CITY OF
PORT ALBERNI

AGENDA
INAUGURAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Monday, November 9, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

Best Western Barclay Hotel | 4277 Stamp Ave. Port Alberni

CALL TO ORDER

Chief Administrative Officer, A. McGifford, to call the Inaugural meeting of Council to order.

1. Notice of Video Recording (recorded and live-stream on YouTube)

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge and recognize that we work, live and play in the City of Port Alberni which is situated on the unceded territories of the Tseshaht [c̓išaaʔatḥ] and Hupačasath First Nations.

WELCOMING REMARKS

Acknowledgement of Invited Dignitaries and Greetings

ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE

Oath of Office administered by Justice of the Peace, Johanna Parsons for:

Mayor-elect Charles Mealey
Councillor-elect Sam Atwal
Councillor-elect Debbie Haggard
Councillor-elect Adam Hayduk
Councillor-elect Diljeet Hundal
Councillor-elect Nina Kossenko
Councillor-elect Cindy Solda

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1. Late items identified by Council
2. Late items identified by the Corporate Officer

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MAYOR'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

The Mayor will deliver an inaugural address to Council, staff, invited guests, and members of the public.

AGENDA
INAUGURAL COUNCIL MEETING

November 9, 2026

APPOINTMENTS & MEETING SCHEDULES

1. 2027 Meeting Schedules & Council Appointments 3

   a. *THAT City of Port Alberni Council approve the 2027 Regular meeting schedule, as circulated and further, that staff be authorized to publish notice of availability of the schedule.*

   b. *THAT City of Port Alberni Council approve the 2027 meeting schedules, as circulated for the Committee of the Whole, Advisory Planning Commission, Traffic Advisory Committee, and Alberni Valley Heritage Commission.*

   c. *THAT Council for the City of Port Alberni appoint Mayor Mealey (allocated 5 votes) and Councillor Haggard (allocated 5 votes), to the positions of Director of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District with alternates [in order] as follows:*
      1. *Councillor Solda*
      2. *Councillor Atwal*
      3. *Councillor Hundal*
      4. *Councillor Hayduk*
      5. *Councillor Kossenko*

   d. *THAT the 2027 Deputy Mayor appointments, appointments to Committees and Council representatives to public bodies, commissions and select committees be approved as circulated.*

2. Vancouver Island Regional Library | Appointments 13

   a. *THAT pursuant to the Library Act, Council appoints Councillor Atwal as the City of Port Alberni's representative to serve on the Vancouver Island Regional Library Board of Trustees for a term ending December 31, 2027.*

   b. *THAT pursuant to the Library Act, Council appoints Councillor Haggard as the City of Port Alberni's alternate representative to serve on the Vancouver Island Regional Library Board of Trustees for a term ending December 31, 2027.*

ADJOURNMENT

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

Inaugural Council Meeting
For the Meeting of November 9, 2026

Date: October 29, 2025
File No: 0640-30-November 2, 2026

To: Mayor & Council
From: A. McGifford, CAO
Subject: **2027 Regular Council Meeting | Committee/Commission Meeting Schedules & Council Appointments**

Prepared by:	Supervisor	CAO Concurrence:
S. DARLING	*A. MCGIFFORD*	*A. McGifford*
Director of Corporate Services	*Chief Administrative Officer*	*A. McGifford, CAO*

RECOMMENDATION[S]

a. *THAT Council approve the 2027 Regular Council Meeting Schedule, as attached, and authorize the Corporate Officer to make the schedule available to the public and give notice of its availability in accordance with the Community Charter and the City's applicable public-notice requirements.*

b. *THAT Council approve the 2027 meeting schedules, as attached, for the Committee of the Whole, Advisory Planning Commission, Traffic Advisory Committee, and Alberni Valley Heritage Commission.*

c. *THAT Council appoint Mayor Mealey and Councillor Haggard as the City of Port Alberni's Directors to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board, with five votes assigned to Mayor Mealey and five votes assigned to Councillor Haggard;*
AND THAT Council appoint the following Councillors as alternate directors, in the priority order listed, to act in the place of either absent City director:
   1. *Councillor Solda*
   2. *Councillor Atwal*
   3. *Councillor Hundal*
   4. *Councillor Hayduk*
   5. *Councillor Kossenko*

d. *THAT Council approve the 2027 Deputy Mayor rotation and the appointments of Council representatives to select committees, commissions, public bodies, and external organizations, as attached.*

PURPOSE

To establish the 2027 Regular Council Meeting Schedule and meeting schedules for designated Council committees, advisory bodies, and commissions, and to confirm the 2027 Deputy Mayor rotation and Council appointments to public bodies, commissions, select committees, and external organizations.

