

MOTION ON NOTICE

2. Stronger Digital Content for Public Libraries

Submitted by: Councillor Boyle

WHEREAS

1. Public libraries play an important role in the community through early literacy programs that are critical building blocks for life-long health and well-being, and digital literacy programs that enable participation in the digital world;
2. Public libraries must be able to offer digital publications to their customers as part of their core service offering to the community, particularly given the digital divide and the rapid pace of digitization of educational and cultural materials;
3. The municipalities of Barrie, Burlington, Cambridge, Edmonton, Kitchener, Markham, Milton, Mississauga, Okanagan, Ottawa, Pickering, Richmond, St. Catherine's, Surrey, Toronto and Vaughn have endorsed the importance of this position by passing motions in support;
4. The Vancouver Public Library Board has requested that the City of Vancouver similarly endorse this position by passing a motion in support.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the City of Vancouver indicate our support for the Vancouver Public Library and the Canadian Urban Libraries Council in their efforts to increase access to digital publications for public library customers in Vancouver and across Canada by directing the Mayor to sign the Statement on Equitable Public Access to E-Books.
- B. THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Vancouver City Council, write a letter to the Federal government, urging the Federal government to investigate the barriers faced by public libraries in acquiring digital publications and the problems that poses for vulnerable demographic groups in Canada.
- C. THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Vancouver City Council, write a letter to the Federal government, asking the Federal government to develop a solution that increases access to digital publications across Canada and assists public libraries in meeting the cost requirements to acquire digital publications.

* * * * *