



Media Release

Library services to be restored in Sayward

Tuesday, September 5, 2017, Nanaimo, BC: Library services are returning to Sayward. After successful meetings between Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) staff and Village Council, a temporary library will soon open inside Council Chambers while a permanent library is constructed on leased land. The temporary library is set to open during the week of September 25 and offer the same hours of operation as the now closed branch (**Sunday:** Closed, **Monday:** Closed, **Tuesday:** 10am – 12pm and 1 – 5pm, **Wednesday:** 10am – 2pm, **Thursday:** 1 – 4pm and 5 – 8pm, **Friday:** Closed, **Saturday:** 10am – 2pm).

The space will provide free WiFi, public computers, and a selection of physical materials available for loan.

“Clearly, Sayward residents love their library and use it heavily,” says VIRL’s Executive Director Rosemary Bonanno. “I know that, once built, the permanent new library will fast become a busy and vibrant community hub for many years to come. In the interim, we are pleased to be restoring library services inside Council Chambers. I would like to thank the community for their patience and understanding as we worked through this process.”

Until the temporary library opens, VIRL has installed free WiFi accessible from the parking lot of the closed library. This service is available at the same hours of the closed library.

During the closure, VIRL has also been offering a Books-by-Mail service to all Sayward library card-holding customers. More information about this service is available at 1.877.415.VIRL or by emailing info@virl.bc.ca

Plans for a permanent prefabricated facility on land leased from the Village are also progressing. The location at the corner of H’Ksuam Way and MacMillan Drive will house a 1,500-1,800 sq. ft. fully-functioning branch that will include a parking lot, accessible entrances, and landscaping. With the larger space, VIRL staff are looking at various service improvement options, including a larger collection, more IT infrastructure, seating areas, programming area, and a meeting space.

A timeline and budget for the permanent branch are still to be determined, but VIRL hopes to start construction in 2018.



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Information about public consultations, surveys, and other ways the public can provide input, will be provided soon.

More information is available at virl.bc.ca/sayward-story.

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