



## Pouce Coupe Public Library

### Provincial Library Grant Report – 2020

#### *INTRODUCTION*

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The Pouce Coupe Public Library serves the northern community of Pouce Coupe as well as its surrounding area. It was first established by the Woman's Institute in 1933 and was then taken over by the Provincial Library Commission in 1951. The Village of Pouce Coupe is a member municipality of the Peace River Regional District, and currently the population is about 792 with 35% of that total being retired seniors.

Pouce Coupe at one point was involved in the construction of the Alaska Highway in 1942. As the US Army unloaded thousands of men and construction materials nearby to begin the construction our population swelled. Since then we have become a bedroom community of Dawson Creek also known for being the start of the Alaska Highway.

We are the hub of the community. Our visitors enjoy our library and its many available services from being able to search for their favorite book or new up coming titles, to being able to sit with a coffee and read one of our magazines or take advantage of one the computers. Our patrons also have access to our free WIFI and any of our multiple programs offered through out the year.

Pouce Coupe's main industries continue to be petroleum, oil & gas, agriculture, and tourism. Over the past few years our community has grown and expanded bringing new families and patrons to our library. Additionally, Pouce Coupe also has a museum, Elementary School hosting grades K-7, gas station and convenience store, corner restaurant, a hair salon, Fire hall, our Municipal office, and a Legion and Seniors hall.

Popular recreational activities in Pouce Coupe and our surrounding area include cross-country skiing, ice skating on our local outdoor rink, a skate park, baseball diamond, snowmobiling, fishing, hiking, and hunting.

## **Provincial Library Priority 1 – Improving Access for British Columbians**

### **Our Goal - Fuel our communities' passion for Reading, Person Growth, and Learning**

Libraries connect patrons to services, resources, and technology that are convenient, relevant, and accessible. To help us meet the goal of both the Province of British Columbia as well as our own, we took advantage of the Technology Grant offered by the Province and used it to replace three of our computers available for public use and one of our main printers.

Knowing where and how to get the resources you need is key for staff and our patrons. The Pouce Coupe Library provides access to computers, printing, copying, scanning, and fax services as well as free WIFI with outlets for charging devices and sitting areas for people with laptops. With a large collection of award-winning books, new releases, classics, large print books and magazines, there is plenty of material to choose from. In addition, the library has a collection of DVDs as well as a variety of online databases and e-books through Library2go.

## *Provincial Library Priority 2 – Building Capacity*

### **Our Goal - Enhance and Strengthen technology.**

Our library is a place that allows everyone in our community and surrounding area to feel safe, and a place to find opportunity and the tools to succeed. Now, more than ever, we are a vital service to our community.

We use Facebook, our website and community news letter to help make sure the public is aware of services and programs we offer at the library throughout the year.

Service such as InterLibrary Loans, have increased dramatically this year for us in part because so many families are quarantined and many are home schooling their children. Other services are; BC One card program for some of our patrons who are still traveling for work, Doodle Bugs story time, and the Summer Reading Club which this year was also held virtually and despite the COVID restrictions our registrations for the SRC remained high. Our Comic Book Club, Dungeons and Dragons, Lego Club and Sip and Sew Sewing/Crocheting group also did well for the majority of the year. A new program that was started during the summer of this year was Art in Pouce and our Art to Go packages. This was a huge success thanks to the support from our local Art Gallery. Some of these programs have been altered during the year due to COVID restrictions, but we intend to continue these as soon as possible and we are taking this time to make changes, improve them and create new ones.

Pouce Coupe library is run by one full time staff member, one part-time staff member, our current board members and over 10 volunteers that help throughout the year. Training staff members, volunteers and maintaining updated procedures are an ongoing priority for our library but in 2020 this changed due to COVID-19. Instead, we connected with others through on-line meetings, Moodle and emails.

### **Provincial Library Priority 3 – Advanced Citizen Engagement**

#### **Our Goal – Cultivating collaborative partnerships and promote community engagement.**

Libraries are places of information, offering people free access to a wealth of information that they often can't find elsewhere, whether online, in print or in person. Whether they're looking for DVDs or the latest best-seller; health or business information found on internet databases not accessible at home, or going for story times and community programming, the library is a center of community for millions of people.

Our staff at the Pouce Coupe Library help our patrons with writing resumes or filling out government papers, CERB payments, COVID relief funds, Income tax returns, job search, and health & wellness information for all ages. As well we offer our patrons up to date information on local and world issues through magazines, newspapers and pamphlets.

## **Provincial Library Priority 4 – Enhancing Governance**

### **Our Goal – Identify resources and Programs to meet community needs.**

The Library Governance documents extends these principles of transparency and inclusiveness to the library by creating an organized structure through which stakeholder groups may become informed about issues and planning, and influence the decision-making process.

Our library has a solid governance framework in place that includes by-laws, policies and an achievable plan that is based on why we exist and what we offer to our patrons. We continually assess what we have accomplished and report progress regularly to our Municipal Council and in our monthly board minutes. We have a strong board and dedicated employees that work well together.

In 2020 with the COVID out-break it has been more evident then ever that a strong balance of partnership is needed. Working with our board and staying on top of all the COVID requirements and restrictions has been a challenge, but we have continued to research and maintain new ways at keeping our patrons and staff up to date.