BACKGROUND

Section 127 of the *Community Charter* requires Council to prepare and make available to the public a schedule of the date, time, and place of all Regular Council meetings to be held during the year. The City must also give

notice of the availability of the schedule in accordance with the public-notice requirements of the *Community Charter.*

"Council Procedures Bylaw No. 5153, 2026" provides that Regular Council meetings will ordinarily be held on the second and fourth Monday of each month, commencing at 2:00 p.m., unless Council establishes a different Regular Council Meeting Schedule by resolution. Where a Regular Council meeting falls on a statutory holiday, the meeting will be held on the next day that City Hall is open to the public, unless Council otherwise directs by resolution.

The Procedures Bylaw requires the Corporate Officer to make the annual Regular Council Meeting Schedule available to the public and to give notice of its availability in accordance with the *Community Charter*. Committee meeting schedules and meeting revisions will be posted and circulated as applicable under the Procedures Bylaw and the City's established administrative practices.

ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS

1. THAT Council approve the 2027 Regular Council Meeting Schedule, as attached, and authorize the Corporate Officer to make the schedule available to the public and give notice of its availability in accordance with the Community Charter and the City's applicable public-notice requirements.

   THAT Council approve the 2027 meeting schedules, as attached, for the Committee of the Whole, Advisory Planning Commission, Traffic Advisory Committee, and Alberni Valley Heritage Commission.

   THAT Council appoint Mayor Mealey and Councillor Haggard as the City of Port Alberni's Directors to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board, with five votes assigned to Mayor Mealey and five votes assigned to Councillor Haggard;
   AND THAT Council appoint the following Councillors as alternate directors, in the priority order listed, to act in the place of either absent City director:
   1. Councillor Solda
   2. Councillor Atwal
   3. Councillor Hundal
   4. Councillor Hayduk
   5. Councillor Kossenko

   THAT Council approve the 2027 Deputy Mayor rotation and the appointments of Council representatives to select committees, commissions, public bodies, and external organizations, as attached.

2. That Council direct staff to amend one or more proposed schedules or appointments and return the revised materials for Council's consideration.

ANALYSIS

The proposed 2027 Regular Council Meeting Schedule has been prepared in accordance with "*Council Procedures Bylaw No. 5153, 2026*". Under section 8.2 of the bylaw, Regular Council meetings are ordinarily held on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 2:00 p.m.; however, Council may establish a different Regular Council Meeting Schedule by resolution.

The proposed schedule includes the following variations:

- one Regular Council meeting in July and August, respectively, on the second Monday of each month; and
- rescheduling the June 14, 2027 Regular Council meeting to June 7, 2027, to accommodate the Federation of Canadian Municipalities annual conference.

The attached schedule also reflects statutory-holiday adjustments, where applicable. In 2027, the fourth Monday in May falls on Victoria Day and the second Monday in October falls on Thanksgiving Day. Unless Council directs otherwise by resolution, the affected Regular Council meetings should be scheduled for the next day City Hall is open to the public.

Council may, by resolution, go into Committee of the Whole at any time during a Council meeting. Separately scheduled Committee of the Whole meetings require advance public notice in accordance with the Procedures Bylaw. To provide consistency and support public awareness, Committee of the Whole meetings are proposed to be held on the third Monday of each month, except in August and December, commencing at 6:00 p.m. The September 2027 Committee of the Whole meeting is proposed to be held on Tuesday, September 7, 2027, rather than Monday, September 20, 2027, to accommodate Council participation in the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention.

Council consideration is required for the 2027 Deputy Mayor rotation and appointments to select committees, commissions, public bodies, and external organizations. Appointments to standing committees are made by the Mayor in accordance with "*Council Procedures Bylaw No. 5153, 2026*".

IMPLICATIONS

Costs associated with providing notice of the availability of the 2027 Regular Council Meeting Schedule in accordance with the *Community Charter* and the City's applicable public-notice requirements are included in the current operating budget.

