



from the Board Table

The 2019 - 2023 Financial Plan

Innovation and Inspiration

The Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) Board of Trustees is innovating and inspiring with its adopted 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan.

At the September 22 meeting, the Board adopted a balanced budget of \$38,139,948 for 2019. Municipal and rural levies will contribute \$23,140,091 to the library budget, an average increase of 4.74% or a per capita increase of \$1.48.

Priorities for next year's budget include:

- Innovating through programming that meets and exceeds the diverse needs of customers
- Continuing to invest in our digital collections and technology
- Updating our facilities

With the budget, the Board approved the following Business Cases:

- Eliminating children's fines
- Developing a video game collection
- Increasing our eBook and audiobook collections in OverDrive

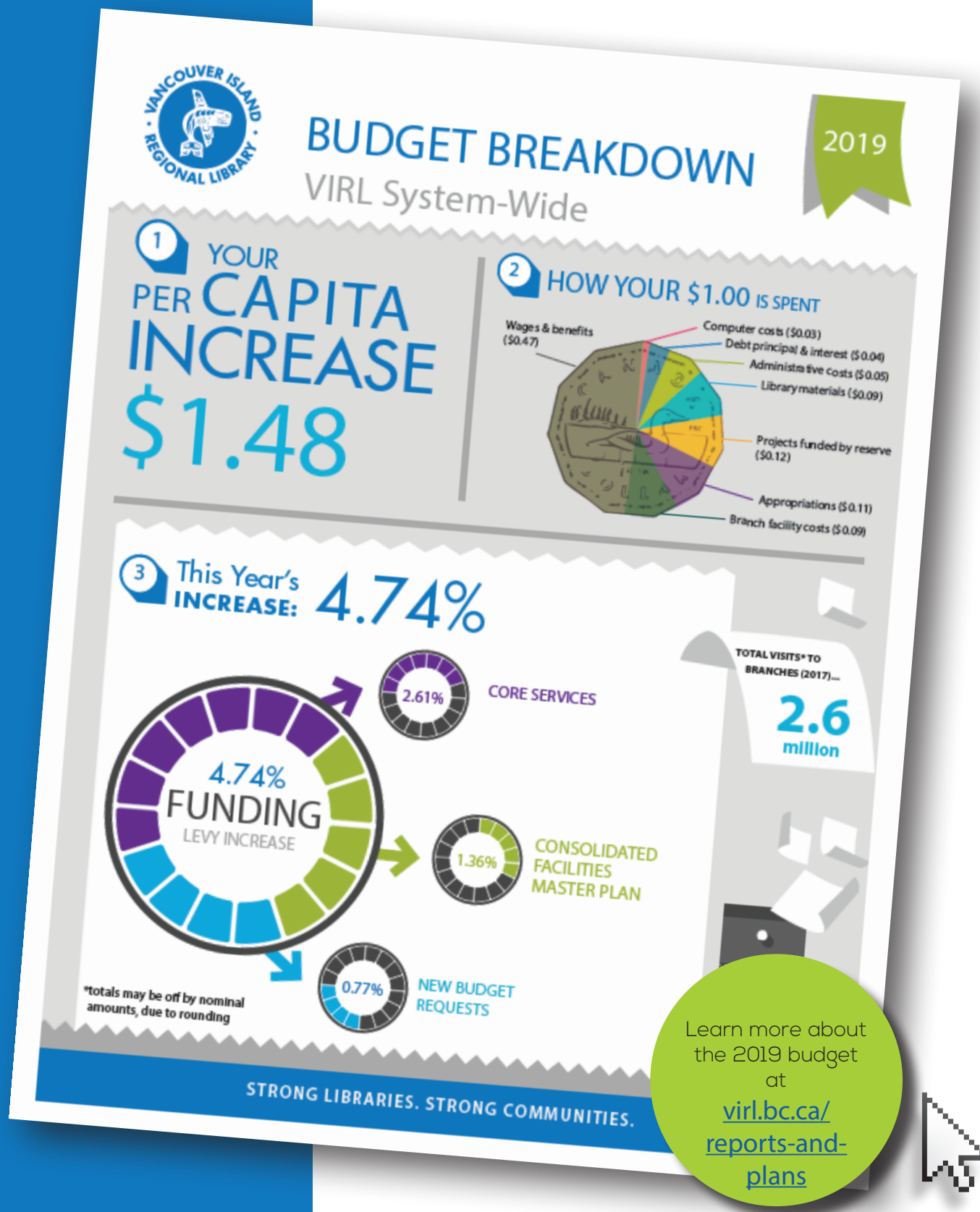
VIRL continues to respond proactively to the push for the latest technologies and advancements, ensuring that our branches are well positioned with the spaces, resources, and expertise to guide our customers now and into the future. At the same time, this budget is responsive to the pull from our communities to maintain core traditional services that libraries have always provided.



In partnership with a wolf advocacy group, Storytimes at the library educate, inspire and support local wildlife.

The 2019 Budget

Infographic



The 2019 Budget

Business Cases

eResources: The demand for our eResources has grown significantly in recent years. In response to this shift in customer borrowing behaviour, the Board approved \$50,000 to be put towards our eBook and audiobook collection on OverDrive. With this additional funding, VIRL will purchase new titles, reduce wait times, and improve customer experiences.

