

2021 PROVINCIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY GRANT REPORT (PLGR)

LIBRARY NAME

Hudson's Hope Public Library

CHECKLIST

For the PLGR to be considered complete, please ensure you have provided information for each of the following sections. Suggested word counts have been included for each question, but feel free to include more or less text as needed – text boxes will expand as you type. Click on a title in the list below to jump to that section of the document.

- ☐ [1. INTRODUCTION - LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY PROFILE](#)
- ☐ [2. MAJOR PROJECTS/PROGRAMS](#)
- ☐ [3. KEY CHALLENGES](#)
- ☐ [4. SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL](#)

1. INTRODUCTION - LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY PROFILE

Provide a brief description of the community and library, focusing on what has changed in the past year (up to 500 words).

COMMUNITY HUB

The Hudson's Hope Public Library is located in a small north eastern community within a large municipal district. The library building is a log structure overlooking the Peace River, the building aesthetic highlighting the pioneer origins of the community. Our central location, excellent programs for children and youth, as well as our amazing library team preserve our reputation as a community hub throughout the year.

LOCAL INDUSTRY

The main employer in Hudson's Hope is BC Hydro, via the GM Shrum and Peace Canyon generating stations. These supply the majority of energy produced by BC Hydro in the Northern Region and deliver approximately 3/10ths of BC Hydro's total volume.

(https://www.bchydro.com/community/in_your_region.html#reports)

The Site C dam and hydroelectric generating station will be located near Fort Saint John, however, the reservoir for the dam will stretch approximately 70 km between Fort Saint John and Hudson's Hope. This project has entered its seventh year of construction with a projected completion for 2024. This project has resulted in a significant increase in industrial traffic traversing through Hudson's Hope. (https://www.bchydro.com/energy-in-bc/projects/site_c.html)

2. MAJOR PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

Please describe any new or major ongoing projects/programs the library has delivered in the past year. To report on multiple projects/programs, "copy" the blank table below and insert additional tables as needed using the "paste" function. Use one table per project/program.

Project/Program Name	
Improve Library Atmosphere	
Provide a brief description of the activities involved in this project/program.	
<p>Through our strategic objectives, we have committed funds toward updating the Reading Room as a multi-use room with modular furniture elements as well as updating patron seating areas in the library with modern, mobile furniture in an effort to ensure that we are providing the best community space for our patrons.</p> <p>We obtained a number of grants to help support this initiative. In 2021 we replaced our Reading Room tables and task chairs with new rustic contemporary tables and traditional chairs to carve out a new permanent space for our patron computers. The new computers and monitors will be mounted on the walls so that the tables can be used in various configurations for meetings and events. Moving the patron computers from the main library will open up space for a community living room. The living room will include modular furnishings focusing around a large gaming monitor set up as a living room entertainment space. This TV setup will be well used by our programs as this space will be immediately next to the program space. We will also incorporate a hidden public computer and wall mounted collapsible desk, so that staff can reconfigure the space to allow patrons to use the computer when the computers in the Reading Room are unavailable due to a room booking.</p>	
How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals and/or community?	
<p>The board supports initiatives to improve library atmosphere, and ability to provide relevant technology based services. Capital improvements to our new community space will boast modernized furniture while maintaining a welcoming, comfortable and social environment. These newly furnished spaces will support connections, creativity and discovery.</p>	
How does this project/program support the B.C.'s strategic goal(s) for public library service? Please provide information for as many goals as applicable.	
1. Improving Access for British Columbians (e.g., connectivity, digital collections, shared services)	This projects renews our patron computer spaces and provides improved technology with higher quality computers and monitors for modern technology capacity.
2. Building Capacity for library staff and directors (e.g., training and professional development)	
3. Advancing Citizen Engagement (e.g., helping people access government services/resources, fostering community knowledge-sharing, and supporting reconciliation)	Updating our computer stations and software on these computers will help facilitate patrons so they are able to navigate government services and resources with less difficulty.
4. Enhancing Governance of the library system (e.g., board/trustee training, developing best practices, strategic planning)	

<p>What are the key outcomes of this project/program? Please refer to the logic model in the appendix of the 2021 PLGR Guide for examples of how to write short, medium, and long-term outcomes.</p> <p>Short term Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased knowledge of available furniture vendors • Increased awareness of space requirements • Refreshed knowledge of accessibility requirements <p>Intermediate term outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed expenditures on outstanding grants • Renewed awareness of library services provided, such as patron computers, printing, study space <p>Long Term Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased comfort with computer spaces resulting in decreased discomfort for patrons when dealing with stressful milestones that need online assistance • Improved satisfaction with library spaces • Improved use of library spaces
<p>Did the project/program involve any partnerships? If so, what was the partner's role (e.g., funding, outreach, service delivery)?</p> <p>Funding: AgriSpirit grant, Technology Grant</p>

