

## Rhonda West

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**From:** Corinne Boback <cboback@orl.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 17, 2025 11:50 AM  
**To:** Erin Jackson  
**Cc:** Rhonda West; Sylvia Lindgren  
**Subject:** ORL Letter of Support for UBCM Ministerial Meetings  
**Attachments:** Letter of Support for UBCM Ministerial Meetings.docx

Good morning,

As you know, members of your Council/Board are appointed to the Okanagan Regional Library (ORL) Board. This year, with the support of our fellow Board members, Danielle and I will be submitting requests to meet with Ministers at the upcoming UBCM convention.

We plan to submit meeting requests with the Honourable Sheila Malcolmson (Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction) and the Honourable Ravi Kahlon (Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs) to explore opportunities to advance the following key objectives:

1. A 20% increase in core provincial library grants
2. The establishment of a Social Wellbeing Grant
3. The establishment of a Climate Relief Grant

To assist in this effort, we have drafted a template letter of support, should your organization wish to join us in advocating for these initiatives. If your mayor feels it is appropriate to support this request, we kindly ask that the letter be updated with your organization's letterhead, relevant information, and signature, and returned to me by mid-July. This will allow us time to prepare our meeting packages, should our requests be approved.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or require additional information. We sincerely appreciate your consideration and support.

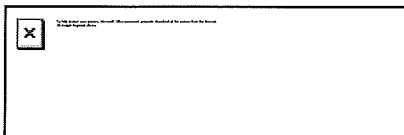
Warm regards,

## Corinne Boback

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[Council Letterhead / Municipality Name]

Date: [Insert Date]

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of [Municipality Name], I am writing to express our support for the 2025 UBCM Convention ministerial requests being submitted collaboratively by the Okanagan Regional Library.

Public libraries across British Columbia provide essential front-line services, not only in literacy and education, but increasingly as safe, inclusive spaces for vulnerable and underserved community members. As local governments, we continue to shoulder increasing costs associated with population growth, inflation, housing insecurity, and public health challenges—while library funding from the province has remained largely stagnant since a 25% reduction in 2009.

We support the following three requests put forward by the Okanagan Regional Library:

**1. A 20% Increase in Core Provincial Library Grants**

A proportional increase to the four core provincial grants (Per Capita Operating Grant, Literacy and Equity Grant, OneCard Grant, and Resource Sharing Grant) is critical to enable libraries to meet growing community demands while relieving financial pressure on municipal governments.

**2. Establishment of a Social Wellbeing Grant**

Providing dedicated funding for resources and training would strengthen libraries' ability to align with and support the priorities of the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, particularly in areas related to community wellbeing, housing stability, and poverty reduction.

**3. Establishment of a Climate Relief Grant**

Many libraries now function as de facto heating and cooling centres during extreme weather events. Supporting this role with operational and facility-based funding ensures libraries can safely provide refuge in climate emergencies.

We believe these measures would meaningfully enhance the province's efforts in the areas of housing, social development, and climate readiness, while improving service delivery and reducing pressures on local governments.

We encourage the provincial government to engage directly with the Public Libraries Branch, along with local and regional library systems, to implement these proposals.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]

[Municipality]

[Contact Info]