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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

### **NEW TECHNOLOGY, NEW LIBRARY PART OF LIBRARY BUDGET** *Fraser Valley Regional Library Board passes 2013 budget.*

Abbotsford, BC – After months of discussion, planning and tweaks, the Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL) board voted unanimously on January 16 in favour of the proposed 2013 budget. Compared to previous years, the 2013 budget process took longer as municipal and regional district representatives worked hard to create a library budget that reflects the fiscally tight economic times, and meets the needs of their constituents now and into the future. The new budget focuses on technological changes, a new library, continued community development and literacy.

FVRL is funded primarily through taxes raised in the communities it serves, and operates under a unique funding formula which gives much of the financial control directly to the communities. It is a “user pay” system, meaning the municipalities and regional districts do not subsidize each other—they pay based on their constituents’ use. Communities control their direct costs which include library staffing levels and open hours. The buildings in which the libraries reside are owned or leased by the municipality or regional district, giving them the control over their size and location.

“The power of belonging to FVRL is that it’s a regional system. Services, such as selecting the collection, information technology, human resources, marketing, finance, and system wide coordinators have been centralized. These shared costs are allocated to the communities based on the funding formula’s usage statistics rather than each community duplicating these services.” says Mary O’Callaghan, FVRL director of corporate services. “These centralized services mean that FVRL is able to offer our member municipalities’ excellent value for their dollar; we plan once, and deliver many times.”

[www.fvrl.ca](http://www.fvrl.ca)  
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WHITE ROCK PITT MEADOWS CLEARBROOK FORT LANGLEY MOUNT LEHMAN AGASSIZ BOSTON BAR YALE  
CHILLIWACK YARROW LADNER PIONEER GEORGE MACKIE ALDERGROVE TSAWWASSEN LANGLEY MURIEL ARNASON  
BROOKSWOOD MURRAYVILLE MSA CENTENNIAL WALNUT GROVE HOPE MAPLERIDGE MISSION TERRY FOX

Under the approved budget FVRL will hire a much needed IT Analyst. “An extra analyst is needed to help roll out new technology infrastructure that will bring value to the library’s customers,” says Scott Hargrove, FVRL director of IT and support services. FVRL’s Integrated Library System (ILS) software is over 16 years old and has become outdated,” The complex system supports all library operations, including check in/out of library materials, a catalogue of materials, and ordering of library materials. A new, more sophisticated ILS is expected to go live in 2013.

The 2013 budget also reflects costs for the first full year of the two new libraries in Pitt Meadows and Abbotsford. As well, the new Sardis Library is scheduled to open in March. Community development activities will continue through FVRL’s Outreach program and the Library Live and On Tour (LiLi) mobile project. Outreach provides audio book services to customers who are print impaired; they also offer home delivery of library materials to customers who are homebound. LiLi brings the library to marginalized and socially excluded community members by visiting a variety of agencies, including food banks, transition houses and more, delivering free books, issuing library cards and reducing barriers to using library services.

Over the past few years community members have looked to stretch their budgets and have rediscovered FVRL as a place for easy-on-the-pocket entertainment. This high increase in library usage, along with tight budgets has had a major impact leading to a decrease in the size of the library collection. In an effort to grow the collection, including the addition of new material formats, the 2013 budget features a five per cent increase in materials spending.

FVRL and its board continues to look for ways to offer the best return on investment for each taxpayer dollar invested through sharing of services, partnerships and collaboration. For more information, please visit [www.fvrl.ca](http://www.fvrl.ca) or your closest FVRL location. Connect with FVRL online 24/7 through Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

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## About Fraser Valley Regional Library

Fraser Valley Regional Library is the largest public library system in British Columbia, with 24 community libraries serving almost 700,000 people in its service area. Established in 1930, it is funded with taxes raised in the community 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 "to connect people to the world of information and ideas," 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 (Opens Spring 2013)</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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