2021 PROVINCIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY GRANT REPORT (PLGR)
BEAVER VALLEY 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 text boxes will expand as you type, so if needed, you can provide more detail. Click on a linked title in the list below to jump to that section of the document.

1. INTRODUCTION - LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY PROFILE

Provide a brief description of the community and library, focusing on what has changed in the past year (250-500 words).

About the Beaver Valley and the Beaver Valley Public Library:

The Beaver Valley Public Library serves the communities of Fruitvale, Montrose and Regional District of Kootenay Boundary Area A; library service population was 4595 (according to the Stats Canada and BC Statistics website) in 2021. The challenges faced by the Beaver Valley Public Library and our communities are as stated before, is the loss of many services from our communities to the city of Trail; in addition, slow Internet speeds, and the lack of a local newspaper also makes communication of services, programming and what resources are available for residents of our communities.

The Beaver Valley Public Library is a hub of free literacy-based programming/services for the people of our communities and this has come more to the forefront especially in light of many of the local services centralizing to the nearby city of Trail. Whether it is literacy-based programming for babies, children, young adults or help for seniors, job seekers or those in need of computer help for government forms, etc. we strive to meet the needs of our community members. In the past two (2) years provision of service has definitely changed, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the fact that our library building is very small with our programming area being even smaller; add to this that we have no outside space except our parking lot. Providing programming that includes safe distancing has become impossible in such a small area, so in an effort to meet the literacy- based needs of our communities our activities have gone virtual or to-go; we're adding to our e and audio offerings via OverDrive Advantage, provide to-go craft bags for children ages birth-12yrs and also provide to-go craft bags for senior residents of our area. Aside from in-person programming, we continue to provide many of the same services to our communities within the library and have expanded our open hours to more than prior to the pandemic.

2. MAJOR PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

Please any new or major ongoing projects/programs the library has delivered in the past year. To report on multiple projects/programs, copy and paste the blank table. Use one table per project/program.

Project/Program Name
Senior's Craft to-go

Provide a brief description of the activities involved in this project/program (250-500 words).
Since March 2020 and the advent of COVID 19 related closures in our service area we began providing craft bags for children, Seniors and also Summer Reading Club themed craft bags. One day in our conversations around the impact of the pandemic on children and youth, we also began talking about the impact of pandemic related isolation/fear/boredom on Seniors. It was during this conversation that we came up with the idea of including the Seniors (both in their own homes and also those in senior's facilities in our communities). We reached out to a local non-profit senior's support and advocacy group, Columbia Seniors Wellness society for their input and feedback on our program ideas; they agreed to partner with us to present this program to seniors in our library service areas. Every other week (once a month during the summer months), we provide a bag that includes supplies to make a selected craft, instructions, a beverage (tea, coffee, hot chocolate mix) ,a snack, various resource sheets for local seniors, crossword puzzle, sudoku, word search and a coloring sheet. The CSWS provides phone calls to the seniors and also delivers the bags to seniors still living in their own homes, while our staff person delivers to the senior's homes.

How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals and/or community (250-500 words)?
This program supports the following strategic goals of the Beaver Valley Public Library: **-To enhance services to seniors**: To Develop and implement programming for seniors in the library, in the community and in the local senior's facilities. Traditionally in our library service area, seniors have been our most under-served population with the logistics of a) getting them to the library b) finding a reliable volunteer to facilitate service to seniors, as our staff is mostly part-time. Prior to the pandemic we participated with COSCO Seniors Wellness to host information sessions for seniors and found that the same few people always attended because it was difficult for those in home who no longer drove could not get here. Providing the bags the seniors where they live is a wonderful way to connect them with the library.

How does this project/program support the B.C.'s strategic goal(s) for public library service? Please list as many goals as needed (250-500 words per goal)?	
1. **Improving Access** for British Columbians (e.g., connectivity, digital collections, shared services)	

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)	This program supports this strategic goal by: -Increasing opportunities for people to access information and resources they need to thrive and engaged individuals, workers and lifelong learners. -Fosters connection between senior residents, the library, and delivery drivers during a time when it is difficult for them to see anyone or go anywhere -Gives even those seniors who are unable to leave their place of residence a chance to see what resources are available to them locally. -Allowing delivery people to do a brief wellness check on the individual seniors. This has allowed people who were struggling to be connected with other community resources such as other seniors, CSWS and/or the community paramedic, in some cases.
4. **Enhancing Governance** 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 information on short, medium, and long-term outcomes (500-1000 words).

The key outcomes of these programs:
-The library connects with seniors in our communities
-We are able to connect with seniors who have no contact with others due to COVID-19
-Our delivery drivers are able to conduct wellness check on seniors living alone
-We are able to work with both senior's facilities and local senior's societies
-This program has allowed the library to form community partnerships with a wide variety of service providers in our communities.
-We have received such a lot of wonderful positive feedback from both seniors and the facilities where they live, including pictures of their completed crafts and the loveliest thank you cards
-The most important outcome, in my mind, is the connections and friendships that are formed via this program. In addition, the wellness check portion is invaluable and has allowed our volunteer drivers to connect seniors in-need with resources in our communities.

Over 2021 we delivered 1097 bags to seniors in our communities.

