

## 2021 PROVINCIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY GRANT REPORT (PLGR)

### LIBRARY NAME

Houston 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).**

Houston, a small town, is located within Area G of the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako. The Houston Public Library was opened in the 1920s and was maintained by volunteers until it was incorporated as the Houston Public Library Association under the Library Act on January 28, 1965. At that point the Association began receiving provincial and municipal funding. Over the years HPL has continued to grow into an invaluable part of the community. With the Coastal Gaslink Pipeline installation happening in our area, we are seeing many new faces in the community. Covid restrictions have been hard on HPL and the community in the past year. Particularly the capacity limits. Looking forward, we hope to quickly return to our pre-pandemic level of service as restrictions are eased.

### 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
Take home craft kits for those unable to attend a program due to capacity limits or vaccination status
<b>Provide a brief description of the activities involved in this project/program.</b>
In 2021 we continuously held weekly programs. Unfortunately, people often had to be turned away due to Covid 19 capacity limits or their vaccination status. We decided to create take home craft kits whenever possible for those who were either unable to attend or chose not to due to Covid.

<b>How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals and/or community?</b>	
<p>This project supports our library's strategic goal number 3: Increasing community engagement. We let the community know that despite capacity limits and vaccination status, the library was willing to provide them with alternative ways to access programs and events.</p>	
<b>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.</b>	
<b>1. Improving Access</b> for British Columbians (e.g., connectivity, digital collections, shared services)	<p>We found a way for community members to be involved despite Covid restrictions. Otherwise many people would have been turned away and not included in the programs at all.</p>
<b>2. Building Capacity</b> for library staff and directors (e.g., training and professional development)	
<b>3. Advancing Citizen Engagement</b> (e.g., helping people access government services/resources, fostering community knowledge-sharing, and supporting reconciliation)	
<b>4. Enhancing Governance</b> of the library system (e.g., board/trustee training, developing best practices, strategic planning)	

**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 outcome:

Craft kits are available for those unable to attend programming.

Medium outcomes:

Patrons who are unable to attend programs and events due to capacity limits or vaccination status are offered an alternate way to participate.

Patrons are not required to complete the craft in a set amount of time as they would be if they attended the program.

Long-term outcome:

Aligns with the provincial strategic plan for improving access for British Columbians.

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

This project did not involve any partnerships.

**Project/Program Name**

Help with vaccine passports

**Provide a brief description of the activities involved in this project/program.**

When the provincial vaccine passport was announced, we decided to print and laminate patron passports for free. Usually there would be a \$0.25 charge for the printing and \$1.00 for laminating. We also helped anyone who needed help accessing the vaccine passport on their cell phones.

**How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals and/or community?**

This project supported the community by not charging for a service that many community members needed. We have a lot of seniors who do not use cell phones and are not at all familiar with technology. We helped multiple patrons generate, print, and laminate wallet sized copies of their vaccine passports so they could access other community services and businesses.

**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.**

<p>5. <b>Improving Access</b> for British Columbians (e.g., connectivity, digital collections, shared services)</p>	<p>This improved access for patrons. By receiving their vaccine passport they were able to access library programs and events as well as other services and businesses in the community.</p>
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6. <b>Building Capacity</b> for library staff and directors (e.g., training and professional development)	
7. <b>Advancing Citizen Engagement</b> (e.g., helping people access government services/resources, fostering community knowledge-sharing, and supporting reconciliation)	This project helped patrons access government resources and documents.
8. <b>Enhancing Governance</b> of the library system (e.g., board/trustee training, developing best practices, strategic planning)	
<b>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.</b>	

Short outcome:

Patrons will access their provincial vaccine passport:

Medium outcome:

Patrons receive either a physical or digital copy of their vaccine passport.

Patrons are able to attend library programs, enter gyms, or eat in restaurants.

Long-term outcomes:

Aligns with the provincial strategic goal advancing citizen engagement.

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

This project did not have any partnerships.

[Copy and insert additional tables below for each additional project/program as needed]

<b>Project/Program Name</b>	
New furnaces with air conditioning	
<b>Provide a brief description of the activities involved in this project/program.</b>	
<p>During the provincial heat wave in 2021, Houston was one of the only towns in our region who did not have somewhere people could escape from the heat without purchasing something. We have many people in our community who rely on walking to get around town. We had someone almost pass out from being overheated while walking to a medical appointment. With our annual funding from the District of Houston, the Board opted to purchase 2 new furnaces with air conditioning. During any future heat waves, the library will be a place anyone can come to cool down. Staff will also benefit as the library generally gets very hot in the summer.</p>	
<b>How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals and/or community?</b>	
<p>This program supports our strategic plan goal number 3: Be intentional in maintaining library environment.</p> <p>This project will improve the library environment during hot summers and help community members cool down. Particularly those who rely on walking.</p>	
<b>How does this project/program support the <u>B.C.'s strategic goal(s) for public library service</u>? Please provide information for as many goals as applicable.</b>	
9. <b>Improving Access</b> for British Columbians (e.g., connectivity, digital collections, shared services)	An air conditioned building will provide community members with a cool, safe place to be during any future heat waves. In the event temperatures near what they did in 2021, the library will be opened 7 days a week during the day for the duration of the heatwave.
10. <b>Building Capacity</b> for library staff and directors (e.g., training and professional development)	

<b>11. Advancing Citizen Engagement</b> (e.g., helping people access government services/resources, fostering community knowledge-sharing, and supporting reconciliation)	
<b>12. Enhancing Governance</b> of the library system (e.g., board/trustee training, developing best practices, strategic planning)	
<b>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.</b>	



**Short outcomes:**

The library will be air conditioned when necessary.

**Medium outcomes:**

The community will have a cool, safe place to be in the event of a heat wave.

The library will open 7 days a week during the day in the event of a heat wave.

**Long-term outcomes:**

This project aligns with the provincial strategic plan goal improving access for British Columbians

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

Funding for this project comes from the District of Houston

[Copy and insert additional tables below for each additional project/program as needed]

### 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)	The capacity limits hit the community hard. We were forced to limit the amount of time people could spend inside the library. This was particularly hard during the winter when some patrons would usually hang out for hours. One way we addressed this was to ask the patrons who usually stay for a long time to just step outside until others left. Then they were permitted to come back inside until we reached capacity again. Patrons were grateful we were willing to allow them to do this rather than restricting their time to 15 mins per day.
Emergency response (e.g., fires, floods, extreme weather)	
Financial pressure (e.g., rising costs, reduced revenues)	
Staffing (e.g., recruitment and retention, mental health and wellness)	

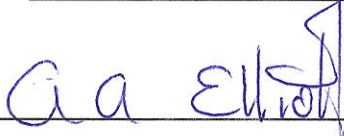
Disappearing services in the community (e.g., government, banking, health)	Mental health services are becoming harder to access in our community. The library addressed this by working with Mental Health and Addictions to purchase recommended material for our collection. These titles were purchased with our regular acquisitions budget.
Connectivity (e.g., low bandwidth, lack of home internet in the community)	The library continues to offer free Wi-Fi available 24 hours per day. The patron side of the network reaches into the parking lot with a hotspot and has download speeds of up to 100 MBPS.
Aging/damaged facilities (e.g., need for repairs, renovations, upgrades/expansions)	
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 16/22

Board Chair Signature: 

Date: Mar 17/22