

Linda Henriksen
5811 Oliver Drive
Richmond, B.C.
V6V 2P1

February 22, 2007

Richmond City Council
6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, B.C.
V6Y 2C1

Attn: Mayor and Councillors

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

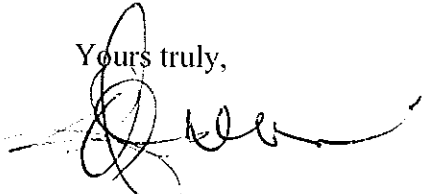
The Hamilton community is proud to be part of the City of Richmond and we are grateful to our council for their continued and committed support and dedication. We have come to know that through individual and collective efforts there comes increased opportunity and growth for all. Collectively, the residents of the Hamilton community are urging that Richmond City Councillors consider supporting our request to have a public library installed in our area.

We are a rapidly growing community, with one of the highest concentration of young families in Richmond. Our elementary school enrolments continue to rise. We have child care facilities that are filled to capacity, with wait lists of families needing services. Our culturally diverse community is host to church groups, seniors groups, recreational groups and professionals, all of whom are concerned about literacy in one way or another. A library in our community would be paramount in providing support for our educational programs and a gathering space for a community committed to building relationships, with an objective of enhanced literacy and life-long learning. A library is key to a quality of life, a shared space that connects us all in an empowering way, building and reinforcing the strengths of families and communities. This is our dream for Hamilton.

We acknowledge budgets have been established that do not provide for this request, but ask that you reconsider the allocation of existing funds or consider the approval of additional funds for this type of facility in the Hamilton area. Geographically, we are considerably isolated from the rest of Richmond and therefore do not have accessibility to the same services. The nearest library is 10 km away by highway. It is difficult to reach by public transit and unsafe to travel by bicycle. It is our philosophy that, as a community of Richmond, we should have access to the same services offered to other communities in Richmond, as collectively our tax dollars are put towards providing these services.

We ask you, our Council, to share our approach that family literacy is an essential community service that should be accessible to all. Please consider opening the doors to resources that would lessen current accessibility limitations to your Hamilton constituents. We ask that you listen to our families and identify more clearly with what they want and need to flourish, as individuals and as a community. We appreciate, in advance, the time you take to consider our issues and your efforts towards realizing this dream for our community.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda Henriksen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Linda Henriksen

Name: ANA KGAIDE

Date: Feb 26 2006

Address: 61-27833 WINDSOR COURT

A family of 2 persons, with 1 children, ages 10

To: Richmond City Mayor and Council

Collectively, the residents of the Hamilton community are urging that Richmond City Councillors support our request to have a public library installed in our area.

We are a rapidly growing community, with one of the highest concentration of young families in Richmond. Our elementary school enrolments continue to rise. We have childcare facilities that are filled to capacity, with waitlists of families needing services. Our culturally diverse community is host to church groups, seniors groups, recreational groups and professionals, all committed to building relationships, enhancing literacy and life-long learning. A library would provide support for our educational programs and a gathering space for our community. A library is key to a quality of life, a shared space that connects us all in an empowering way, building and reinforcing the strengths of families and communities. This is our dream for Hamilton.

Geographically, we are isolated from the rest of Richmond and do not have access to the same services. The nearest library is 10 km away by highway. Our view is that, as a community of Richmond we should have similar access to services as other communities in Richmond.

We ask you, our Council, to share our approach that family literacy is an essential community service that should be accessible to all. Please consider opening the doors to resources for your Hamilton constituents. We acknowledge budgets have been established that do not provide for this request, but ask that you set staff priorities, re-allocate existing funds or consider the approval of additional funds for this type of facility in the Hamilton area, using readily available rental space or other options.

We ask that you listen to our families and identify more clearly with what they want and need to flourish, as individuals and as a community. We appreciate, in advance, the time you take to consider our issues and your efforts towards realizing this dream for our community.

Yours Truly,

Signature: 