



***Our vision statement:***  
***Collaborating to support outstanding***  
***library services.***

## **2019 Provincial Grant Report**

### **Introduction**

The Kootenay Library Federation received formal recognition in 2006, two years after it began operating. The Federation is an umbrella organization supporting the twenty independent member libraries in the east, central, and boundary regions of the Kootenays. The majority of the member libraries are rural and somewhat isolated from one another, particularly in the winter months. The KLF service area encompasses a mountainous area of 49,647 square kms with 186,907 people and a population density of just below 4 people per km.

Grouped according to their size, the KLF member libraries include:

- Elkford, Greenwood, Kaslo, Midway, Nakusp, Radium Hot Springs, and Salmo (populations below 3,000)
- Beaver Valley, Fernie, Grand Forks, Invermere, Kimberley, Rossland, Sparwood, and Trail (populations between 3,000-10,000)
- Castlegar, Cranbrook, Creston, Penticton, and Nelson (populations above 10,000)

### **Governance**

The KLF has a committed Executive Committee of seven members, as well as stable Governance, Finance, and Personnel Committees. With Board approval of our new five-year strategic plan (2019-2023), ad-hoc Advocacy and Communication committees have been struck to develop and implement the goals set by member libraries. The Library Director Advisory Group are represented on all committees and continue to be an integral advisory group to meet our strategic goals and operational outcomes.

### **KLF Strategic Plan**

Lead by an experienced strategic plan facilitator who is the KLF Vice-Chair, members of the Board and LDAG participated in two sessions of strategic planning and development as part of our twice a year meetings. At the October 2019 Board meeting, the plan was approved.

The plan identifies four objectives:

1. We will seek opportunities to increase funding for the KLF, which will benefit member libraries. This aligns with the provincial priorities of *developing skills, improving access and delivering services people can count on*.
2. We will work to enhance advocacy for the KLF and member libraries. This aligns with the provincial priorities of *developing skills and building a strong, sustainable economy*.
3. The KLF will enhance communication to increase engagement and commitment. This aligns with the provincial priorities of *enhancing governance, developing skills, and initiating communication towards reconciliation relationships with First Nations*.
4. The KLF will work to enhance opportunities for collaboration. This aligns with the provincial priorities of *collaborating on shared goals and making life more affordable*.

#### **KLF Grant Letter Outcomes:**

The KLF grant award letter dated March 29, 2019 communicated grant funds were to be used towards the following four outcomes:

1. Increase member libraries' abilities to meet connectivity recommendations by researching, sharing and promoting best practices, ideas, resources and funding opportunities.
2. Improved regional and local shared services delivery.
3. Improved access to professional development learning opportunities for library staff and trustees.
4. Service expansion beyond community borders.

#### Increase member libraries' abilities to meet connectivity recommendations by researching, sharing and promoting best practices, ideas, resources and funding opportunities.

The KLF supports member libraries in their quest for reliable and cost-effective connectivity. Considering the four key recommendations from the 2018 Connectivity Survey report, the KLF questions the viability of library federations in playing an active role in facilitating meetings of local stakeholders and offering annual funding programs. These roles belong to library boards and different levels of government. Library federations are best suited to supporting efforts to develop and promote regional consortial connectivity offerings.

The KLF works with member libraries, the BC Libraries Coop, and independent database companies to source, evaluate, and subscribe to databases that are of use to patrons. Some potential consortial databases are not selected by the member library majority due to unrealistic bandwidth requirements. Other consortial databases are selected because of their ability to offer a need that is not otherwise available such as continuing education through local school districts or lack of a community college campus.

#### Improved regional and local shared services delivery

The KLF both initiates and implements requests from the member libraries in terms of adding value to both regional and local service delivery. Federation wide author tours are on a hiatus due to dwindling audience members and instead, Library Directors have asked that the KLF

organize and fund an entertainer or program for the annual Summer Reading Club. This ensures some equity in the SRC experience for the young participants.

In addition to Pico's Puppet Palace touring 18 of the 20 KLF member libraries in 2019, there were opportunities to continue celebrating STEAM. The Salmo based STEAMTruck visited 11 libraries in the boundary and central Kootenays. For the east Kootenays, the KLF connected with the Let's Talk Science program coordinator at the UBC Okanagan to bring Hydration Nation, a STEAM program to 9 libraries. Overall, the SRC programs reached more than 511 children.

With the goal of supporting regional shared services delivery, the KLF Consortium Purchasing policy was reviewed and updated. The policy now ensures that purchases of shared services is based on the total number of libraries participating, not a population total. The wording of the previous policy inadvertently favoured libraries with the largest populations.

