



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sooke Library: Update

Thursday, September 21, 2017, Sooke, BC: Plans are moving forward for a new library for the community of Sooke. Although the timeline has shifted since the land on Wadams Way was finalized at the March 2017 Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) Board meeting, Sooke remains the number one priority as identified in VIRL's [Consolidated Facilities Master Plan](#).

"When matters of health and safety arise, as they did recently at our Sayward, Tahsis and Port McNeill branches, we are obliged to address these issues immediately," says VIRL's Executive Director, Rosemary Bonanno. "While we are limited by human capacity, staff are striving to balance and respond to the pent-up demand of VIRL's various facilities needs. Sooke remains the top priority in the CFMP and we are committed to building a state-of-the-art facility for Sooke as quickly and as efficiently as possible."

Staff have negotiated an extension to the lease of the current Sooke branch that continues through December 2019. Staff are also working with the architects on various aspects of the project, including adjacencies and the building program.

Residents of Sooke will not go without library services.

Our goal is to have shovels in the ground by mid-2018. Projecting outward, the new library would open in approximately a year's time — tentatively, the spring of 2019.

While it is too early to suggest a date, we will schedule another public consultation session once the architect has come back with their proposed designs. Details about this public consultation will be disseminated well ahead of time.

More information will be provided as it becomes available.

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For more Information

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