



AGENDA

Greater Victoria Public Library Board Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2026

Time: 12:00-1:00 PM

Location: In Person: Community Room, Central Branch, 735 Broughton Street, Victoria, BC
Electronically: Microsoft Teams

1. Call to Order

2. Territorial Acknowledgement

Greater Victoria Public Library's service area is located within the traditional territories of many First Nations, known today as the Songhees First Nation and Xwsepsəm (Esquimalt) First Nation, as well as the WSÁNEĆ Nations and Sc'ianew (Beecher Bay) First Nation.

Their historical relationships with the land and sea continue to this day. It is an honour to work on these sacred lands that they have stewarded since time immemorial

3. Welcome and Introductions

4. Consent Agenda

Motion to Approve

4.1. Approval of Agenda

4.2. Approval of Minutes – May 26, 2026 Attachment 4.2

4.3. Chair Report

4.4. CEO Report

4.5. Correspondence

4.5.1. Letter to the BC Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services Attachment 4.5

5. Chair's Remarks

For Information

6. Committee Reports

6.1. Planning and Policy Committee- Oral Report

For Information

6.1.1. EDIA Statement Attachment 6.1.1

Motion to Approve

6.1.2. Policy V.1 Intellectual Freedom Policy Attachment 6.1.2

Motion to Approve

6.1.3. Unattended Children in the Library Policy Attachment 6.1.3

Motion to Approve

7. New Business

7.1. IslandLink Library Federation – Oral Report

For Information

7.2. Patron Appeal Attachment 7.2.1

For Information

8. In Camera

Motion to Approve

9. Next Meeting Date

September 26, 2026 12:00pm – 1:00pm

10. Adjournment



MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
GVPL Central Branch, 735 Broughton Street
Community Meeting Room & MS Teams
May 26, 2026

A hybrid meeting of the Greater Victoria Public Library Board was held on the above date. The following individuals were in attendance:

Board Members:

Trustee A. Appleton
Trustee K. Boehnert
Trustee D. Cavens (Chair)
Trustee S. Donaldson
Trustee D. Grove
Trustee R. Henderson
Trustee S. Kim
Trustee S. Khair
Trustee S. Lansdowne
Trustee G. Lemon
Trustee R. McClure
Trustee M. Morley
Trustee G. Newton
Trustee T. Phelps Bondaroff
Trustee R. Ranjan
Trustee K. Roessingh
Trustee R. Stromberg
Trustee M. Wey
Trustee N. White (Vice- Chair)

Staff:

M. Sawa, CEO/Board Secretary
M. Barnes, Assistant Director- Finance
M. Collyer, Director Marketing & Communications
D. Fergusson-Hirmer, Director, People & Culture
J. Gingera, Director, System Integration, Resource Management and IT
R. Hadziev, Acting Director, Special Projects
D. Joyce, Executive Director, Library Services
E. Russell, Recording Secretary
A. Shojaei, Assistant Director Safety Security, Facilities, & Risk Management
R. Baugniet, President, CUPE 410

1. CALL TO ORDER

D. Cavens called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm.

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

D. Cavens provided the Indigenous Acknowledgement.

3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by Trustee K. Roessingh; Seconded by Trustee D. Andrew

THAT Items 4.1-4.2 be approved; 4.3- 4.4 be received for information

- 4.1 Approval of Agenda
- 4.2 Approval of Minutes- April , 2026
- 4.3 Chair Report
- 4.4 CEO Report

MOTION CARRIED

5. CHAIR'S REMARKS

D. Cavens acknowledged the passing of Langford Councillor and former GVPL Trustee Lillian Szpak. He thanked those who were able to participate in the BookSmack event as part of the Vancouver Island Library Staff Conference. The 11th Emerging Local Authors Collection unveiling was held at Central Branch in the courtyard on Sunday, May 23, with the authors and their loved ones in attendance. GVPL staff were thanked for their efforts in expanding Sunday open hours through to June.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**6.1. CEO Search Committee Update**

S. Khair reported that the committee's work is on target and that the committee has been working with Boyden throughout the recruitment process.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**7.1. Finance Committee – Oral Report**

Trustee S. Lansdowne, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported that the committee met on May 4, 2026. The meeting included presentations from GVPL's auditors, KPMG, and GVPL staff as they reviewed the financial statements, the 2025 audit findings report, and the Statement of Financial Information for Fiscal 2025.

