To the Patrons and Volunteers of the Kaslo and District Public Library:

Re: Radon in the Kaslo and District Public Library and the position of the Village of Kaslo and your Safety.

Summary: The Board and trustees have reviewed the radon scare and while mitigation procedures must and will be carried out; there is NO undue risk to Volunteers and Patrons of our library.

Text:
The Village of Kaslo hired a qualified professional to assess radon gas levels in the basement of the City Hall, which contains the Library. The Village, in response to the levels found after one month of testing (the testing was discontinued because the Village was proceeding with renovations of the main floor which would affect the further 2 months of recommended testing) radon levels were somewhat higher than Health Canada guidelines. The readings appear to be between 311 and 359. (The report is posted in the Library)

The Library received this letter and report the day of our Board meeting on April 4. The Board was somewhat overwhelmed and decided to make everything public. We will have a special meeting soon.

The Board is now concerned with the comments from the Village of Kaslo in their letter, recommending that the Kaslo and District Public Library suspend its operation. This appears to indicate there is immediate and grave danger.

Upon reflection and the realization that the recommendation to suspend operations is of great concern, the Library Board has further reviewed the situation.

- The report from Interior Radiation Pro Services includes the Health Canada recommendations. PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING: If the results in the Library were in a school where children spend a great deal more time (approximately 30 hours a week) than they spend in the library, it is recommended that the school take remedial action in less than two years. (This is posted and highlighted in the Library)
- The Chair of the Board of the Library spoke with Paul Muntak, the qualified expert of Interior Radiation Pro Services on April 5 who has advised that Volunteers spending 4 hours a week and patrons not spending a great deal of time in the library ought not be concerned.
- The Board is specifically concerned with our staff who spend up to 1600 hours per year in the Library and have been doing so for the last 12 years. Mr. Muntak has indicated that there are calculations that can be done to assess risk, which the Board and staff will undertake.
- Mr. Muntak has also indicated that natural ventilation during the summer and an air heat exchange unit in the winter will mitigate the radon levels. The Board will undertake these measures.
- Interestingly, Mr. Muntack also advised not to move locations without having any possible new location tested as it is “not inconceivable” that the new location might have higher radon levels as radon levels are very site specific and radon is everywhere.

Thus, please be advised, that accepting the Health Canada Guidelines and the advice of the qualified expert hired by the Village of Kaslo, The Board and Trustees of the Kaslo and District Public Library do NOT agree with or understand the "recommendation" in the Village of Kaslo letter, to suspend operations. The next paragraph of the letter appears to anticipate continued tenancy by the Kaslo and District Public Library. The grave and present danger or resulting apprehension for the Volunteers and Patrons does NOT appear to be supported by the report of the radon levels or the qualified expert.

Again, The Board believes that patrons spending much less time in the library than children spend in school are NOT at risk to the point that the library closes for health or liability reasons.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns.

Joe Johnston for the Board of the Kaslo and District Public Library
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