



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
September 15, 2020

Village of Kaslo and Kaslo & District Public Library Partner to Construct New Library

Kaslo, BC – The Kaslo and District Public Library marks their 100th anniversary with the announcement of a partnership with the Village of Kaslo to see a new downtown library constructed in the next three years. The library is currently located on the ground floor of Kaslo’s historic City Hall, in a space that is just one-third of the ideal size to serve the needs of the community. *“The library Board identified a need for a new facility in our strategic plan, having outgrown the current location. We value our partnership with the Village in realizing our aspirations for a state-of-the art library in a prominent downtown Kaslo location,”* said Anne Heard, KDPL Board Chair.

The Village purchased a property at a main intersection in Downtown Kaslo to be the Library’s future home in a new building to be constructed on the vacant site. The purchase was made possible with a Land Acquisition Grant from Columbia Basin Trust covering a portion of the \$300,000 purchase price and the balance to be covered through Library fundraising and other grant contributions.

“We are so pleased to support the Village of Kaslo to advance their vision for a vibrant downtown core by building a new library,” said Johnny Strilaeff, Columbia Basin Trust President and CEO. *“Libraries are an important focal point for communities and have such a positive impact on the quality of life for residents. The new library will offer countless opportunities for community members and we’re so excited to see the building begin.”*

The new Library will be a cornerstone of Kaslo’s heritage downtown and a focal point of community activities and life-long learning. But under provincial library legislation, public library associations cannot own land or buildings, so a partnership with the Village to hold the assets was necessary to move the project forward. The Library will occupy the future building through a long-term lease and be responsible for all operating and maintenance costs. An application will be submitted to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure program in October to seek funding towards the Library’s estimated \$3 million construction cost.

Box 576, Kaslo, BC V0G 1M0
Tel. 250-353-2311 ext. 201 Fax. 250-353-7767
E-mail: cao@kaslo.ca
<http://www.kaslo.ca>

The Library and Village formed a working group in November 2019 to determine the space requirements and selection of a suitable site that would serve the needs of the Library well into the future. The group consisted of representatives from the Library Board, Village Council, and staff. It became clear that the downtown location was the best for a variety of reasons, notably the accessibility, visibility, and versatility of the fully serviced site, which may open the door to additional partnership opportunities and possibilities.

“We are excited to be part of this significant project and look forward to seeing the new library come to fruition in the coming months and years,” said Kaslo’s Mayor, Suzan Hewat, *“and a big thank-you to CBT for helping us secure the property.”* The library also serves Regional District of Central Kootenay Area D residents, covering a vast service area of 5,786 square km. Area Director, Aimee Watson, adds *“Area D is excited to see this new development for the Kaslo and District Public Library. Knowing how valued the library is to area residents, this is an important milestone for our communities. Thank you to the leadership of both the Library and the Village for taking this important initiative.”*

The Village of Kaslo, located on the west shore of Kootenay Lake, is home to 1,000 residents and is the hub of the surrounding Regional District of Central Kootenay Electoral Area D.
kaslo.ca

-30-

Media enquiries may be directed to:

Ian Dunlop
Chief Administrative Officer, Village of Kaslo
cao@kaslo.cao
Office 250-353-2311 x201



View of the property looking north towards Kootenay Lake and the Purcell Mountains. Photo courtesy of Kul Nijjar.