

RE: LETTER FROM ROBERT C. HARRIS, CHAIRMAN, BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD,
BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 201-4455 ALASKA STREET, BURNABY, B.C., V5C 5T3
B38 VANCOUVER LIBRARY REFERENCE SERVICES

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT the recommendations of the Chief Librarian be adopted.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1985 SEPT. 10
FROM: CHIEF LIBRARIAN, BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY
RE: B38 VANCOUVER LIBRARY REFERENCE SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council approve UBCM Resolution B38 Vancouver Library Reference Services; AND
2. THAT the letter from the Chairman of the Burnaby Public Library Board which appears on this agenda and a copy of this report be sent to the UBCM, Vancouver Public Library Board and the Vancouver City Council.

REPORT

Vancouver Public Library forwarded a motion to the UBCM in 1984 calling for a task force to examine the role of that library as a provincial resource. The resolution was referred to the Lower Mainland Municipal Association which has now endorsed it in an amended form for consideration at the 1985 UBCM. The Burnaby Public Library Board has recorded its support of the resolution. Vancouver Public Library estimates that 23% of its reference transactions provide information to non-residents. The Greater Vancouver Library Federation (GVLF), of which Burnaby Public Library is a member, reimburses Vancouver for services provided to the residents of the eight member jurisdictions. This reimbursement covers about one third of the cost of providing the service. Vancouver does not receive any reimbursement for services provided to non-residents from jurisdictions outside the GVLF.

The need for new money for reciprocal library use has been identified as critical within the GVLF. Recognition of the Vancouver Public Library as a provincial resource would enhance the likelihood of increased provincial support and thereby limit increasing pressure on other GVLF libraries, including Burnaby. At present, costs are charged back to the Burnaby Public Library for the use of Vancouver library services by Burnaby residents. The proposed task force review could ease this burden.

In general terms the establishment of a task force to examine the role of Vancouver Public Library "as part of a province-wide study of library services" is an important initiative that could lead to the improved, systematic and planned delivery of library services in British Columbia.


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This is something that is long overdue in this province. It was addressed in part in the early seventies as a result of which the Greater Vancouver Library Federation was established and provincial grants to public libraries substantially increased.

Reconsideration of the problems faced by Vancouver and by other public libraries could lead to improved provincial support.

It is recommended that Resolution B38 Vancouver Library Reference Services be supported by Burnaby's representatives to the 1985 UBCM Convention.


Bryan L. Bacon,
Chief Librarian
Burnaby Public Library