COMMUNICATIONS

Following Council approval, the Corporate Officer will make the 2027 Regular Council Meeting Schedule available to the public and give notice of its availability in accordance with the *Community Charter* and the City's applicable public-notice requirements.

The Regular Council and Committee/Commission meeting schedules will be posted at the City's designated Public Notice Posting Places and on the City website, as applicable. Copies will be provided to committee, commission, and advisory-body members as appropriate.

Council appointments will be communicated to the affected public bodies, commissions, select committees, external organizations, and the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District.

BYLAWS/PLANS/POLICIES

The proposed Regular Council Meeting Schedule has been prepared in accordance with the *Community Charter* and *"Council Procedures Bylaw No. 5153, 2026".* The proposed committee, commission, and advisory-body schedules have been developed in accordance with applicable bylaw requirements, established practices, and operational needs.

SUMMARY

Council's approval is requested for the 2027 Regular Council Meeting Schedule, meeting schedules for the Committee of the Whole, Advisory Planning Commission, Traffic Advisory Committee, and Alberni Valley Heritage Commission, and the 2027 Deputy Mayor rotation and Council appointments.

Approval of the Regular Council Meeting Schedule will enable the City to meet its obligations under the *Community Charter* and "*Council Procedures Bylaw No. 5153, 2026"*, including making the schedule available to the public and giving notice of its availability. The proposed schedule maintains the City's regular meeting pattern while accommodating statutory holidays, summer meeting practices, and identified Council conference commitments.

ATTACHMENTS

- *Council Appointments and Deputy Mayor Schedule*
- *2027 Meeting Schedules*
  a. *Regular Council meeting*
  b. *Committee of the Whole*
  c. *Advisory Planning Commission*
  d. *Traffic Advisory Committee*
  e. *Alberni Valley Heritage Commission*

CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENTS

MAYOR CHARLES MEALEY

The Mayor is the head and chief executive officer of the City with duties prescribed by the Community Charter. Further to these duties the Mayor will participate in the following:

- Court of Revision
- Director, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
- Member, Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society
- Member, North Island-Sunshine Coast Regional Advisory Committee (NISCRAC)

COUNCILLOR SAM ATWAL

- Trustee, Vancouver Island Regional Library Board (VIRL) *(Alternate: Councillor Haggard)*
- Liaison, Learning Council/North Island College
- Liaison, AV Community Forest Corporation
- Member, Tsawak-qin Public Advisory Group

COUNCILLOR DEBBIE HAGGARD

- Director, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
- Member, Alberni Clayoquot Health Network
- Alberni Valley Forestry Coalition
- Continuum of Care Coalition

COUNCILLOR ADAM HAYDUK

- Court of Revision
- Member, Alberni Valley Heritage Commission
- Liaison, Uptown Merchants Association

COUNCILLOR DILJEET HUNDAL

- Court of Revision
- Liaison, Advisory Planning Commission *(Alternate: Mayor Mealey)*
- Member, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Emergency Program Executive Committee
- Liaison, AV Transition Town Society

COUNCILLOR NINA KOSSENKO

- Liaison, School District #70
- Member, Traffic Advisory Committee *(Alternate: Mayor Mealey)*
- Liaison, West Coast Native Healthcare Society

COUNCILLOR CINDY SOLDA

- Liaison, Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Liaison, Alberni Valley Regional Airport Advisory Committee
- Member, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Accessibility Committee *(Alternate: Councillor Hundal)*
- Member, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Transportation Advisory Committee (*Alternate: Councillor Mealey*)
- Member, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Emergency Program Executive Committee
- Liaison, Community Investment Program Committee

DEPUTY MAYOR APPOINTMENTS (REGULAR AND COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETINGS)

January & July	Councillor Hayduk	April & October	Councillor Haggard
February & August	Councillor Atwal	May & November	Councillor Hundal
March & September	Councillor Solda	June & December	Councillor Kossenko

Deputy Mayor outside of formal meetings will be determined based on Council liaison appointments

CITY OF PORT ALBERNI
2027 MEETING SCHEDULE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS

Held in Council Chambers at City Hall, 4850 Argyle Street, Port Alberni BC at 2:00 pm unless otherwise noted