7.1.1. Audited Financial Statements – Fiscal 2025

Moved by Trustee K. Roessingh; seconded by Trustee A. Appleton

THAT the Greater Victoria Public Library approve the Audited Financial Statements – Fiscal 2025.

MOTION CARRIED

7.1.2. Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) – Fiscal 2025

Moved by Trustee A. Appleton; seconded by Trustee K. Roessingh

THAT the Greater Victoria Public Library approve the Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) – Fiscal 2025.

MOTION CARRIED

7.2. Planning and Policy Committee – Oral Report

Trustee S. Kim, Chair of the Planning and Policy Committee, reported that at the May 12, 2026 meeting, the committee reviewed its 2026 priorities and work plan which will include several policy reviews and updates.

8. NEW BUSINESS

NONE

9. IN CAMERA MEETING

Moved by Trustee R. McClure; seconded by Trustee S. Kim

THAT the Board of Trustees move in camera.

MOTION CARRIED

10. NEXT MEETING DATE:

June 23, 2026; 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee D. Grove; seconded by Trustee K. Roessingh.

THAT the May 26, 2026 Regular Board Meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

Board Chair

Board Secretary



I want to begin by thanking the members of the Planning & Policy Committee, and especially Committee Chair Kim, for their work over the past few months. It is encouraging to see a number of the committee's recommendations coming forward to the Board today for approval. My understanding is that the committee will continue its work over the summer reviewing additional policies, with more policy recommendations expected in the fall. Thank you as well to staff for their support, which has helped keep this work moving forward.

I am also pleased that negotiations with CUPE Local 410 have concluded successfully, with the parties reaching a new collective agreement covering January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027. The agreement provides labour stability while addressing operational needs and employee concerns, and I appreciate the collaborative efforts that made this possible. Thanks to everyone involved—including management, the GVLRA, and CUPE—for their hard work in reaching this result.

It was exciting to see the recent [announcement from the District of Saanich](#) that construction has begun on the Cedar Hill Library and Affordable Housing Project. This long-awaited redevelopment will provide a modern library branch alongside much-needed affordable housing, and I look forward to watching the project take shape over the coming years, with completion currently anticipated in 2030.

Work on the CEO recruitment process continues to move ahead on schedule. While there is little to report publicly at this stage, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed considerable time and effort to the process, especially the members of the Search Committee, Daylin Fergusson-Hirmer, Erika Russell, and Shahira Khair. Their work is important to the future of both the Board and GVPL.

Finally, I want to thank all Trustees for their engagement and commitment over the past six months. It has been a busy and productive period for the Board, and there is much to look forward to in the second half of the year. I hope everyone has a safe, healthy, and enjoyable summer. I look forward to seeing many of you at Committee meetings over the summer and again at our September Board meeting.

Duncan



June 23, 2026

June is a busy month, with many important observances that reflect the diversity of the communities we serve and our ongoing commitment to welcoming, inclusive, and accessible library services. This month, we recognize Pride Month, National Indigenous History Month, including National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, Ocean Week, World Environment Day, World Refugee Day on June 20, Canadian Multiculturalism Day on June 27, and more. These observances provide an opportunity to learn, reflect, and deepen our understanding of the many experiences and perspectives that shape our communities.

BC Summer Reading Club 2026

Registration for the BC Summer Reading Club (SRC), one of our most visible and beloved programs, opened on Friday, June 19th. The B.C. SRC, which encourages children to read throughout the summer to develop and maintain regular reading habits and skill levels, plays an important role in supporting literacy and learning during the school break – it offers families a meaningful way to stay engaged with the library. Last year, more than 9,880 children took part, including 1,166 who came into branches on opening day to collect their Reading Records. This year's theme is [Under the Sea](#). I would like to recognize staff for the tremendous work they have done to significantly increase our summer programming offerings to enhance this year's SRC.