## *SUMMARY*

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We are constantly learning, and changing. Staying up to date through reports and surveys helps us to keep aware of our community needs and requests, and we are always looking forward to continuing to provide an inviting and functional space for community engagement.

We are the HUB and a learning place for our community, and are always looking for more partnerships within and outside of our community. One of our main challenges is finding volunteers to sit on the Library Board. Unfortunately, the Library Act works against us as a Municipal Library stating that volunteers wanting to be a member of our library board must live in the municipal boundaries. We have several volunteers though that donate their time and passion for the library and we work around this obstacle.



## **Technology Grant Summary 2020/2021 – Pouce Coupe Public Library**

The Pouce Coupe Library's initial plan for the Technology Grant was split into two areas of need. The first amount was put towards the replacement of 3 of our patron computers which were either outdated or didn't work at all. This upgrade benefited the library by helping our patrons to stay connected, informed and up-to-date on the latest news and information in the world as well as following one of the *Provincial Strategic Goals - Improving Access for British Columbia*. Libraries provide a lifeline to their patrons who need the computers for vital tasks such as submitting governmental forms, seeking and applying for jobs, or other activities that require access to an internet-connected computer. This initial project was completed February 15, 2021.

Secondly, we intend on replacing our Early Literacy Station. We chose to put funds towards this project because it follows another of the *Provinces Strategic Goals - Building Capacity* and is also linked to our goal as a Library and focuses on Literacy and Learning. As well it is helping our library enhance our position in the community, through school readiness and literacy skill-building for our young learners. The time line for completion of this goal is March 31, 2021.

	Resources and area of need.	Outputs	Immediate Outcomes	Ultimate Outcomes	
<b>Goal 1</b>	<i>New patron computers.</i>	<i>-replacing 3 of our computers that are for public use.</i>	<p><i>- Increase patron use and attendance in the library.</i></p> <p><i>-not all of our families in our community have internet services or a home computer which hinder their ability job search, writing resumes, filing out EI, CERB, pension and other government papers as well as students use them for school research papers and projects.</i></p>	<p><i>Increase patron use and overall traffic in the library.</i></p> <p><i>We are able to help our community and give patrons the opportunity to grow and stay connected with others.</i></p>	
<b>Goal 2</b>	<i>Replacement of our Early Literacy Station.</i>	<i>The Early Literacy Station provides an easy to use, interactive, fun, and educational resources for our young patrons.</i>	<i>School readiness and literacy skill-building for our young learners.</i>	<i>Increase patron use and overall traffic in the library. Raising awareness of our programs and services offered at the library.</i>	







## **Technology Grant 2020 – Pouce Coupe Public Library**

### **Project overview**

We intend on using our grant money to help improve the service and technology that we already have able to our patrons in our library. The money used will focus on both educational and recreational purposes. When analyzing the best use for this grant we looked at several options one being our internet provider the speed of our internet. We are fortunate to be in the same facility as our elementary school, so the internet and connectivity is strong, thus coming to a final decision of replacing/up-date some of our computers available to the public.

This project will address the needs of our community by providing the tools required to better their education, create resumes, apply for CPP & old age pensions as well as job search. As a smaller somewhat isolated community, not all of our patrons have access to computers and internet services. They also do not have the means to travel to a larger center. This will help them to achieve their goals and better themselves as well as their families.

Additionally, we plan to focus on the services the are directed towards our younger patrons. In the past we have had an Early Learning Station but as with all technology it has exceeded its life span. The Early Literacy Station™ (ELS) is designed specifically for our youngest patrons ages 2-8 and features over 4,000 localized learning activities. The fun, interactive and engaging content spans all seven curricular areas: math, science & nature, social studies & geography, reading, art & music, writing & computer skills, and reference. Studies have shown that the integration of blended learning into early childhood education can increase literacy, improve school readiness, and prepare young learners for curriculum that is based on STEM (science, technology, engineering, math).

<https://awelearning.com/early-literacy-station/>

## Library Technology Grant – Pouce Coupe Library

Total Technology Grant Amount = \$6720.00

Area of need	Outcome	Metrics	Strategic Links	Actions	Collaborative Links	Time Frame	Projected budget	Comments
<i>New patron computers and a computer for our checkout desk.</i>	<i>-replacing several of our patron computers that the public uses for writing resumes, filing out EI, CERB, pension and other government papers as well as students use them for school research papers and projects. -replacing our computer at the check-out desk.</i>	<i>Increase patron use by 20% - not all families in our community have internet service or computers. Being able to offer this is beneficial to all ages.</i>	<i>Supports the provincial strategic priorities of Technology</i>	<i>Purchasing PC for patron's area and a new PC for our check-out desk.</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>October 23, 2020 to January 1, 2021</i>	<i>\$3750.00</i>	
<i>New Early Literacy Station</i>	<i>It is proven that early literacy skills are key to young children succeeding in school and with this computer it will help them learn through their entire elementary years and beyond.</i>	<i>Increase patron use by 15% - It is designed for our younger patrons. Families of all ages come in to our library and having the option to offer this to our parents reassures it is a good use of technology and screen time.</i>	<i>Supports provinces strategic priorities for Technology and Learning</i>	<i>Purchase a new ELS.</i>	<i>We have also been fundraising to help off-set the cost for this project.</i>	<i>November 1, 2020</i>	<i>\$2000.00</i>	