These meetings are open to the public

Monday, January 11	Monday, June 28
Monday, January 25	Monday, July 12
Monday, February 8	Monday, August 9
Monday, February 22	Monday, September 13
Monday, March 8	Monday, September 27
Monday, March 22	Tuesday, October 12
Monday, April 12	Monday, October 25
Monday, April 26	Monday, November 8
Monday, May 10	Monday, November 22
Tuesday, May 25	Monday, December 6**
Monday, June 17*	

* Meeting date scheduled outside of Council's Procedure Bylaw to accommodate the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference

** Organizational Meeting

Distribution: Council
PACMA
PNPP (Web & Bulletin)

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ShawSpotlightPortAlberni@sjrb.ca
editor@albernivalleynews.com
publisher@albernivalleynews.com

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CITY OF PORT ALBERNI
2027 MEETING SCHEDULE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Held in Council Chambers at City Hall, 4850 Argyle Street, Port Alberni BC at 6:00 pm unless otherwise noted

These meetings are open to the public

Monday, January 18
Tuesday, February 16
Monday, March 15
Monday, April 19
Monday, May 17
Monday, June 21
Monday, July 19
No Meeting in August
Tuesday, September 7*
Monday, October 18
Monday, November 15
No Meeting in December

* Meeting date scheduled outside of Council's Procedure Bylaw to accommodate the Union of BC Municipalities Convention

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CITY OF PORT ALBERNI
2027 MEETING SCHEDULE
ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION

Held in Council Chambers at City Hall, 4850 Argyle Street, Port Alberni BC at 12:00 pm unless otherwise noted

These meetings are open to the public

Thursday, January 21
Thursday, February 18
Thursday, March 18
Thursday, April 15
Thursday, May 20
Thursday, June 17
Thursday, July 15
Thursday, August 19
Thursday, September 16
Thursday, October 21
Thursday, November 18
No Meeting in December

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DRAFT

CITY OF PORT ALBERNI
2027 MEETING SCHEDULE
TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held in Council Chambers at City Hall, 4850 Argyle Street, Port Alberni BC at 10:00 am unless otherwise noted

These meetings are open to the public

Wednesday, January 20
Wednesday, April 21
Wednesday, July 21
Wednesday, October 20

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CITY OF PORT ALBERNI
2027 MEETING SCHEDULE
ALBERNI VALLEY HERITAGE COMMISSION

Held at the Alberni Valley Museum at 4255 Wallace Street, Port Alberni, BC at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted

These meetings are open to the public

Wednesday, January 6
Wednesday, February 3
Wednesday, March 3
Wednesday, April 7
Wednesday, May 5*
Wednesday, June 2**
No Meetings in July and August
Wednesday, September 1
Wednesday, October 6
Wednesday, November 3
Wednesday, December 1

* McLean Mill
** Maritime Heritage Centre

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DRAFT

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October 21, 2026

Mayor Charles Mealey
City of Port Alberni
4850 Argyle Street
Port Alberni, BC V9Y 1V8

Dear Mayor Mealey and Council,

As you consider appointments to external boards and organizations for 2027, I want to introduce you to Vancouver Island Regional Library, the communities we serve, and the important role your representative plays on our Board of Trustees.

We encourage you to consider continuity when making appointments, as returning Trustees bring valuable experience, knowledge of Vancouver Island Regional Library, and an understanding of our regional governance model.

Please use the following link to complete the *Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) Board Appointments 2027 form*. The appointment form is due Friday, December 4. If you require assistance, please contact VIRL's Executive Assistant at mpatterson@virl.bc.ca.

About Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL)

This year, VIRL celebrates 90 years of public library service. With 39 branches, a significant digital collection, and remote service delivery, we connect people in more than 240 rural, remote, and urban coastal communities across approximately 42,000 km², 10 regional districts, 28 municipalities, and the traditional territories of 54 First Nations.

VIRL is one of three regional library systems in British Columbia. Our 38 member-local governments pool resources to support shared collections, technology, infrastructure, and professional expertise. This regional model helps us use resources efficiently, bridge geographic and service gaps, and respond to communities of different sizes, circumstances, and needs.

Public libraries support affordability and livability, literacy and lifelong learning, skills and workforce development, innovation, digital inclusion, and equitable access to services. As trusted community infrastructure, libraries connect people to information, resources, opportunities, technology, and one another, while extending the reach and value of public investment.

Board Structure and the Role of a VIRL Trustee

The VIRL Board is made up of 38 Trustees, one representative from each member-local government.