Gorge Canada Day Picnic

As we continue to expand our outreach activities, I am delighted to report that GVPL will be participating in this year's Gorge Canada Day Picnic (GCDP) on Canada Day. This annual event was developed in 1999 to provide residents with a traffic-free day, along the Waterway to build community through a popular celebration. It is now estimated to welcome 10,000 to 15,000 people. Board members are encouraged to stop by and join staff in the festivities.

Library Card Campaign

GVPL's four-week library card campaign was launched on June 1 across social media, transit, and print media to reinforce awareness of the library's role as essential public infrastructure. As noted in my May report, the campaign aims to strengthen public understanding of the library card as a gateway to literacy, learning, and community connection and aligns with the lead-up to summer programming. Since the campaign began, there have been 1,432 new library card registrations sign-ups in June.

Website

I am pleased that GVPL is moving into the final phase of work in developing a new [gvpl.ca](#) website to replace the temporary site. The new website has been guided by public input, has been designed with accessibility as a priority, and will meet Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2 Level AA standards. It will support a modern, more accessible and inclusive experience for everyone. User acceptance testing has concluded, and final accessibility testing is taking place this week through a dedicated accessibility testing group.

Sunday Service

Sunday service concluded for the season on June 21. Expanding access to library services through Sunday openings is a priority for staff. We look forward to resuming Sunday hours in the Fall.

IslandLink Library Federation

It was a pleasure to attend the spring meeting and AGM of the IslandLink Library Federation in Powell River on May 29-30. Established in 2008, library federations in British Columbia are cooperative networks of independent library boards that share resources, professional development, and programming. The IslandLink Library Federation is comprised of 5 member libraries: Alert Bay Public Library, Greater Victoria Public Library, Pender Island Public Library, Powell River Public Library, and Salt Spring Island Public Library.

South Island Prosperity Partnership (SIPP)

I was pleased to attend the AGM of the South Island Prosperity Partnership (SIPP) on June 18. The South Island Prosperity Partnership is Greater Victoria's regional economic alliance. A non-profit, public-private partnership of municipal governments, First Nations, post-secondary institutions, major employers, nonprofits and industry associations, it is one of a myriad of community connections that are so important for GVPL.

Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

Changes have been made to the SLT structure to better balance the number of direct reports to the CEO, strengthen leadership capacity across the organization, and support a smooth transition for the incoming CEO. The changes include the reclassification of two existing Director positions to establish an Executive Director Leadership Team comprising of three Executive Directors: Darrell Joyce in his current role as Executive Director, Library Services; Daylin Fergusson-Hirmer, Executive Director, Corporate Services; and Jeff Gingera, Executive Director, Systems Integration, Risk Management, I.T. Please join me in congratulating Daylin and Jeff on their appointments.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Rina Hadziev for the work she has done over the past several months to assist the Senior Leadership Team as Acting Director, Special Projects. Since October, she has supported our key priorities, including the rollout of the Strategic Plan and the development of the 2026 Operational Plan, bringing focus and momentum to this work. Rina's contract will conclude on June 30. We want to extend our sincere appreciation for her contributions during this period.

Wishing all trustees a happy and healthy summer, with thanks for your ongoing support and dedication.

Maureen



**GREATER VICTORIA
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services

Budget 2027 Consultation

June 18, 2026

Dear members of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services,

Thank you for your work, and for this opportunity to provide input. Provincial support for BC libraries is critical. Local governments fund BC's public libraries at a rate of 95%, and when combined with the provincial investment of 5%, communities across the province benefit from access to reading material, digital resources, and unlimited learning opportunities for people of all ages. Together, we make communities stronger and more equitable.

Important discussions about the future funding of public libraries began in 2024. Mayor Krog of Nanaimo, as a municipal member of the Vancouver Island Regional Library, and Mayor Murdoch of Oak Bay, as a municipal member of the Greater Victoria Public Library, met with Minister Kang in August 2024 and subsequently brought UBCM Resolution NR67 to the convention floor that year.