#### Improved access to professional development learning opportunities for library staff and trustees

The KLF strives continually to provide high-quality and relevant professional development experiences for both library staff, library directors, and Board members.

The April 2019 LDAG meeting included guest speaker Kim Bater, a Columbia Basin Trust non-profit advisory consultant from Nelson. He offered a guided conversation about personal tendencies models. <https://kimbater.wordpress.com/bio/> Library Directors enjoyed learning about processes for understanding and appreciating themselves and others through identifying people's leading natural and supporting strengths. Using this knowledge Library Directors can build effective teams, resolve problems or challenges, and increase efficiencies. Ultimately, by assigning specific tasks to people that align with their natural skills, the likelihood that projects will be completed and more visions turned into action is increased.

The BCLTA offered two TOP sessions for Kootenay library trustees in 2019. Sessions in Cranbrook and Nelson were well attended, with 26 participants from member library Boards, gaining new knowledge and networking. In conversations with the ED of BCLTA, we discussed the possibility of the Chairing the Board workshops being offered outside of the Lower Mainland. It is gratifying to see this possibility is now a reality, and the KLF will host this workshop in 2020. It is exciting to see Invermere Library Board member Jim Jenkinson become a new facilitator for BCLTA's upcoming Governance Workshops.

At the Fall Board meeting, Bob Johnstone, a CBT Non-Profit Advisory consultant, led the trustees and Library Directors in attendance, in a workshop "Living Your Strategic Plan". In addition to describing the board, strategic, and operational dimensions, he stressed the critical role of performance monitoring and reporting. We participated in an exercise to identify information that we might need to gather to monitor our 4 objectives of funding, advocacy, enhanced communication, and collaboration.

As a result, the Board and LDAG meeting agendas will be organized to report on activities that address our goals and objectives. Trustees can apply this practice to their individual member boards.

The KLF worked with LawMatters <https://www.courthouselibrary.ca/connect-collaborate/lawmatters> program coordinator Megan Smiley to offer four workshops throughout the Kootenays in the Fall of 2019. Cranbrook, Salmo, Nelson, and Greenwood each hosted workshops to enhance public access to legal information through improving their confidence helping the public with legal information questions. The training included a how-to on using legal resources, the basics of legal research, and general legal reference skills. Aligned community organizations were invited to attend the workshops to facilitate networking between service delivery organizations, First Nations Bands and organizations, and public libraries. These were very successful and library staff look forward to this becoming a regular part of their legal reference knowledge base.

At the October LDAG meeting, Lesley Dyck <http://lesleydyck.ca/> was our guest and she shared her knowledge of outcome evaluation processes. Her morning presentation discussed outcomes, logic models, impacts, indicators and provided practical, hands-on experience applying these principles and tools to library programs.

The KLF purchased the online training course *Librarians Guide to Homelessness* in November. Offered via NicheAcademy, all twenty member libraries have access to this training for their staff, volunteers and Board members. Member libraries are finding the training to be directly applicable to the social realities of their library. One library set aside a day for all staff to take the training together; this included the opportunity to discuss the training modules as a group. Other libraries are scheduling staff to take the course independently and then come together for a staff discussion. To date, 41 people have completed the training.

#### Service expansion beyond community borders

KLF's partnership continues with Science World through our involvement in their outreach program through the Tech-Up Kits. The kits were gifted to the KLF member libraries in 2018 and were updated in 2019 with additional books and equipment. Three elementary school teachers in Fernie, Trail, and Sparwood became aware of the kits and requested to borrow them. We have expanded the kits beyond the library community to elementary schools and these teachers have been thrilled to have access to additional teaching materials through the KLF.

Thanks to a suggestion by a Library Director, the KLF and the BC Lung Association worked together to expand the Lung Associations' radon awareness program. They gifted 25 radon detector kits to the KLF which were distributed among member libraries. North Vancouver City Library staff offered support to the KLF by sharing templated documents to assist in the promotion and roll-out of the kits as lending items from each library.

The KLF worked with the Royal BC Museum to borrow a number of their outreach kits during the summer months. These kits are normally used only in schools during the school year and the museum staff were pleased for them to be sent to libraries over the summer. Four kits visited 11 KLF member libraries.

**Conclusion:**

The KLF genuinely endorses and implements the priorities of Libraries Branch and coordinates all priorities in support of the member libraries. We appreciate and thank the Ministry of Education for their continued financial support.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Melanie Reaveley".

Melanie Reaveley, MLIS  
Executive Director,  
Kootenay Library Federation  
director@klf.bclibrary.ca  
250-608-4490