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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Late Fines Ending at all FVRL Locations

FVRL plans to remove barriers and increase access to the library.

[Abbotsford, BC] – Fraser Valley Regional Library plans to end late fines permanently beginning January 1, 2022. Throughout the pandemic, no late fines have incurred and as of December 8, 2021 the 15 elected officials who compose the FVRL board voted to continue this initiative indefinitely.

The ending of late fines is part of FVRL's approach to continue to help remove barriers for customers and encourage increased use and access to the collection. "We know how helpful and potentially life-changing removing late fines can be. This was a well-thought-out decision that has a big impact on supporting people, creating harmony, and building stronger communities," says Gayle Martin, FVRL Board Chair.

"We recognize that many people are struggling right now and finances are tight. We care and we want to help," says Scott Hargrove, FVRL Chief Executive Officer. "There can be a lot of fear or stress surrounding late fines. Most of the time we see customers accrue late fines unintentionally – missed bus, sick kid, working late. This minor mishap can seriously hurt household budgets, use of the library, and stress levels. We want to welcome people into the library and help alleviate some pressure."

This change does not include fees incurred for lost or damaged materials. The same fee structure will still apply. Customers with existing fines will be granted the option of removing some or all of these fines with an upcoming 2022 forgiveness campaign.

To learn more about FVRL's services, collection, hours of operation, [FVRL Express](#), [eCard sign up](#), [virtual programs](#) and [digital content](#), please visit www.fvrl.ca or call your local library.

Connect and engage with FVRL on social by searching ReadLearnPlay on [Facebook](#), [Youtube](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

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About Fraser Valley Regional Library

Fraser Valley Regional Library is the largest public library system in British Columbia, with 25 community libraries serving almost 810,000 people in its service area. Established in 1930, it is funded with taxes raised in the communities it serves, plus a Government of BC operating grant. The governing board consists of elected officials representing 15 member municipalities and regional districts. With its mission of “opening minds, enabling dreams,” FVRL plays a prominent role in the communities throughout the Fraser Valley.

FVRL Member Libraries

<i>Abbotsford Community</i>	<i>Agassiz</i>	<i>Aldergrove</i>
<i>Boston Bar</i>	<i>Brookwood</i>	<i>Chilliwack</i>
<i>Clearbrook</i>	<i>Fort Langley</i>	<i>George Mackie</i>
<i>Hope</i>	<i>Ladner Pioneer</i>	<i>City of Langley</i>
<i>Maple Ridge</i>	<i>Mission</i>	<i>Mount Lehman</i>
<i>Muriel Arnason</i>	<i>Murrayville</i>	<i>Pitt Meadows</i>
<i>Sardis</i>	<i>Tsawwassen</i>	<i>Terry Fox</i>
<i>Walnut Grove</i>	<i>White Rock</i>	<i>Yale</i>
<i>Yarrow</i>		

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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