



Administration
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Nanaimo, BC Canada V9R 5N3
t: 250.758.4697 f: 250.758.2482
e: info@virl.bc.ca w: www.virl.bc.ca

March 13, 2025

Via email: lp52@bctf.ca

Kyla Ragan

Re: Freedom of Information

Dear Kyla,

I am writing further to my email of February 3, 2025 in response to your email of January 30, 2025 requesting access to information under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA).

In that request, you have asked for the following records:

- Records (from October 15, 2022 to January 28, 2025) of the following information, in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA):
Documents, proposals, research, or plans related to a Vancouver Island Regional Library branch (or other presence) in Prince Rupert, including, but not limited to, communication between the Vancouver Island Regional Library and the City of Prince Rupert (including its Mayor, members of City Council, and staff), the Prince Rupert Public Library, and the North Coast Regional District, including related briefings, correspondence (including but not limited to emails), consultations, deliberations, meeting documents, notes, proceedings, discussion drafts (or other drafts), and/or research materials."

We confirm that the records responsive to your request begin in July, 2023 until January 28, 2025, as stated above.

I enclose records responsive to your request. The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act ("FIPPA") provides a right of access to records in the custody or control of public bodies such as the Vancouver Island Regional Library. However, the right of access under the FIPPA is subject to certain exceptions set out in Part 2 of the Act.

Under Section 12(1) of Part 2, the head of a public body must refuse to disclose to an applicant information that would reveal the substance of deliberations of the Executive

Council or any of its committees, including any advice, recommendations, policy considerations or draft legislation or regulations submitted or prepared for submission to the Executive Council or any of its committees. Records produced for closed Board meetings and information from in-camera (private) meetings of councils, boards, commissions, or committees is protected from disclosure.

Where applicable, we have withheld 35 records pursuant to Sections 12(1) and Sections 17(b), (d) and (e) of Part 2 of the Act, as the disclosure of which would be harmful to the financial or economic interests of a public body. In exercising our responsibility to protect the financial or economic interests of a public body and deliberations of Executive Council and committees, pursuant to Section 17 and 12 of the FOIPPA, we have considered all the relevant circumstances, including those identified at Section 17(3) and Section 12(2) and (4) of the Act.

Under Section 52 of the Act, you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review our decision not to disclose information you have requested. You have 30 business days from receipt of this letter to request a review by writing to:

Office of the Information and Privacy
Commissioner for British Columbia
PO Box 9038, Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC V8W 9A4

If you wish to request a review, please provide the Commissioner's office with: your name, address and telephone number; a copy of your request, a copy of this letter and the reasons or grounds upon which you are requesting the review.

If you have any questions about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.


Regards,


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Natasha Bartlett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Natasha Bartlett
Divisional Manager of Communications | Privacy Officer
Vancouver Island Regional Library



Administration Department

 424 3rd Avenue West
Prince Rupert, BC, V8J 1L7

 (250) 627 1781

 cityhall@princerupert.ca

September 12, 2023

By email to bhyman@virl.bc.ca

Ben Hyman
Vancouver Island Regional Library
Box 3333
Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5N3

Dear Mr. Hyman:

Re: VIRL Service

On behalf of the Mayor and Council, I would like to express the City of Prince Rupert's interest in joining the VIRL service. We would like to look at this possibility and would be open to this including Electoral Areas A and C of the North Coast Regional District and Port Edward if they also have an interest.

We hope VIRL is open to exploring this request and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Dr. Robert Buchan
City Manager

Subject: Re: Letter regarding your upcoming visit to Prince Rupert
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 at 9:43:24 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: Ben Hyman
To: Kyla Ragan - Local 52 President
Attachments: image002.png, image003.png, image004.png, image005.png, image006.png, image007.png, image001[84].png

Kyla Ragan,

Thank-you for writing, and for your support of public library services.

An exploration into VIRL membership was initiated by the City of Prince Rupert last year. The North Coast Regional District is a party to the exploration. VIRL has not been invited to meet with the City or with the Prince Rupert Public Library Board at this time.

You may wish to direct your inquiries to the City Manager, Rob Buchan or to the NCRD CAO, Daniel Fish.
All the best.



Ben Hyman
Executive Director
Vancouver Island Regional Library
Phone: 250-740-1404
web: virl.bc.ca



From: Kyla Ragan - Local 52 President <lp52@bctf.ca>
Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 7:05 AM
To: Ben Hyman <BHyman@virl.bc.ca>
Subject: Letter regarding your upcoming visit to Prince Rupert

You don't often get email from lp52@bctf.ca. [Learn why this is important](#)

Greetings Mr. Hyam,

I have attached a letter from Local 52 Prince Rupert District Teachers Union.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon,

Kyla Ragan

Local President of the PRDTU

250-600-0071

lp52@bctf.ca

~ I respectfully acknowledge that I am an uninvited guest on the unceded territory of the Ts'ymsen people. ~

Prince Rupert District Teachers' Union
330 3 Ave W
Prince Rupert, BC V8J 1L4
January 9, 2025

Ben Hyman, Executive Director
Vancouver Island Regional Library
6250 Hammond Bay Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M9
bhyman@virl.bc.ca

Dear Ben Hyman:

The Prince Rupert District Teachers' Union (PRDTU) represents the over 150 public education teachers and other educators employed by School District 52. On November 7, 2024, the PRDTU membership passed a resolution at a General Meeting of the union in support of retaining the municipal library board of the Prince Rupert Public Library.

The union has since initiated a community campaign focused on promoting the value of a local library. We have started outreach to other community groups and library supporters. We have also reached out to the City of Prince Rupert and the Prince Rupert Library Board. We requested to speak on our Keep Our Local Library Campaign at the January 13, 2025, City Council Meeting.

The union supports local control of the local library because it is an important and valuable community asset worth sustaining. Local control over facilities, services, programs, operating costs, and capital investments benefits the community by ensuring we have direct control over the library. This better aligns services to community needs, provides direct oversight over city funding, and supports local democracy.

We understand you will be in Prince Rupert to share more details on possible plans to outsource the city's public library to VIRL or another regional library system. Given that VIRL engineers have already assessed the city's library building in June 2024, we wonder whether specific outsourcing plans are under development and if a proposal will be coming soon. As we continue to reach out to community groups about our campaign, we would like to share accurate information with electors. Given this, we invite you to meet with our committee so we can hear directly from you on VIRL's plans or options for Prince Rupert.

Please reply to lp52@bctf.ca to schedule a meeting when you are in town. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Kyla Ragan
President of the Prince Rupert District Teachers Union