

Libraries Branch  
2019 Grants Report  
Fraser Lake Public Library

Introduction:

The Fraser Lake Public Library is the hub of our Community for a number of reasons:

- We offer free services to citizens of Fraser Lake, Fort Fraser, Endako and Nadleh and Stellaten our two local First Nations.
- We do not have any Government Agencies in town so the only public access to Government programmes or websites via computer is through us. IE. Employment Insurance, job boards, resume writing and more.
- As there is no movie theatre or video store in our area we have many DVD's for patrons to borrow. This provides entertainment for all ages.
- We provide programming for all ages.
- We provide access to educational material for teachers and students.
- We provide free space to user groups to hold meetings and offer their own niche such as supervised home visits, harmony sessions for seniors etc.

2019 became a bit of a challenge for us as our one and only bank closed in September which meant we had to drive into Vanderhoof to do our banking. This was minor in the scheme of things as we had mill curtailments and other small business closures. However, as with all small communities we are very adaptive and still offered services that our patrons and citizens required.

**Priority One: Building Capacity (aligning with the improving Access and Developing Skills Strategies identified in the 2019 Provincial Federation Grant Award letter)**

Access to resources and information has always been one of our goals & priorities.

**Wi-Fi** is available for free to all of our patrons and citizens

- Those who have their own devices regularly bring them into the Library to use our wireless Wi-Fi and while here they often borrow materials as well.
- The children & youth come in everyday as some do not have any devices at all or if they do they have limited time to being on-line and dial up is slow and frustrating.
- During the year and especially during the winter as everyone spends a lot of time indoors our most popular collection is DVD's. On Pro-D Days we showed a couple of movies for those who cannot afford to pay to attend Village activities.

## **Priority Two: Sharing Resources (aligning with the improving Access and Developing Skills Strategies identified in the 2019 Provincial Federation Grant Award letter)**

We strive to give our citizens the opportunity for lifelong learning through our various partnerships.

**GALE Courses** – These on-line courses continue to be popular with our patrons as the available courses are both fun and educational.

**NCLF** - Through our North Central Library Federation and literacy funds from the Province we have been able to offer our community a number of programmes that we would not otherwise be able to afford.

Shared funding from NCLF enabled us to work with the Village of Fraser Lake Recreation Department offering a brilliant magician who was well received by all ages. Other programming included: readings and workshops, collection sharing, bulk purchasing and educational seminars. Through these collaborations we can offer our patrons a variety of programmes which are well attended and leave them wanting more. We can also enroll our trustees into TOP's (Trustee Orientation Programmes)

**STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math.** This year the HR Macmillan Science Centre offered a free workshop focused on problem solving, design challenges and exploration by introducing the kids to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. The Children designed lunar landing modules and some successfully landed their module by not breaking their egg inside.

**FLESS** - Through collaboration with the Fraser Lake Elementary Secondary School (FLESS Grades 4-12) the Library continues to be an important part of the community by judging spring Science Fair experiments as well as listening to the Grade 12 Graduation Transition plans. Our participation in these programmes allows us to get to know our local students as well as promote the Library through our presence and input.

**RCL Branch #274** - The Library participates in the annual Royal Canadian Legion Poster Contest which again gives us a community presence. We also promote Remembrance Day and knowledge by ordering materials from The Ministry of Veteran Affairs.

**Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative** – This environmental programme educates local citizens and children as to how important conservation has become to ensure this species survives. The programme was presented by Initiative staff in Vanderhoof.



**Mouse Mountain School** – Literacy and use of the Library is another important aspect of our Strategic Plan so the Fraser Lake Public Library collaborated with Mouse Mountain Elementary School (K-3) to participate in a number of programmes. These included: Ready, Set, Learn, Welcome to Kindergarten, Drop Everything and Read, Family Literacy Day and Librarian visits.

- From these programs we always have a number of children and their parents sign up for library cards.

**Success X Six & Make Children First** - Although these programme were no longer available as of 2019 we had received funds at the end of 2018 to enable us to purchase a wide variety of basic musical instruments and offer music programmes. Children aged 2-6 were introduced to singing and the basic fundamentals of playing musical instruments. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and this has led to some parents enrolling their children in music lessons with various locals.

**Northern Health** – We continue to distribute our Books for Babies packages through the health nurse dropping off a package with new Mom's. Our packages promote the Library by including a list of Library resources available to help them throughout all stages of raising children.

**Home schooling** - We have a number of home schooled families meet at least once a week at the Library. We often Inter-library Loan or Inter-Library Connect materials they require for their curriculum.

**Game Nights** – Once a week 10-12 young adults as well as 4-8 youth continue to meet to play role playing games.

**Storytimes and Lego** were presented at the Library on Thursdays and Friday's by an Infant Development Consultant from the Nechako Valley Community Services. They are very popular as they are drop in and parents can bring their children when it suits them.

**Movie Night** – A movie night occurred at Silver Birch Lodge (our senior's residence) on Friday's. Our seniors find it difficult to get out and about at night especially in the winter so the Chief Librarian has shown classic movies to interested residents. It is not only a great way to be involved but more importantly it gives their residents a feeling of community. One resident said they had not laughed that much in a long time.

### **Priority Three: Strengthening Relationships (aligning with the improving Access and Developing Skills Strategies identified in the 2019 Provincial Federation Grant Award letter)**

**BC Jobs Plan** - We have had a lot of displaced workers in 2019 so we offered the opportunity for them to do resumes and on-line learning for free to help them build their skill sets or look for jobs on-line. Fortunately, with the LNG pipeline being built through our area we have had local people hired and their camp personnel are able to use the library for their business or recreation needs.

**Village of Fraser Lake** - The Fraser Lake Public Library continues to collaborate with the Village of Fraser Lake Parks and Recreation department to offer joint “Read and Recreation” programmes.

- As we did not receive a grant for a summer student we partnered with the with the Village of Fraser Lake recreation department to offer some Steam Programmes. We had Science Thursday’s which were well attended.

**Library Governance and Staff Development** is very important to us as what we do has a huge impact on Fraser Lake and our surrounding area. We had four trustees participate in the TOP’s training BCLTA offered at the Beyond Hope Conference held in Prince George as well as training for staff. Our presence in the community offers a place of safety and security. We are non-biased, democratic and free to all who want to use us. We do not judge as we offer social justice and equality. We offer a place for anyone to fulfill their needs whether they are looking for entertainment and fun or for educational purposes. Being able to offer board and staff training is key to having great Library services.

**Impact** - We are filling a need and demonstrating an impact on those who avail themselves of our library services because not only are they returning they also tell others. We often hear citizens as well as visitors state “I was told the Library could help me”

All of our partnerships and programmes help us to continue to work towards our goals of reaching out to the Community and enhancing services and strengthening partnerships

To recap the Fraser Lake Public Library collaborates with a lot of different groups within the community to ensure we promote our Library profile and that the literacy of Fraser Lake and our area continues to grow.

As we are a small library with few staff we are very proud of what is available to our citizens and visitors and really appreciate our literacy grants from the Province of British Columbia as the funding from the Province helps us to continue to offer great services to our small community and our surrounding area. Thank you for your continued support.

Cheerfully Submitted by the Fraser Lake Public Library Association.