<p>Project/Program Name</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Library Program Support</p>
<p>Provide a brief description of the activities involved in this project/program.</p> <p>The library sought external funding sources for supporting our annual operational revenues. We obtained a donation from an area company as well as grant to enhance our children's programs and a grant to support our library programming.</p> <p>Our regular programs include StoryTime, Tween Club, Library Club and Teen Club. We additionally support local book clubs as well as one regular and two seasonal book clubs. Further single event or short term programming is also offered, for instance, last year we provided a Walking Book Club that met on walks throughout the community as part of the Participation initiative in June.</p>
<p>How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals and/or community?</p> <p>Through the Customer Experience Goal, the board supports an objective specific to the continuation of program services. They support the provision of outstanding programs and presentations for our community. These diverse programs are developed to meet the changing needs of our community members. The board aims to ensure that there is adequate monetary support to maintain current programming levels. The board also support staff to explore feasibility of alternate programming and presentation opportunities within the current budget.</p> <p>Elsewhere in the HHPL strategic plan, the board supports ongoing collection development, community partnerships, and improving technology as well as library atmosphere. All of these help support library programs both directly and indirectly</p>

How does this project/program support the B.C.'s strategic goal(s) for public library service ? Please provide information for as many goals as applicable.	
5. Improving Access for British Columbians (e.g., connectivity, digital collections, shared services)	Additional monetary support to our budget, specifically programming allows us the prospect of providing improved opportunities for program participants. Some monetary support is allocated toward learning platforms, digital collection development, databases, etc.
6. Building Capacity for library staff and directors (e.g., training and professional development)	Support to programming allows us to allocate additional hours to employees in order to improve programs through training opportunities for staff.
7. Advancing Citizen Engagement (e.g., helping people access government services/resources, fostering community knowledge-sharing, and supporting reconciliation)	Training opportunities for employees improve knowledge base and ability to support patrons through government service and resources. Learning platforms that we subscribe to help patrons and employees both to continuously learn and innovate.
8. Enhancing Governance of the library system (e.g., board/trustee training, developing best practices, strategic planning)	Training opportunities to enhance governance have included strategic planning refresher research, many opportunities to further develop best practices through the ABCPLD network, which also provided professional development opportunities.
What are the key outcomes of this project/program? Please refer to the logic model in the appendix of the 2021 PLGR Guide for examples of how to write short, medium, and long-term outcomes.	
<p>Short term Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide better program opportunities and incentives • Provide safe social opportunities for program attendees <p>Intermediate term outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smooth milestone transitions for toddlers through teens <p>Long Term Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved patron and staff knowledge base • Support lifelong learning 	
Did the project/program involve any partnerships? If so, what was the partner's role (e.g., funding, outreach, service delivery)?	
<p>\$10,000 grant, \$500 donation</p> <p>Collaboration with the municipal special events coordinator for Winter Carnival and Summer Reading Club program. We facilitated special programming for these events and for SRC, we allocated an additional session to accommodate District Summer Camp attendees.</p>	

Project/Program Name	
Building Improvement	
Provide a brief description of the activities involved in this project/program.	
<p>Library and municipal staff have been collaborating on work plan for the library for a number of years, including building maintenance, building improvement in addition to health and safety concerns. The collaboration has been successful with building improvement projects rather than just regular building maintenance since there was a transition in communication in 2017.</p> <p>In 2021, the Library Board further impacted communication methods as they reached out to Council to endeavour to address some areas of concern. This was in response to a building envelope assessment report, which highlighted many of the same concerns that the library staff had been relaying to public works staff. Council actioned a plan for immediate building improvements to address many of the highlighted issues, and initiated the process for more expensive items to be evaluated and considered for the municipal capital improvement plan.</p> <p>An additional concern that arose in 2021 was a sloughing event behind the library in September. It has stabilized and municipal staff are now keeping us up to date with a weekly situation report.</p>	
How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals and/or community?	
<p>Through their Community Engagement goal, the library board and library staff advocated for our patrons to improve the conditions of the library. Also through the Library Atmosphere goal, the library board supports improving the library atmosphere through Reading Room, Patron seating and other furniture upgrades. Under this same goal the library board supports technology relevance and improving functionality and safety of staff space.</p>	
How does this project/program support the B.C.'s strategic goal(s) for public library service? Please provide information for as many goals as applicable.	
9. Improving Access for British Columbians (e.g., connectivity, digital collections, shared services)	Improving actual physical access to the library by providing a more comfortable atmosphere for all who use the library spaces. Our space is ultimately the shared service most used by members of our community, and we have endeavored to make our library more comfortable and accessible for everyone. By allowing the board to reallocate funds away from projects for building renovation and improvement, we are better able to support our operational initiatives such as internet improvement and online learning platforms, as well as library programming and staff incentive programs.
10. Building Capacity for library staff and directors (e.g., training and professional development)	Reallocating reserve funds away from capital to operations will support learning platforms and training opportunities for staff.
11. Advancing Citizen Engagement (e.g., helping people access government services/resources, fostering community knowledge-sharing, and supporting reconciliation)	
12. Enhancing Governance of the library system (e.g., board/trustee training, developing best practices, strategic planning)	By reinforcing communication with municipal council, the board is able to nurture relationship with our primary funder and build better communication channels and advocacy methods for our organization.

