

From: ["Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)

Date: 9/15/2021 12:00:01 PM

Subject: [Memo: Update on City Archives](#)

Attachments: CMO - Memo re Update on City Archives - 2021.09.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo regarding an Update on City Archives. A brief summary is as follows:

- A comprehensive review of relocating the Vancouver Archives to Level 7 of Central Library has concluded and determined that it is no longer the most cost effective option.
- The City of Vancouver Archives will remain at its location in Vanier Park with satellite storage at Kaslo.
- Minimum upgrades will take place at Kaslo to support the required satellite storage, and further planning will occur within the 2023-2026 Capital Plan cycle.
- This decision will be communicated to staff and stakeholders in the coming weeks.

Should you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact me or Christina de Castell, Chief Librarian (Christina.deCastell@vpl.ca).

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

MEMORANDUM

September 14, 2021

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Maria Pontikis, Director, Civic Engagement and Communications
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office
Christina de Castell, Chief Librarian & CEO, VPL
Nick Kassam, General Manager, Real Estate and Facilities Management
Patrice Impey, General Manager & CFO, Finance, Risk & Supply Chain Mgmt

FROM: Paul Mochrie, City Manager

SUBJECT: Update on City Archives

RTS #: N/A

SUMMARY

This memo provides an update that the City Manager, in consultation with the Chief Librarian & CEO and involved City General Managers, has made the decision that the City Archives will remain at the Vanier Park location with satellite storage, and will not move to Central Library, as this is no longer the most cost effective option. Options to manage future facilities growth of the City Archives will be considered during the 2023-2026 Capital Plan process.

DISCUSSION

During the Archives project, the growth rate of the Archives was identified as a significant issue due to the facility and cost implications. The project found that Level 7 of Central Library would not offer sufficient long term growth space as a single site, and a satellite storage location would be required. When combined with the findings related to governance, heritage and legislative obligations, and the lack of opportunity for operational efficiency created by these obligations, the project team determined that other facility opportunities should be considered for either a single site or hub and satellite approach. The City's Real Estate and Facilities Management team undertook this review, and the findings were presented to the City Manager in July 2021.

Relocating to Central Library has now been removed from consideration, as it is not the most cost effective hub and satellite solution. The Archives will remain at Vanier Park and City staff

will plan for offsite storage upgrades. Future needs will be considered with the City's 2023-2026 Capital Plan process. This decision also alleviates the need for comprehensive workroom renovations at Central Library, which would have been necessary to accommodate the Archives on Level 7.

BACKGROUND

During the Vancouver Services Review, which launched in 2009, a need to address Archives' facilities challenges was identified. In 2013, an external review of the Archives and VPL's Special Collections concluded that co-location of the two services on Level 7 of Central Library provided the opportunity to improve service delivery for the Archives, achieve efficiency gains, and generate capital cost savings. The loss of Level 7 space by the Library was considered to be offset by the expansion of the Library into Levels 8 and 9 when the Provincial lease ended in 2015. Due to the scope and timeline of the project, which depended on Levels 8 and 9 being completed at Central Library, some improvements were made to the existing Archives Vanier Park facility. The Province vacated Levels 8 and 9 in 2015, and following construction, the Central Library expansion opened in September 2018.

While initially the Archives was expected to use only part of Level 7, 2016 functional programming determined that the Archives would require the majority of Level 7 at Central Library. Between 2018 and 2020, a number of reviews explored in greater detail the assumptions and recommendations in the original 2013 Archives/Special Collections review. Detailed design proceeded for the relocation to Central Library. During these reviews and the design process, many of the originally assumed efficiencies in governance and operations were deemed to not be achievable due to obligations related to the BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, and obligations for the Archives to retain its heritage designation. In addition, the team established that Level 7 of Central Library would not be sufficient space for the long term growth projected for the Archives.

CONCLUSION

The move of the Archives to VPL Special Collections offered an opportunity to improve public service for those with historical interests by bringing two related resources together. However, as the project progressed, the team learned that many of the early assumptions related to cost, governance, and operating efficiency could not be achieved. Our understanding of public needs and the financial picture have changed over the years. The Archives and Library look forward to continuing to explore opportunities to support improved public service for the patrons they share from their separate locations.



Paul Mochrie
City Manager

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