The position gained momentum, as delegates at the 2025 Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Convention endorsed and amended **Resolution SR3 – Increased Library Funding from the Province is Overdue**. The resolution recognizes the evolving role of public libraries and their unique value as community spaces and calls on the Province to:

- *Increase annual core provincial funding for public libraries to \$30 million, consistent with the long-standing request of the BC Public Library Partners and the recommendation of the Province's Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services;*
- *Adjust provincial funding annually to reflect inflationary and cost-of-living pressures;*
- *Establish a dedicated capital funding program to assist local governments in upgrading, expanding, and constructing library facilities to meet community needs; and*
- *Establish an advisory body under section 52(1) of the Library Act, in consultation with local governments and First Nations, to review the long-term sustainability of the public library funding model.*

As you consider the 2027 Provincial Budget, we encourage the Committee to support the priorities endorsed by local governments across British Columbia and to continue advancing this work in partnership with public libraries, local governments, and First Nations.

About Us

Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) serves a 42,000 km² region through 39 branches, supporting residents across 38-member local governments and 53 First Nations. Approximately 60% of the population lives in rural areas, making VIRL's service area unique within British Columbia. While our regional model delivers economies of scale and administrative efficiencies, serving a mix of urban, rural, remote, and coastal communities presents significant challenges within the current funding framework. Similar to Hospital Districts, Regional Library Districts raise levies through their local government members; however, while Hospital Districts operate under a roughly 2:3 local-provincial funding ratio, Regional Library Districts operate under a 19:1 ratio.

The Greater Victoria Public Library system delivers equitable library services through a network of 12 branch locations serving the over 390,000 residents within a service area that encompasses ten of the thirteen municipalities and five of the ten First Nations and Indigenous communities in the Capital Regional District. Recent reporting data ranks GVPL with the highest total circulation per capita and among the top three for in-person visits per capita in Canada. Public libraries are a vital part of vibrant communities, delivering critical services people rely on and support building strong local and provincial economies. Investing in libraries is an investment in local communities.

The actions outlined in Resolution SR3 reflect a growing consensus that public library funding in British Columbia requires modernization to meet current and future community needs. Core provincial funding for public libraries has remained effectively frozen since 2009, despite population growth, inflationary pressures, increasing security concerns, and growing demand for services. Without meaningful and sustained provincial investment, libraries will face increasing pressure to maintain service levels, address infrastructure needs, and respond to growing demand for literacy, digital inclusion, lifelong learning, and community services.

On behalf of VIRL and GVPL, thank you for your continued support of literacy and library services. We look forward to continued dialogue about the value and impact libraries deliver every day, for every region in BC.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Lerner, Chair
VIRL Board



Duncan Cavens, Chair
GVPL Board



MEMORANDUM

Date: June 23, 2026
To: GVPL Board of Trustees
From: Susan Kim, Chair- Planning and Policy Committee
Subject: GVPL Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility (EDIA) Statement

Purpose

The GVPL 2025–2027 Strategic Plan includes Goal 2, “Ground our work in trust and respect,” which identifies the continued development and implementation of GVPL’s equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility (EDIA) Framework as a key area of focus.

As part of the development work for GVPL’s new website, the need for an EDIA Statement was identified by the project team.

Background

The EDIA Statement was developed in collaboration with staff and an external consultant as part of GVPL’s broader EDIA work. The statement will be included on GVPL’s new website as part of the EDIA and Accessibility landing page.

The Planning and Policy Committee reviewed the statement on May 5, 2026, and provided their input. The Committee endorsed the statement as attached and supports its approval by the Board.

Recommendation

That the Board approve the following statement:

Our Commitment to Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility
Our Statement

“Our library is a vibrant hub of creativity, learning, and community where every person’s story matters. We build our spaces to be welcoming and inclusive for everyone who walks through our doors, making sure that both patrons and employees feel supported and valued. Our services celebrate the rich diversity of our communities. As a team, we are on an ongoing journey of growth, always looking for new ways to learn and improve. Together, we can write the next chapter of our story, embracing and uplifting each other along the way.”

