

2012 Operating Budget Approved

Board members received the second draft of the *2012-2016 Financial Plan* and approved a balanced operating budget of \$18,213,906 for 2012. Under the *Library Act*, public libraries are required to adopt a balanced budget for the following year prior to December 31.

This year, the provincial government provided \$1,265,213 – \$79,294 more than last year – which included grants for BC OneCard and Literacy Equity that were expected to be eliminated after 2010. The government announced that it will require comprehensive reporting for the grants to meet provincial priorities, develop local capacities and ensure accountability. This fiscal year, BC government's budget for the public library sector is \$13,990,000.

Municipal and rural levies will contribute \$16,486,603 to the budget, which includes increases to cover expenditures due to provincial minimum wage and pension rate adjustments, and expenditures for future new or expanded facilities.

In June of last year, the Board approved a 10-year plan to deal with the more than \$2.4 million in deferred maintenance issues of VIRL's 38 branch libraries identified in the *Consolidated Facilities Master Plan*. The plan called for a 1.25% annual increase for future new or expanded facilities, as well as a 1% increase for maintenance, fixtures, furniture and equipment.

The remainder of budgeted revenues come from overdue and other fees, and investment income.

Budget expenditures include \$2,228,283 for purchase of library materials, up 3% over last year.

Seven principles guided the development of the financial plan as follows:

- Strive to maintain excellence in the services and programs outlined in the strategic plan
- Provide core services more effectively and efficiently.
- Incorporate feedback obtained from stakeholders, partners and staff during last year's strategic planning process.
- Create welcoming environments that are pleasing and safe.
- Gain efficiencies through diligent resource stewardship, high performance and accountability on the part of all staff.
- Provide staff training and support that will attract and retain talented high quality staff.
- Act on Consolidated Facilities Master Plan recommendations and correct long standing budgetary issues with respect to maintenance and provision of useable space.

Update on Nanaimo North branch

The Board received an update on the proposed 15,422 sq. ft. Nanaimo North branch on Hammond Bay Road and agreed to accept the recommendation to maximize space in the building and move some staff to the Harbourfront branch.

Nanaimo North borrowing

The Board authorized a 30-year Indebtedness Agreement with the Regional District of Nanaimo, which has agreed to borrow \$8-million on VIRL's behalf from the Municipal Finance Authority (MFA) for construction/renovation of the proposed Nanaimo North branch.

Lake Cowichan borrowing

The Board received an update on the borrowing process to be facilitated by the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) on behalf of VIRL for construction of a new branch in Lake Cowichan.

LEED design to be incorporated in facilities plan

As part of its facilities plan, the Board has agreed to incorporate LEED 'green' design standards' rather than apply for formal LEED certification. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a voluntary, internationally accepted benchmark that provides proof of design, construction and operation of high performance 'green' building. LEED certification is an expensive process, eg LEED certification for the proposed Lake Cowichan branch could add as much as \$18,000 to the estimated \$1-million project, while LEED certification for the Nanaimo North branch would likely cost an additional \$63,350.

New Library Managers introduced

Two new Library Managers were introduced to Board members – Jamie Anderson and Stephen R. Warren, of the Parksville and Courtenay branches, respectively. Jamie Anderson comes from the Thompson Nicola Regional District Library System, where he was Head of Reference. Prior to that position he served as the Systems and Web Librarian at Kwantlen University College, and librarian at Vancouver Public Library. Stephen R. Warren comes from the Lethbridge Public Library, where he provided reference and readers' advisory services. Prior to that Stephen worked as a temporary CSL at the Courtenay branch.

2011/12 Board Meeting Dates

November 26, 2011

January 28, 2012 – Annual General Meeting

March 31, 2012

June 9, 2012

September 15, 2012

November 24, 2012