

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Kaslo Library Receives Substantial Estate Donation

The Kaslo and District Library Board is thrilled to have received an extremely generous donation towards the new public library for Kaslo and Area D.

The Library Building Reserve Fund has received a donation from the Estate of Murray Pearson, amounting to \$200,000 over two years. Murray “Mur” Pearson, who passed away on August 19, 2020, was a long-time member and active user of the library, and extremely involved in sports and other community activities in the North Kootenay Lake area. He expressed his support for the environment by going without a car for about 40 years. The Board, Staff and Fund-raising Committee sincerely thank the family of Murray Pearson for this tremendous boost to our fund-raising. This donation will go towards greater energy efficiency in the library building, and help with grant applications and construction.

In addition to this very generous donation there have been hundreds of expressions of support via signatures, several encouraging comments, many donations, a CFNKLS grant, plus outstanding participation in an online auction fundraiser. This support, along with a partnership with the Village of Kaslo and grant funding from the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT), has secured land in downtown Kaslo for the new library. The Columbia Basin Trust also provided funding for the development of preliminary concept plans by Richard Hunter Architects with Heritage Consultant Robert Inwood.

At around the same time, the library received word that Kaslo’s application for the 2020 Investing in Canadian Infrastructure Program (ICIP) grant was not successful. Fund-raising efforts for the new library will continue through other grant opportunities and community-based events. Library board chair Anne Heard says, “We continue to be enthusiastic and will move forward quickly to develop more detailed architectural designs with more precise cost estimates which will be useful in strengthening future grant applications.”

As part of both the Building and Fundraising Committees, Mayor Suzan Hewat extends her appreciation for “the strong support the library has received from grant funding organizations such as CBT and CFNKLS as well as private donations including the generous Murray Pearson donation. We will continue to strive for expanded library services for the residents of Kaslo and Area D.”

For updates and further information, visit the library website at kaslo.bc.coop and click on the New Library Project button, or contact Library Director Eva Kelemen at info@kaslo.bclibrary.ca.