Motion

THAT the Greater Victoria Public Library Board approve the EDIA Statement as endorsed by the Planning and Policy Committee.



MEMORANDUM

Date: June 23, 2026
To: GVPL Board of Trustees
From: Susan Kim, Chair- Planning and Policy Committee
Subject: Policy V.1 Intellectual Freedom

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to seek Board approval of the proposed revisions to GVPL's Policy V.1 – Intellectual Freedom. The revisions incorporate the addition of the updated BC Library Association (BCLA) Statement of Intellectual Freedom, released in February 2026, alongside the Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA) Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries.

Background

GVPL's Policy V.1 – Intellectual Freedom was reviewed by the Planning and Policy Committee in July 2025. At that time, the Committee recommended endorsing the policy as it existed and committed to revisiting it within two years, recognizing that BCLA was in the process of updating its Statement of Intellectual Freedom. BCLA released its revised statement in February 2026. At its June 9, 2026 meeting, the Planning and Policy Committee reviewed a staff report outlining the key features of the updated statement and agreed with the staff recommendation to update GVPL Policy V. 1 – Intellectual Freedom to incorporate both the CFLA and BCLA statements.

Recommendation

That the GVPL Board of Trustees approve the proposed revisions to GVPL Board Policy V.1 – Intellectual Freedom to incorporate both the CFLA Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries and the updated BCLA Statement of Intellectual Freedom.

Motion

THAT the GVPL Board of Trustees approve the proposed revisions to GVPL Board Policy V.1 – Intellectual Freedom.

Attachment: GVPL Board Policy V.1 Intellectual Freedom



Purpose/Background

The purpose of this policy is to affirm the Greater Victoria Public Library Board's (support of the principles of Intellectual Freedom as embodied in the *Canadian Federation of Library Associations'/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA/FCAB) Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries* and articulated in the *British Columbia Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Statement*.

Scope

This policy applies to the Board, Greater Victoria Public Library (Library) staff and users.

Policy Statements

The CFLA/FCAB Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries (September 2016)

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques recognizes and values the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as the guarantor of the fundamental freedoms in Canada of conscience and religion; of thought, belief, opinion, and expression; of peaceful assembly; and of association.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques supports and promotes the universal principles of intellectual freedom as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which include the interlocking freedoms to hold opinions and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

In accordance with these principles, the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques affirms that all persons in Canada have a fundamental right, subject only to the Constitution and the law, to have access to the full range of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, and to express their thoughts publicly. Only the courts may abridge free expression rights in Canada.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques affirms further that libraries have a core responsibility to support, defend and promote the universal principles of intellectual freedom and privacy.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques holds that libraries are a key institution in Canada for rendering expressive content accessible and affordable to all. Libraries are essential gateways for all persons living in Canada to advance themselves through literacy, lifelong learning, social engagement, and cultural enrichment.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and facilitate access to constitutionally protected expressions of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, including those which some individuals and groups consider unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable. To this end, in accordance with their

mandates and professional values and standards, libraries provide, defend and promote equitable access to the widest possible variety of expressive content and resist calls for censorship and the adoption of systems that deny or restrict access to resources.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and foster free expression and the right to safe and welcoming places and conditions. To this end, libraries make available their public spaces and services to individuals and groups without discrimination.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and defend privacy in the individual's pursuit of expressive content. To this end, libraries protect the identities and activities of library users except when required by the courts to cede them.

Furthermore, in accordance with established library policies, procedures and due process, libraries resist efforts to limit the exercise of these responsibilities while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups.

Library employees, volunteers and employers as well as library governing entities have a core responsibility to uphold the principles of intellectual freedom in the performance of their respective library roles.

BCLA Intellectual Freedom Statement (February 6, 2026)

What is intellectual freedom? Everyone has the right to access all points of view, including those that people will find offensive, harmful, or inaccurate.

