



CANADIAN SCHOOL LIBRARIES

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May 5, 2025

Honourable Lisa Beare
Minister of Education and Child Care
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Delivered by email: ECC.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Beare,

Canadian School Libraries (CSL) is a national organization dedicated to professional research and education in the field of the school library learning commons. We are the guardians of [Leading Learning: Standards of Practice for the School Library Learning Commons in Canada](#).

We are writing to you today to address an increasingly common issue in BC with regards to budget shortfalls in school districts across the province. First off, we would like to recognize that over the last eight years the funding in BC for education has risen dramatically, addressing long-term underfunding. Unfortunately during the same time period, costs have, for a variety of factors, spiralled out of control for school districts as prices of portables, cleaning supplies, and more increase. To balance these out we are seeing districts cutting mentorship positions like district helping teachers, scaling back district resource centres or centralized cataloging, and combining teacher prep time with teacher-librarians' ratioed time. This offloads more work onto the average teacher-librarian and stops them from being able to do the important and meaningful work of instructional leadership (i.e. digital literacy and citizenship, inquiry based learning, information verification skills), collaboration, peer leadership and more as outlined in *Leading Learning*.

Three years ago, at the Treasure Mountain Canada School Library Research Symposium #7 in New Westminster, CSL was honoured to present the [Leading Learning Implementation Award](#) to Surrey Schools. The award honours and applauds school districts, provinces and territories who have successfully developed and/or enhanced their school library learning commons on a systemic basis founded on the tenets, principles and continuous growth of the five standards of *Leading Learning*. Surrey Schools exemplified this level of investment in the value of the library program to enhance district goals for student success.

Imagine then our concern and dismay when we learned that in its [important budget update \(posted February 24, 2025\)](#), Surrey Schools had proposed to reassign the district helping teacher for library learning commons. This role had been instrumental in the successful implementation of high standards for library learning commons in Surrey Schools, through mentorship, professional development and work to build capacity across Surrey Schools. Indeed, the work of the district helping teacher for library learning commons is the very way teacher-librarians were supported to

Sincerely,



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On behalf of the CSL Board of Directors

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Cc:

Kathryn Krishna, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education and Child Care

Tammy Le, President, [BC Teacher Librarians' Association](http://www.bctla.ca)
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