

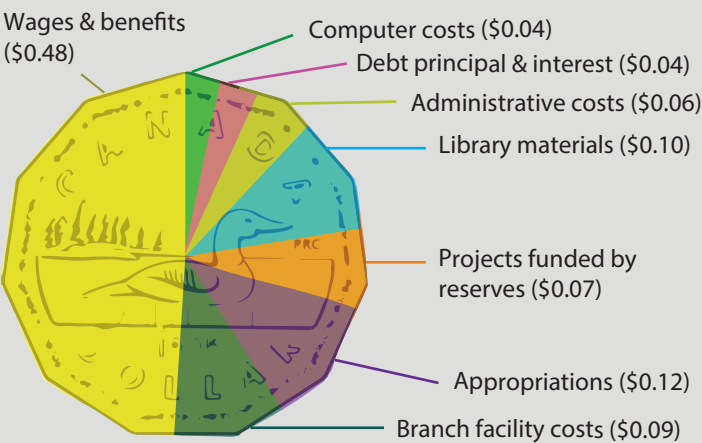
1

THIS YEAR'S LEVY PER CAPITA CHANGE

\$3.44

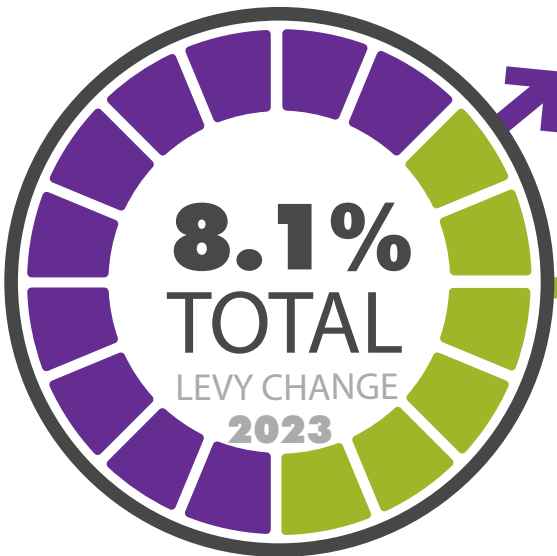
2

HOW **EVERY \$1** IS BUDGETED



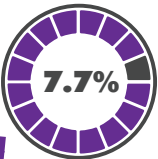
3

A LEVY CHANGE FUNDS



CORE SERVICES

Millions of items and critical services made available to communities large and small



CONSOLIDATED FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

Ensuring library facilities are safe, accessible and meet community needs



THE 2023 INCREASE

VIRL serves 490,000 people in our communities. Through bricks-and-mortar branches, digital and delivery services across our system, people rely on our spaces, services and resources for entertainment, education, connection, health resources, research, comfort, meetings, technology, growth, family and friends. There is no other institution that offers the breadth of what we offer.

For 5 years, VIRL has worked to keep the increase to the total levy in the 3-5% range. Unfortunately, continuing at that level is unsustainable given the current economic conditions, where inflation has been steadily increasing since March 2020, leading to a 31-year high in inflation of 8.1% due to supply chain issues and world events.

Fixed costs at VIRL represent approximately 95% of the operating budget, leaving little room to modify expenditures without significant negative impacts on service levels. Operating expenditures have increased significantly, affecting all aspects of VIRL's operations.

VIRL's total budget for 2023 is \$33,140,504. Of this, the total levy to VIRL members is \$27,501,775. The allocation of the levy to VIRL's 38 members is dictated by a formula contained in the BC Library Act. For information on the amounts paid by members, please refer to Schedules D through F of the 2023 budget: virl.bc.ca/reports-and-plans



THE BIG IMPACT OF VIRL

**LIBRARY
CARDHOLDERS
RECEIVE
\$650
IN ANNUAL
VALUE
(2021 AVERAGE)**

We serve **half a million** people with our wide range of services, digital platforms, and **39** branches across an area of **42,000** km²

CHECK IT OUT



Libraries are literacy champions for residents of all ages. Literacy is a key social determinant of health and an essential life competency.



VIRL branches and resources are a critical “Third Space” in communities, enjoyed by all ages and all socio-economic backgrounds.



VIRL services help support residents in the face of significant regional challenges, including COVID-19, housing, climate, toxic drug, and opioid crises. The complexity of library services is increasing in light of these challenges.



This year, VIRL embraced DRIPA (Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act) and the Accessibility Act; essential steps toward a more just and inclusive society.

THE BIG BENEFITS

- 1 Wherever you are, you have access to knowledgeable, professional **staff**
- 2 Local **programming** for all ages that enriches lives and communities
- 3 Critical **services** for new Canadians, families, seniors, marginalized people, and those with accessibility needs

BY THE NUMBERS

1

In 2021 library users borrowed over **3.9 million** items from VIRL

2

Visitor **SATISFACTION** score is an impressive **9.2/10** according to our patrons

3

With economies of scale, VIRL leverages up to **40% in discounts** on our collections

* **VIRL works** at a very large scale to maximize economies of scale and to achieve equitable services for all the communities we serve.