1. BCLA supports and advocates for intellectual freedom in BC libraries.
2. Intellectual freedom exists and is practiced within the framework of Canadian legislation.
3. Intellectual freedom is a core library value and is practiced alongside other values and commitments.
4. Intellectual freedom applies to all aspects of libraries, including but not limited to programs, services, spaces, and materials.
5. People of all ages, including children and teens, have the right to intellectual freedom.
6. BCLA believes in the right to access all points of view, without censorship, and recognizes that some points of view are damaging to individuals, communities, and the library's relationship with them.
7. Practicing intellectual freedom is the professional duty of libraries and library workers, and they should be protected from harassment or persecution for doing their jobs.

Related Policies, Agreements, and Procedural Documents

[Policy O.1 The Collection](#)

Policy Name: V.1 Intellectual Freedom	Next Review Date: September 2029
First Approved: December 2004	Last Reviewed: August 2025



MEMORANDUM

Date: June 23, 2026
To: GVPL Board of Trustees
From: Maureen Sawa, CEO
CC: Planning and Policy Committee
Subject: Unattended Children in the Library Policy

Purpose:

The purpose of this memo is to seek the Board's approval for the new policy "Unattended Children in the Library"

Background:

The Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL) recognizes that children and youth of all ages have the right to a welcoming and accessible environment when they visit the library. GVPL is experiencing recurring situations where children are left unattended in branches, creating safety risks for the child, operational impacts for staff, and potential liability exposure if the library is perceived to have assumed a custodial role. GVPL's Board [Policy 1.8: Responsibilities of Library Users](#) states that library users are expected to: 'Supervise young children at all times and take responsibility for their safety and conduct' and to 'Take responsibility for those in your care during your visit'.

The Planning and Policy Committee tasked staff with the development of an "Unattended Children in the Library" policy. The draft policy was presented by staff and reviewed by Committee members at the Committee's June 9th meeting. Minor revisions were requested and the attached revised policy was approved by Committee members. Upon approval of this policy, the following next steps will be initiated:

- Senior staff will work with a representative of the Ministry of Children and Family Services to review staff processes and procedures and provide training for staff to support the appropriate implementation of the policy
- A communications plan will be developed for staff and patrons
- Policy 1.8 Responsibilities of Library Users will be updated to reference the new Unattended Children policy.

Recommendation:

That the GVPL Board of Trustees approve the GVPL Board Policy "Unattended Children in the Library"

Motion:

THAT the GVPL Board of Trustees approve the new Board Policy: Unattended Children in the Library

Board Policy XXX

Unattended Children in the Library

Purpose

This policy outlines the roles and responsibilities of parents, guardians or caregivers regarding children in the Library.

Policy Statement

The Greater Victoria Public Library welcomes and encourages children of all ages to enjoy the library's collections, services, programs and spaces. Library staff cannot assume responsibility for the safety and well-being of children left unattended in the library. Responsibility for the welfare and behaviour of children using the Library rests with the parents, guardians or caregivers of the child. To ensure that children's library visits are safe and pleasant experiences, the Library requires that children under the age of 10 years be accompanied by a responsible parent, guardian or caregiver.

Definitions

- *Caregiver* means a person over the age of 12 designated by the parent or guardian of a child to be responsible for the child's care, well-being, safety and supervision.
- *Child* means a person between the ages of 0-10 years
- *Unattended* means a child without visible supervision by the child's parent, guardian or caregiver.

Responsibilities

All patrons are expected to abide by the Library's [Policy 1.8 Responsibilities of Library Users](#).

Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians or Caregivers:

Responsibility for the welfare and behaviour of children using the library rests with their respective parent/guardian or caregiver. Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or caregiver when visiting the library. Any person 12 years of age or older who is providing supervision to someone under the age of 10 must remain with the child and take responsibility for the appropriate behaviour of children in their care.

Responsibilities of Library Employees:

Library staff cannot supervise children nor act as substitute caregivers. Library staff are not responsible for enforcing any restrictions the parent/guardian or caregiver may place on a child's use of library resources.

If a child is left unattended at the library at closing time, or in the event of an emergency or closure, the staff person in charge will attempt to contact the parent/guardian or caregiver. If the parent/guardian or caregiver cannot be contacted within 15 minutes, staff must notify the police. Staff will remain with the child until the police arrive.