This is an important governance appointment. VIRL Trustees bring their community's perspective to the Board, while sharing responsibility for governing the regional library system as a whole. Once appointed, Trustees have fiduciary responsibility to act in the best interests of VIRL and all residents it serves. In short, VIRL Trustees are appointed locally and govern regionally.

Your appointment helps ensure your leadership informs collective decisions affecting library services, facilities, investment, and long-term planning across the region.

The Board is responsible for strategic direction, financial stewardship, governance policy, risk, long-term sustainability, general organizational oversight, and oversight of the Executive Director. The Executive Director is the Board's one employee, who is responsible for leading VIRL's administration and more than 400 employees.

The Board is supported by an Executive Committee and an Audit & Finance Special Committee (AFSC). The AFSC provides detailed financial oversight and supports the annual budget process, working with the Executive Committee and Board. The Board approves VIRL's Financial Plan in September.

How are Trustees appointed?

Each member-local government appoints a Trustee and an alternate in accordance with the *Library Act* *17 (2) All subsequent regular appointments must be made each November at the first meeting of the municipal council or regional district board.*

Trustees are appointed annually and may be reappointed for up to eight consecutive years. Continuity can be valuable, allowing Trustees to deepen their understanding of a complex regional organization and contribute to priorities and decisions that extend over several years.

What makes an effective VIRL Trustee?

A strong regional Board benefits from different professional backgrounds, lived experiences, community knowledge, perspectives, skills, and interests.

Experience in local government, finance, governance, community development, infrastructure and asset management, technology, human resources, communications, risk, public policy, or strategic planning all bring value.

Most importantly, effective Trustees are curious, prepared, and collaborative. They listen, ask good questions, consider different perspectives, think strategically and long term, and balance knowledge of their own community with responsibility for the regional system as a whole.

What is the time commitment?

The VIRL Board is scheduled to meet four times in 2027, including the Annual General Meeting. Regular Board meetings are generally held on Saturdays in a hybrid format and typically run for approximately two to three hours. The Annual General Meeting is held in person in Nanaimo.

Trustees' service on the Executive Committee or Audit & Finance Special Committee attend additional meetings through the year. Committee meetings are held on Fridays in a hybrid format.

Trustees should allow time to review Board materials and prepare in advance of meetings.

Trustees are also invited to branch openings, celebrations, conferences, advocacy opportunities, and other VIRL events throughout the year.

2027 Board Dates

Saturday, February 20
Trustee Orientation, Annual General Meeting, and Board Meeting
Location: In-person (Vancouver Island Conference Centre, Nanaimo)

Saturday, May 29
Board Meeting
Location: Online or in-person (Nanaimo North Library)

Saturday, September 11
Board Meeting
Location: Online or in-person (Nanaimo North Library)

Saturday, November 20
Board Meeting
Location: Online or in-person (Nanaimo North Library)

Trustee Orientation and Annual General Meeting

At the Annual General Meeting, the Board elects its Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Executive Committee. The Chair leads the Board and serves as its official spokesperson.

Trustees receive a comprehensive orientation prior to the Annual General Meeting, along with governance materials and resources they can take home or access online. Our goal is to ensure Trustees have the information, context, and ongoing support they need to understand VIRL and contribute effectively at the Board table.

Remuneration and Expenses

VIRL Trustees are not paid by VIRL for their service on the Board. Trustees may be reimbursed for reasonable travel and other eligible out-of-pocket expenses incurred while carrying out Board duties, in accordance with the *Library Act* and VIRL procedural bylaw.

Individual member-local governments may have their own policies regarding remuneration for elected officials serving on external boards.

A Meaningful Opportunity to Serve

Serving as a VIRL Trustee is an opportunity to help steward a significant regional public institution, work alongside elected representatives from across Vancouver Island and coastal British Columbia, and help shape the future of an organization that has served our communities for 90 years.

It is difficult to express how many ways our library system contributes to strong, healthy communities. Sometimes, a picture is worth a thousand words. I have enclosed a copy of *Libraries Light the Way*, a bold and compelling illustration of who we are, what we uniquely offer, and why we matter.

Below, you will also find answers to some common questions about VIRL, along with key strategic and governance documents that provide additional context for the appointment.

I would be delighted to continue this conversation in person. I am always happy to answer questions, meet with your Council or Board, or provide a presentation about VIRL, our regional model, and the role of your Trustee.

