



January 14, 2025

Prince Rupert Public Library Board  
Mercedes Taylor, Secretary of the Board (interim Chief Librarian)  
101 6th Avenue West  
Prince Rupert BC V8J 1Y9  
[info@princerupertlibrary.ca](mailto:info@princerupertlibrary.ca)

To the Prince Rupert Public Library Board (c/o Mercedes Taylor):

The Prince Rupert District Teachers' Union (PRDTU) continues to support the Prince Rupert Public Library Board because of the important role that you have in sustaining local democracy, supporting literacy, removing barriers to accessible information, and providing community services. We therefore welcome news that the Library Board has begun a strategic planning process to ensure that our local public library is housed in adequate facilities for meeting the needs of residents and businesses. We are committed to helping you achieve this vision!

We imagine a library building that's designed from the ground up to highlight local collections, develop partnerships with local First Nations, collaborate with community service providers, and to build collaborations with local schools and civic organizations. We envision a planning process that includes all voices, including those of youth, elders, families, businesses, faith communities, civic clubs, and unions. To help support these ends, the PRDTU is reaching out to local organizations to start building a community coalition for building a new library facility. This coalition will focus on raising donations from the community and on providing a substantial share of what's needed to build a new library facility for the Prince Rupert Public Library.

We estimate that \$3 million raised in five years (2025-2030) is a realistic target. But the first steps are inviting other groups, forming a coalition that includes business, civic, and labour organizations, and working with the Prince Rupert Public Library Board to set specific funding targets, a timeline, and a strategic planning process. To these aims, the PRDTU will start presenting the "big vision" of such a campaign/coalition to business, civic, and labour organizations in the weeks ahead. The \$3 million target is just a starting point, as much work is still required to know what is needed, how long it will take to raise it, and how we will do the actual fundraising.

When the Library Board is ready to work with community supporters of the library on this project, we would like to meet with the board, or your Chief Librarian, to discuss specifics of the community coalition and fundraising drive. We know that, beyond initial outreach, a campaign cannot start until there formal processes are in place to support a community-library campaign that aligns with your strategic plans. We will continue to keep you informed of our outreach progress. Please let us know of any communication items or other details that you think we should consider when making our initial outreach. We welcome your feedback and suggestions and look forward to working together in support of sustaining our local library for the entire community.

Sincerely,  
Kyla Ragan, President PRDTU  
[lp52@bctf.ca](mailto:lp52@bctf.ca)