Elimination of Children's fines: Fines represent a significant financial barrier to accessing library services for many families in our service area. Rather than serving as an incentive to encourage families to return materials "on time", the imposition of fines on children's materials can very quickly become a significant financial burden that threatens to sever a child's relationship with their community library and access to materials that enhance and support literacy. Taking this into consideration, the Board is eliminating children's fines, starting in 2019, based on the following:

- No overdue fines will be charged for children's materials
- When children's materials are deemed "lost" a fee will be assessed for these materials, but will be eliminated if the materials are returned (a processing fee remains if a replacement item has already been purchased)
- To encourage families to return materials, cards must have fewer than 10 overdue items on their card. If they have more than 10 items overdue, they must return items in order to check out new materials

Young Adult ePlay Collection: The Board approved \$56,250 to be put towards the development of a circulating video game collection for the Nintendo Switch, PlayStation 4 and XBOX consoles. Once built, VIRL's video game collection will appeal to people from a broad range of demographics and support more regular gaming programs for the public. As VIRL looks to expand our presence in the lives and experiences of Millennials, this new video game collection will make our spaces and collections attractive to this important demographic.

Note: The following Business Cases were also incorporated as part of the approved budget: One Book. One Community, an Android tablet collection, welcome signage in Indigenous languages, STEAM maintenance funds, a Teen Advisory Group, and keychain library cards.



Finance Report

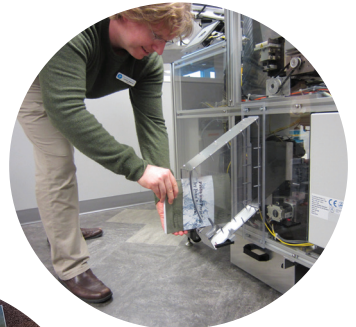
Balance Sheet:

The balance sheet of \$35.8 million shows a healthy balance of cash and investments of \$9.5 million at the end of June.

Revenue and Expenditures: The operating deficit at the end of June was \$986,707. The provincial government grants were received during June, but this was offset by the impact of an appropriation related to an MFA borrowing, which creates a deficit until related capital expenditures are incurred. Revenues and expenditures are in line with expectations to date.

Reserves Report: The Board of Trustees is provided with updated reserves information at each meeting. At the end of June, the reserves totalled \$7.4 million. Appropriations are recognized on a monthly basis. Included in the results to date is \$542.8 thousand in reserve funded expenditures, of which \$470.6 thousand has been recognized in revenue. Transfers from reserves are recorded when projects have been substantially completed.

Finance Report Summary: The current position is sustainable and VIRL's operations are in line with expectations to date.



Facilities Updates



The popular Gabriola Island branch.

Campbell River

Discussions are ongoing with the City of Campbell River on the development of a new branch for the community.

Chemainus

The building permit has been submitted and approved. The next step is to tender the project, after which construction can start.

Masset

VIRL continues to work on a plan for a modular building prototype for our rural and remote communities. At the site for the new Masset branch, VIRL has received preliminary information from consultants including a site survey, geotechnical and environmental assessments. Engineering/architectural designs are now being prepared for the modular buildings.

Sandspit

VIRL is working with School District 50 to finalize a lease for land on which to house a new modular branch. Survey, geotechnical and environmental work has been completed for the site, which will help VIRL to continue its planning and site orientation.

Queen Charlotte

VIRL looks to reengage with School District 50 later in 2018 on potential sites. Queen Charlotte would also receive a modular branch.

Parksville

Draft plans for this refurbishment have been submitted to VIRL for review, with a plan to undertake the 3-to-4-week refurbishment later this year.

Port Alberni

VIRL has received preliminary plans for this refurbishment project. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Facilities Updates



Drag Queen Storytime at the Campbell River branch.

Sayward

Work continues on this modular branch project. After challenges with a large tree at the proposed site, a second site has been identified and survey, geotechnical and environmental work will be completed shortly.

Sooke

Schematic design of the building is ongoing. The development permit will be submitted shortly, followed by the building permit, and the selection of a proponent to take on the work. We hope to award the construction contract in early 2019 with shovels in the ground shortly thereafter.

Sidney/North Saanich

VIRL is currently selecting a contractor to take on this renovation project, which is estimated to start in the fall. A temporary facility opened on September 24.

Tofino

Discussions continue with the municipality and the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust. VIRL awaits the results of a visioning session that occurred in July.

Tahsis

Work is ongoing with the municipality on the selection of a suitable parcel of land on which to construct a modular facility.

Woss

After a well-attended public consultation in July, VIRL is moving forward with plans to build a modular branch on a site identified by the Village of Woss.



Virtual reality (VR) is being showcased at our branches – big and small!

New Business

“VIRL’s STEAM Roadshow was a steaming success.”

Social Media Policy

The Board received and adopted a Social Media Policy that aims to protect staff and VIRL with parameters around acceptable use of social media. The Policy applies to both staff and personal use of social media and will be available in the VIRL Policies area of the website.

STEAM Roadshow

After more than 3,000 kms travelled, more than 500 VR sessions offered, dozens of 3D printing demos, and thousands of people engaged, VIRL’s STEAM Roadshow was a steaming success. The Roadshow made stops in South Cowichan, Sointula, Gold River, Port McNeill, Sayward and Quadra Island and allowed some of our most rural communities to experience the future of STEAM programming at VIRL.

Stay tuned for more exciting STEAM @ VIRL announcements.