

May 04, 2009

Public Library Infrastructure Study

Attention Library Board Chairs/Liaisons:

The **online survey** portion of BCLTA's Public Library Infrastructure Study is now accessible via the following link:

www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=QJcTTxdM6z6pN8dng_2bhXA_3d_3d

Please have your library director, facilities manager, or applicable staff person click on the following link to access and fill in the survey – no later than **Tuesday, May 19th**.

In addition to completing the survey, we welcome you to submit **photos of your library** for use in our final report on BC's public library infrastructure. Photos of all kinds (e.g., library buildings, library facilities, library staff, patrons, etc.) are welcome and should be sent to Daphne Wood, Project Consultant, at libraryfacilities@gmail.com.

Background Information on the Infrastructure Study:

In recent years there has been a growing awareness of the local government "infrastructure deficit". Many local governments across Canada, as well as in BC, have not been able to provide adequate resources to maintain their infrastructure. As a consequence, they are now faced with the task of finding significant resources to pay for deferred works. In this climate, libraries must compete for capital funding with other types of infrastructure. And unlike roads, sewers and other "hard" infrastructure, there are few opportunities for senior government assistance to build new or upgrade existing library facilities. As a consequence, securing capital funding for library facilities has always been a challenge.

This study will assess the state of public library facilities in BC – in areas such as accessibility, environmental standards and future capacity. The end result will be an inventory of facilities with relevant statistics and an objective assessment of the library "infrastructure deficit". This will help put libraries on the radar with other types of infrastructure; it will assist all levels of government in planning; and it will provide public libraries with a planning tool and a tool for preparing business cases for new facilities.

Generous financial support for this project has been provided by the Public Library Services Branch. In addition, BCLTA has the support of the Union of BC Municipalities, which sees the value in an end product that will assist BC's local governments in their infrastructure planning.

Questions about the survey can be directed to Daphne Wood, Project Consultant, at 604-331-4006 or libraryfacilities@gmail.com.

Questions about the infrastructure study in general can be directed to BCLTA Executive Director Errin Morrison at 778-355-9979 or execdirector@bclta.org.