What are the key outcomes of this project/program? Please refer to the logic model in the appendix of the 2021 PLGR Guide for examples of how to write short, medium, and long-term outcomes.

Short term Outcomes:

- Health and Safety assessments
- Building assessments

Intermediate term outcomes:

- Improvement of climate control capacity
- Improvement of health and safety measures

Long Term Outcomes:

- Sustain long-term employees
- Redirect reserve funds towards library service improvements, capital and operational
- Increase duration of time patrons spend in the library

Did the project/program involve any partnerships? If so, what was the partner's role (e.g., funding, outreach, service delivery)?

District of Hudson's Hope provides annual operations and maintenance support to the library. Under this budget they were able to address many of the ongoing issues for the library and have initiated the process to assess capital projects for their annual capital budget. They additionally provide staff to manage these ongoing projects and staff and management are increasing communication efforts with library management to keep abreast of ongoing project activities.

3. KEY CHALLENGES

The following topics have been identified as recurring themes in previous years' PLGRs. The intent of this section is to collect detailed information in a structured, consistent format.

Please select the most significant challenges that the library has faced in the past year that you wish to comment on. Leave any other listed topics blank.

Use the 'Other' row to include any ongoing or past challenges that are not included in this list. If you have more than one 'Other' item to add, please insert additional rows into the table.

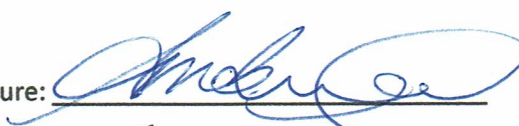
Challenge	Briefly describe how this challenge has impacted the library/community, and what steps the library took to address it in 2021. Please specify if any provincial funding was used, e.g., annual library funding, the technology grant, other non-PLB provincial grants (up to 250 words per topic).
COVID-19 (e.g., safety protocols, proof of vaccination)	Whereas some other organizations in our community were more lenient with mask protocols, we had difficulty enforcing our mandatory mask protocols in the library. Most people were willing to put on masks, others were verbally defiant but ultimately put on a mask to use the library but often had to be reminded of the proper way to use a mask. We did have the occasional person who refused to use a mask and in most cases we would offer contactless services in the future, or they would choose to discontinue using the library while we support the mask mandate.

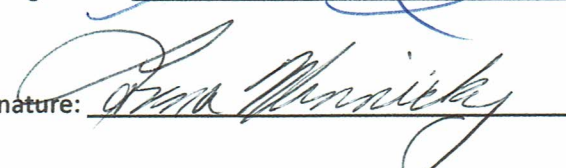
Emergency response (e.g., fires, floods, extreme weather)	Our library is located on the upper slope of the Peace River, just below two hydroelectric dams. We underwent an evacuation and building closure for a number of weeks after a sloughing event on the border of our property and the riverbank on September 24 th . We reverted to work from home measures during this time, which we were well prepared for due to the COVID closures in 2020. BC Hydro is installing a berm below the library property as a shoreline protection initiative, and were quick to assess the situation and reassess their construction efforts to allow a smoother transition of ground waters and removed hazardous sloughing debris from the area as a prevention measure for further sloughing. Both the Site C team and the District of Hudson's Hope are monitoring the area on a regular basis to ensure the safety of our library building as well as staff and patrons.
Financial pressure (e.g., rising costs, reduced revenues)	
Staffing (e.g., recruitment and retention, mental health and wellness)	
Disappearing services in the community (e.g., government, banking, health)	
Connectivity (e.g., low bandwidth, lack of home internet in the community)	Our previous internet service was provided through a local internet society for free. When a competing company came in with improved connections, we were unable to make the upgrade due to costs of the service. With the help of a Library Branch Connectivity grant, we were able to subscribe to the upgraded service for three years. We will have to re-evaluate our budget in 2024, and essentially make cuts to our budget in order to accommodate the improved service if another source of revenue is not found before then.
Aging/damaged facilities (e.g., need for repairs, renovations, upgrades/expansions)	Please see third project outline.
Community access to the library (e.g., geographic isolation, lack of local public transit, building accessibility)	

Vulnerable communities (e.g., people experiencing homelessness, addiction, mental health crisis)	
Other (please specify)	

4. SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL

Electronic signatures are acceptable where physical signatures are not feasible.

Library Director Signature:  Date: March 10/22

Board Chair Signature:  Date: March 10/22