Duty to Report:

Under the Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA), anyone – including library staff – who has reason to believe a child appears at risk or unsupervised beyond safe limits must report.

Related Policies, Agreements, and Procedural Documents

- GVPL Policy 1.8 Responsibilities of Library Users

Policy Name: XX Unattended Children in the Library	Next Review Date: September 2028
First Approved: TBD 2026	Last Reviewed: N/A

To: Greater Victoria Public Library Board
Ms. Maureen Sawa, CEO GVPL

June 8, 2026

From: G.D. Calder

SUBJECT: APPEAL OF REJECTION OF RECOMMENDED ADDITION TO GVPL COLLECTION – “DEAD WRONG” - (Champion and Flanagan)

REF: YOUR POLICY 0.5 – The Appeal Process

Dear Mesdames and Messieurs:

In 2023, I requested that “Grave Error: How the Media Misled Us”, (Champion and Flanagan), be added to the GVPL lending collection. This request was rejected on January 9, 2023.

Shortly afterward, I wrote an appeal of the rejection and ultimately received a reply from Ms. Sawa, April 12, 2024, upholding the rejection.

I have recently requested that the sequel to Grave Error, Dead Wrong, (Champion and Flanagan), be added to the GVPL collection and I received a rejection June 4, 2026.

In support of this appeal, I would ask your consideration of two important and relevant events that have taken place subsequent to Ms. Sawa’s letter of April, 2024, they are:

1. The Kamloops Nation May 27, 2021 press release advised the discovery of, “*the confirmation of the remains of 215 children who were students at the Kamloops Indian Residential School.*” This was still the only available information when Ms. Sawa’s April, 2024 rejection letter was written.

One month later, May of 2024, the Nation posted an announcement which states, “...*the stark truth of the preliminary findings came to light – the confirmation of 215 anomalies were detected.*” The Nation has abandoned its original claim confirming the discovery “remains of children” in favour of confirming “anomalies”, which incorporate a wide range of possibilities, the majority of which are benign.

This year, February 17, 2026, the Nation has further amended its original allegation to, “*Signatures that resemble burials were found in some areas.*” No remains have been confirmed or recovered.

2. The Gobe and Mail editorial board, Canada’s “newspaper of record”, May 30, 2026 published an editorial entitled, “*There is no reconciliation without truth.*” <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/editorials/article-there-is-no-reconciliation-without-truth/>

This editorial concedes 3 major points. They state the following:

- a. The media, including the Globe and Mail, failed to properly scrutinize claims, challenge the evidence presented at the time, or independently verify assertions of “mass graves”;
- b. No human remains have been physically identified or confirmed;
- c. The assumption of confirmed physical remains or “mass graves” was reported without the required proof fueling social panic and denialism.

The *mea culpa* of the Globe and Mail indicts “the media” – not just themselves.

Their editorial confirms the very title of Grave Error – How the Media Misled Us in that the media did, indeed, misinform the public concerning the (now amended) 2021 claim.

Given these highly relevant changes of position, both by the proponents of the original press release themselves and by the media that was highly supportive of the original narrative surely it is time to make these perspectives available to the GVPL readership.

Suppressing distribution of this material, especially, under these new circumstances is in direct conflict with your own Board Collection Policy, “*Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and facilitate access to constitutionally protected expressions of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, including those which some individuals and groups consider unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable. To this end, in accordance with their mandates and professional values and standards, libraries provide, defend and promote equitable access to the widest possible variety of expressive content and resist calls for censorship and the adoption of systems that deny or restrict access to resources.*”

In conclusion, may I remind you that both of these titles are Canadian best sellers, by Canadian authors with Canadian content of interest to the public. They are legitimate examples of the freedom of thought, belief and expression guaranteed by our Constitutional Charter of Rights and Freedoms and your own Policy.

I ask that you meet the challenge of your Policy, grant this appeal and obtain copies of both Grave Error and Dead Wrong for inclusion in your lending collection as do numerous other libraries across Canada.

Thanking you in advance for your professional and unbiased consideration.

Yours truly,

G.D. Calder



