
From: Mariah Patterson <MPatterson@virl.bc.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 11:05 AM

To: Ted Swabey <ted.swabey@northcowichan.ca>; Rob Douglas <mayor@northcowichan.ca>

Cc: Tek Manhas <tek.manhas@northcowichan.ca>; Sonia Furstenau - Cowichan Valley (sonia.furstenau.MLA@leg.bc.ca) <sonia.furstenau.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Doug Routley - Nanaimo-North Cowichan (douglas.routley.MLA@leg.bc.ca) <douglas.routley.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Alistair MacGregor, MP, Cowichan-Malahat-Langford (alistair.macgregor@parl.gc.ca) <alistair.macgregor@parl.gc.ca>; Ben Hyman <BHyman@virl.bc.ca>; Eileen Gillette <EGillette@virl.bc.ca>

Subject: VIRL 2024 Budget Adopted - North Cowichan

Greetings,

We are writing to inform you the VIRL Board adopted a [2024 Budget](#) at its September 16 meeting._____

Budget 2024 forecasts VIRL's projected economic year given continuing demand for services in an increasingly complex environment. The 2024 total budget is \$38M. Local government levies will contribute \$32.5M, an overall increase of 3.4% over 2023. The Budget was unanimously supported. Please know that a proposal to adjust VIRL's Reserves was also passed by the Board. The new reserves contributions and reporting framework will better align with Local Government practices. A technical briefing will be offered to member local government finance staff in September.

Per the legislated formula, the District of North Cowichan's total levy contribution for 2024 will be \$2,136,007. New for 2024: VIRL's member local governments can choose to be invoiced monthly rather than quarterly, if that is their preference.

VIRL delivers tremendous economies of scale and significant returns on investment, by working with 38 local governments across a 42K km² service area. Our collective services are a demonstrable commitment to livability and affordability, and are enjoyed by nearly a third of residents overall. These services include free access to dynamic programming and events, bookable meeting rooms, and 39 branches that are essential Third Spaces in communities large and small. VIRL has the third-largest public library collection in BC, featuring downloadable e-books, audiobooks, digital news, streaming services, children's materials, and much more.

The Budget 2024 commits to operating continuity and maintains major Capital commitments, including the completion of the Masset Library and Haida Language Immersion Lab. Budget 2024 also reflects VIRL's new vision - a thriving, connected, cohesive and empowered region of Island and coastal communities. To achieve this vision, VIRL is preparing to introduce its new strategic plan next month. We will write to you again then.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Sincerely,

Erin Hemmens
Chair, VIRL Board of Trustees

And

Ben Hyman
Executive Director
bhyman@virl.bc.ca

Additional information:

- [Q2 Performance Scorecard](#)
- [2022 Audited Financial Statements](#)

Sent on behalf of Erin Hemmens, Chair, VIRL Board of Trustees and Ben Hyman, Executive Director, VIRL.



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We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work, and play on the traditional territories of the Quw'utsun Nation, which includes the Cowichan Tribes, the Halalt First Nation, the Lyackson First Nation, the Penelakut Tribe, and the Stz'uminus First Nation. The Municipality also sits on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation.

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North Cowichan is situated on the traditional territories of the Quw'utsun Nation, which includes the Cowichan Tribes, the Halalt First Nation, the Lyackson First Nation, the Penelakut Tribe, and the Stz'uminus First Nation. The Municipality also sits on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation.

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