computers
- Computer stations with literacy software specifically for children
- More public space with comfortable lounge seating for reading, quiet study areas, collaborative spaces, and areas for children's programs

The current branch will close on Saturday, March 11 and the new facility is slated to open in early-to-mid May. Construction updates will be provided on our website and social media channels. More information is available at [virl.bc.ca](http://virl.bc.ca).

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