

From: **"Mochrie, Paul"**
To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**
Date: 2024-07-16 1:00:06 PM
Subject: VPL - Sunday branch closures

Good afternoon Mayor and Council,

On behalf of Christina de Castell, I am writing to share the following update on temporary branch closures that VPL is implementing over the summer in response to staffing challenges and restrictions on the Library's ability to schedule regular staff to work on Sundays.

Best,
Paul

VPL's staffing challenges have been leading to unexpected reductions to operating hours and unplanned closures on Sundays. We have made the difficult decision to close two small library branches on Sundays for the summer, due to insufficient staffing availability. The temporary Oakridge branch at the Peretz Centre and the Collingwood branch will be closed on Sundays for this period. Staff scheduled to work at these two locations will be redeployed to other branches.

Due to limitations in our collective agreement, VPL relies almost entirely on part time and auxiliary staff to provide Sunday service. Many of these employees are juggling multiple demands such as other jobs and, post-pandemic, we find they are often not available or interested in working Sundays. Compounding this challenge, VPL operates with minimal staffing levels on weekends and evenings as a consequence of cost reductions in prior years. Increased expectations that we will all stay home when sick, and new legislation that supports this for part-time and auxiliary staff, means that same-day staffing shortages arise more often than before COVID.

Proactively closing two of the least busy branches and redeploying staff to others will ensure predictability for the public, and will minimize the impact on services overall. We hope this will sufficiently stabilize staffing that other Sunday closures will not be necessary. We are optimistic that after Labour Day (September 2), these branches will return to their regular schedule. Management will be continuing conversations with CUPE Local 391 in an effort to address the limitations on full time staff working on Sundays during this period. The VPL Board has been briefed on this matter, and if you have any questions or issues you would like to discuss, you are welcome to reach out to your VPL Board liaison, or to me directly.

[Christina](#)

[Christina de Castell](#)
Chief Librarian & CEO
Vancouver Public Library
t. 604-331-4007

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Sḵwəxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.