

February 3, 2025

Mayor and Council
City of Barrie
70 Collier Street
Barrie, ON L4N 4T5

Subject: 2025 Library Budget Amendments

Dear Mayor Nuttall and Members of Council,

I am writing on behalf of the Barrie Public Library Board to express our appreciation for your allocation of additional funding to support the growth of library services in Barrie. This commitment reflects the city's continued support for the library and our shared vision of serving the growing needs of our community.

We acknowledge that the additional funding allocated to our budget will be used to support planning activities related to the proposed Northwest Library. Demographic and community needs analysis, as well as the planning done collaboratively with City Corporate Services, are critical steps toward ensuring that this new location meets the needs of residents in the northwest area of Barrie.

The Board remains dedicated to advancing this project in alignment with the library's goals to inspire lifelong learning, foster community connections, and ensure equitable access to resources. We are confident that this initial planning phase will lay a strong foundation for the success of this initiative.

We were also pleased to see the approval of a Financial Stabilization Reserve. This fund will help to support Library operations in the event of budget limitations or other increased operational costs. In response to Council amendments, the Board will consider revisions to the Financial Controls and Oversight Policy to ensure the Future Capital Expenditures Reserve remains available to support future capital projects such as the Northwest Library location.

Thank you again for your support. The Library Board looks forward to expanding library services for the benefit of our community.

Sincerely,



Austin Mitchell, CPA, CA
Board Chair, Barrie Public Library Board