I look forward to working with you and welcoming your representative to the VIRL Board table in 2027.

Sincerely,



Eileen Gillette
Executive Director

cc: Andrew McGifford, CAO, City of Port Alberni
Sara Darling, Director of Corporate Services, City of Port Alberni

Questions and Answers

Q: How is VIRL funded and how are costs shared?

A: Approximately 95% of VIRL's revenue comes from local government levies.

Under section 24 of the *Library Act*, member contributions are apportioned using a provincially legislated formula based equally on:

- 50% population
- 50% converted assessment values

The VIRL Board approves the overall Financial Plan and levy requirement. The Province applies the legislated formula to determine each member community's requisition amount.

The regional model recognizes that residents use library services across community boundaries. Pooling resources allows communities to collectively support collections, technology, infrastructure, expertise, and services, while strengthening sustainability of the system as a whole.

Q: How is VIRL's budget developed?

A: Budget development is an approximately eight-month process involving management, the Executive Leadership Team, the Audit & Finance Special Committee (AFSC), the Executive Committee, and the Board of Trustees.

Management develops budget assumptions, financial forecasts, operating and capital requirements, and service priorities. The AFSC provides detailed financial review and oversight, while the Executive Committee provides strategic oversight and governance guidance.

Ultimately, the Board of Trustees reviews and approves the Financial Plan, annual levy requirement, and long-term financial priorities for the regional library system.

For 2027, VIRL's budget is $39.4 million, including an operating budget of $35.2 million and a capital budget of $4.2 million. The overall levy increase is 4.33%, the lowest percentage increase in five years.

VIRL's budget, along with a short video explaining our regional system and how our budget works, is available here: Reports and Plans - Vancouver Island Regional Library.

Q: What is the *Library Act*?

A: VIRL is one of three regional library systems in British Columbia and operates under the provincial *Library Act*.

The *Library Act* provides the legislative framework for how public libraries are established, governed, funded, and operated throughout the province. It establishes public library systems and their governing boards, defines Trustee responsibilities and accountability, and establishes regional library funding requirements and levy apportionment.

The Act also requires library borrowing to be free of charge to residents within a library service area and supports equitable access to public library service regardless of community size or geography.

Just as municipalities operate under the *Community Charter*, and regional districts operate under the *Local Government Act*, VIRL is established and governed through the *Library Act*.

Why this matters: Public library service is not simply a local program or facility. It is a provincially legislated public service delivered through locally appointed boards and strengthened through regional collaboration.

Q: What support do new Trustees receive?

A: We do not expect a new Trustee to arrive knowing the *Library Act*, VIRL's financial model, or details about how a regional library system operates.

New Trustees receive orientation on VIRL, our regional model, governance responsibilities, financial structure, strategic priorities, and Board procedures. Trustees also receive a portfolio of governance information and resources, and our team is available throughout the year to answer questions and provide support.

Q: Where can I learn more?

A: Additional information about VIRL and the role of the Board is available through:

- BC *Library Act*
- VIRL Procedural Bylaw
- VIRL Board Policies
- Strategic Plan
- 2027-2031 Financial Plan
- 2027 Budget Infographic and Budget Video
- Annual Report / Impact Report
- Libraries Light the Way (attached)

LIBRARIES LIGHT THE WAY

In every community, every day

VANCOUVER ISLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY

1

WE CHAMPION LITERACY AND LIFELONG LEARNING

VIRL promotes **reading, digital literacy, and personal growth** from early childhood through every stage of life. VIRL offers programs, resources, and tools to help individuals explore, discover, and succeed.

2

WE PROVIDE OPEN ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY

VIRL is the **great equalizer**. Libraries provide free access to books, digital tools, technology, and educational resources to ensure everyone has the opportunity to learn, grow, and participate fully in society.

3

WE BUILD BRIGHT FUTURES THROUGH EARLY LITERACY

Early literacy is foundational to a child's **development and future success**. VIRL supports children and families with programs, storytimes, and resources that nurture cognitive, emotional, and social growth. We lay the groundwork for school readiness, academic achievement, and lifelong wellbeing.

4

WE OPEN MINDS TO NEW PERSPECTIVES

VIRL reflects the diverse histories, traditions, and voices of the communities we serve through collections and cultural programming. We are the home of human potential, **available to all, now and into the future**.

