

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR  
AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL:

File: 1945

Re: Proposed extension of the present Burnaby Public Library Board trustee maximum appointments from three consecutive two-year terms to four consecutive two-year terms.

Madam and Gentlemen:

The Burnaby Public Library Board presents the following for your consideration:

Advantages:

1. The Library Act of British Columbia 1979, under which all Board members are appointed, allows for the appointment by Municipal Council of Board members to serve four consecutive two-year terms.
2. All other member libraries of the Greater Vancouver Library Federation operate on a four 2-year term basis and to the best of the Board's knowledge, so do most other libraries in British Columbia and elsewhere. (It would appear that when the "Burnaby Municipal Public Library By-Law 1954" came into being, the rule pertaining to the maximum appointments of trustees for three consecutive two-year terms was established by the Council at the time of the first appointments for 1955).
3. By serving the longer term, the Burnaby trustee has more room for growth in this capacity. Library trusteeship is an enormous responsibility. It calls for knowledge of important issues and much complex information has to be understood before decisions affecting the library community can be made. By limiting the length of time that a Burnaby citizen can serve to six years, Burnaby loses a person just when he or she is feeling comfortable in his or her role and confident of their input and decisions. Conveying the library's viewpoint to the community at large is also an important role for a library trustee and a longer term allows him or her to acquire sufficient knowledge to be able to properly do so.
4. Chairing the Burnaby Public Library Board is a task that requires a great deal of experience in many library matters. A longer term of service would allow for greater library experience to be acquired before assuming the chairman's role. By extending the term to eight years, a past-chairman could serve longer. Knowledge gained would not be lost to the system.
5. At the present time we have three (3) members of the Board all appointed in the same year (1980). Under normal circumstances all would retire in the same year (1986). This is a most undesirable situation as regards continuity within the Board. By increasing the term to eight years it should be possible to stagger those three retirements and thus prevent a repetition of the present situation and allow for a hard core of experience to remain.

Disadvantages:

1. A poor trustee could be a liability for a longer term.
2. There is a possibility that with a longer tenure (8 years) there might be a number of years (4) when no appointments will be made to the Board. This problem could be alleviated by phasing in new trustees when staggering the retirements of the Board members.

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Summary:

The Library Board feels that the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages in this exercise when one considers the legal aspects involved (Library Act of British Columbia) plus local, provincial and national patterns, along with the benefits that longer service may provide locally and in other areas. What disadvantages there might be would be handled as circumstances arise.

The strength of the Library Board's case for the longer term rests in the Library Act 1979 ("Terms of Office", Section 21, Paragraph 3) plus the pattern followed by most other Library Boards. None of these Boards seem to have any problems with the longer term and the feeling seems to be that eight years is desirable.

For the information of Council, pertinent sections of the Library Act are attached.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Burnaby Municipal Council extend the maximum Burnaby Public Library Board trustee appointments from three consecutive two-year terms to four consecutive two-year terms as permitted by the Library Act of British Columbia, 1979.

Respectfully submitted  
On behalf of Burnaby Public Library Board,

T. W. Constable,  
Alderman.

TWC/dew  
Attachment.

**Qualification of members**

- 20.** (1) No person shall be appointed a member of the board if he is not an elector, unless he has resided in the municipality for not less than 6 months last preceding his appointment.  
(2) Members retiring from office shall be eligible for reappointment.  
(3) No member shall receive remuneration for his services.

RS1960-316-29; 1968-44-10.

**Term of office**

- 21.** (1) The member appointed from the municipal council shall hold office for one year, or for the remainder of the year during which he is appointed, and that member is eligible for reappointment.  
(2) Of the remaining members first appointed by the municipal council, 1/2 of those members shall be appointed for a term of one year, and the remaining 1/2 for a term of 2 years.  
(3) All subsequent regular appointments shall be for a term of 2 years, but no person may be appointed for more than 8 consecutive years.  
(4) In every case the term of office shall run from February 1 in the year in which the appointment is made, but every member shall continue to hold office until his successor is appointed.

RS1960-316-30; 1968-44-11.

**Appointments, when made**

- 22.** (1) The first appointments of members of the board shall be made at the first meeting of the municipal council after the final passing of the bylaw establishing the library, and the regular appointments after that shall be made at the first meeting of the municipal council on or after the third Monday in January in each year.  
(2) A vacancy arising from any cause other than the expiration of the term for which the member was appointed shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term only, by an appointment to be made at the first meeting after that of the municipal council.  
(3) In case an appointment is not made at the time prescribed, it shall be made as soon after that as is convenient.

RS1960-316-31.