5

WE ADVANCE COMMUNITY WELLBEING AND SUSTAINABILITY

VIRL libraries are vital hubs that promote equitable access, social connection, and opportunity for all. By supporting families, job seekers, seniors, newcomers, and nonprofits, we advance community wellbeing, environmental responsibility—sustainably—creating the conditions for individuals and communities **to grow, adapt, and thrive**.

6

WE SERVE AS WELCOMING PUBLIC SPACES

VIRL offers space to study, connect, create, and engage. In communities where public space is limited, our libraries are safe, inclusive, and accessible gathering places. As anchors in rural, urban, and mid-sized communities, we reflect local identity and **foster connection and pride**.

7

WE BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

VIRL provides high-speed internet, public computers, and digital literacy support to ensure no one is left behind in the digital age. In today's connected world, **access to technology** is essential.

8

WE CONNECT PEOPLE WITH TRUSTED INFORMATION

VIRL helps users find reliable, unbiased answers to their questions, from health and finance to education and current events, ensuring **informed decision-making and knowledge** for all.

9

WE CELEBRATE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

VIRL fosters understanding, representation, and belonging for all members of our communities through multilingual resources, inclusive services, and cultural events—**ensuring no one is left behind**.

10

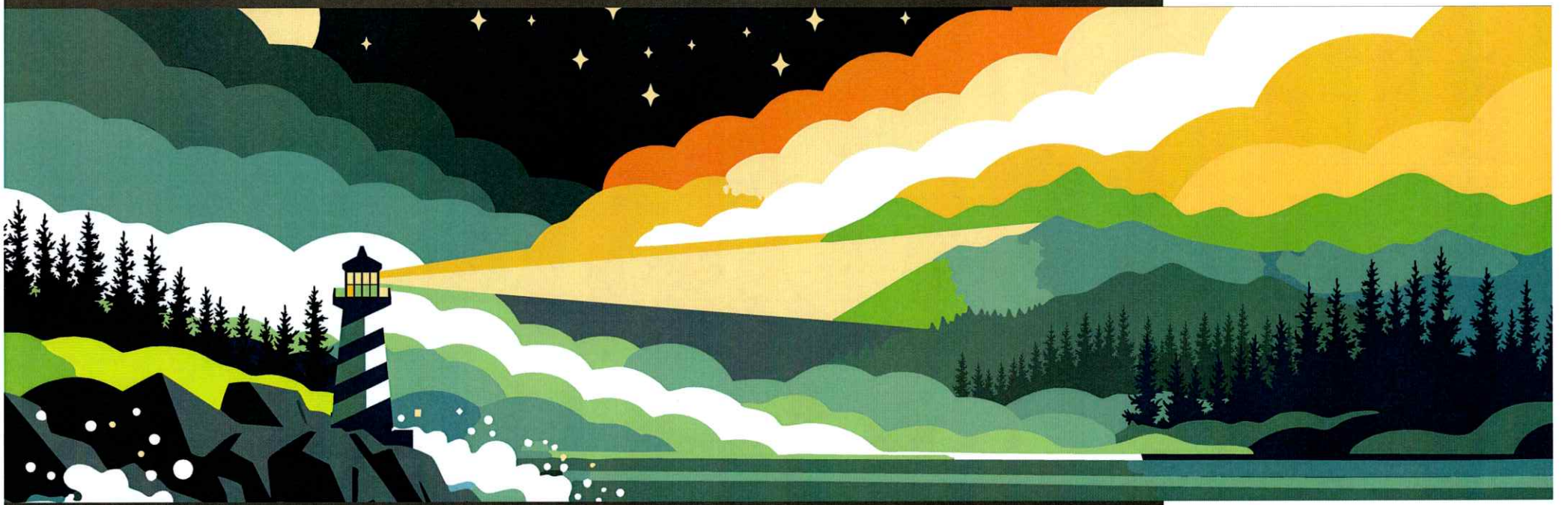
WE DEFEND THE RIGHT TO KNOW

VIRL protects the fundamental freedoms of expression, inquiry, and access to information, ensuring everyone has the **right to read, learn, think, and speak** freely.

VISION

A thriving, connected, cohesive, and empowered region of island and coastal communities.

Let's create the future together.



virl.bc.ca

MISSION

We provide barrier-free, region-wide, and equitable access to a unique critical blend of Collective Services that lift our communities.