Did the project/program involve any partnerships? If so, what was the partner's role (e.g., funding, outreach, service delivery? (Maximum 100 words.)

Partnerships:
Villages of Fruitvale, Montrose, and Regional District of Kootenay Boundary Area A
-Provide advertising for our programs in a community that does not have a newspaper
Friends of the Beaver Valley Public Library
-The Friends provide funding for purchase of supplies for craft bags
Columbia Seniors Wellness Society
-Provide phone tree to contact seniors and also delivery drivers for those seniors still living in their own homes
Mountainside Village
-Provide staff to over see craft session which are done in their programming room; this means that the seniors are also able to get together to craft instead of continuing to be isolated in their own apartments
Beaver Valley Manor
-Provides a delivery person for the people living in the BV Manor, which is an independent living facility for persons living with lower income.

2. MAJOR PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

Please any new or major ongoing projects/programs the library has delivered in the past year. To report on multiple projects/programs, copy and paste the blank table. Use one table per project/program.

Project/Program Name
Craft to-go bags for Children and Youth

Provide a brief description of the activities involved in this project/program (250-500 words).
Due to limited indoor space, no outdoor activity space and the pandemic we were required to stop hosting in-person programming. We spent a lot of time dialoging about how we could continue to meet the needs of the children in our communities, beginning when the schools remained closed due to COVID-19. We decided we would provide craft bags for children ages birth-3 years once a month and for children ages 5-12 years every other week. In addition, we added weekly Summer Reading Club themed bags for children ages 5-12 years during the online Summer Reading Club program. The Mother Moose (ages birth-3yrs) monthly bags contain a simple craft, snack and a sheet that highlights a Mother Goose rhyme and/or song. The children's bags (ages 5-12yrs) weekly bags contain all the supplies for a craft, instruction and also puzzles and a colouring sheet.

How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals and/or community (250-500 words)?
This program supports the following strategic goal of the Beaver Valley Public Library: **-To enhance services to children and youth:** -Develop and implement library centered, literacy-based programs with and for families, local schools and community youth service providers.

How does this project/program support the B.C.'s strategic goal(s) for public library service? Please list as many goals as needed (250-500 words per goal)?

5.	**Improving Access** for British Columbians (e.g., connectivity, digital collections, shared services)	
6.	**Building Capacity** for library staff and directors (e.g., training and professional development)	
7.	**Advancing Citizen Engagement** (e.g., helping people access government services/resources, fostering community knowledge-sharing, and supporting reconciliation)	This program supports this strategic goal by: -As these bags are pick-up at the library we are seeing many people come in who don't routinely use the library. -Families/daycares come in to pick-up bags and also pick out a selection of books/movies -allowing homeschool families (which have increased in numbers since the COVID-19 pandemic) to enrich their learning experience with both crafts/games and library materials that compliment their learning units. -allowing homeschool families to connect with each other also by seeing who else is homeschooling and what they learning.
8.	**Enhancing Governance** 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 information on short, medium, and long-term outcomes (500-1000 words).

The key outcomes of this program are:
-The library has been able to stay connected with families with children in the different age groups
-During this pandemic many families have been doing school at home and these craft offerings and help with materials selections have enriched their learning experience
-Many families have given us thank you cards and/or have sent pictures of their completed crafts
-Over the years prior to the pandemic we found attendance at children's programming had really waned and with these to-go craft bags the numbers of children/families participating has grown

In addition to the above, this program has lead us to discussions about what may work best moving forward, particularly in the 5-12 year age group, i.e. is it worth it to provide in-person programming to this age group when people are so busy with work and extra curricular activities that they don't attend because of the time commitment or should we continue to meet community needs by bringing families into the library to pick-up to-go crafts, with the added bonus of more library materials being borrowed. We will definitely begin in-person programming for the birth-3yr age group, as there seems to be real interest in our communities and these programs were always well attended.

All of the situations/circumstances brought about by the pandemic have given us pause to stop and look at which programs are working for us and which are not, with the added bonus being able to revamp/discontinue those that are no longer working for us or our communities.

- Over 2021 we distributed 150 to-go bags to children ages birth-3yrs, 210 bags to children ages 5-12yrs and 168 weekly SRC themed bags to children ages 5-12.

Pre-pandemic program attendance in the 5-12 age group had dropped to zero and with this program we provide for 20 children/families.

Did the project/program involve any partnerships? If so, what was the partner's role (e.g., funding, outreach, service delivery? (Maximum 100 words.)
-Villages of Fruitvale, Montrose and Regional District of Kootenay Boundary Area A -Provides advertising for these programs **-Friends of the Beaver Valley Public Library** The Friends of the BV Library fund all supplies required for the craft to-go bags **-Local day care centres and in-home daycares** -Allow us to provide craft bags even to children whose parents aren't able to come in and pick them up; day care providers pick up craft bags

2. MAJOR PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

Please any new or major ongoing projects/programs the library has delivered in the past year. To report on multiple projects/programs, copy and paste the blank table. Use one table per project/program.

Project/Program Name
Hosting Canadian Children's Book Author/Illustrator at Fruitvale Elementary School

Provide a brief description of the activities involved in this project/program (250-500 words).
In February 2021 I received an email from our Kootenay Library Federation director, Melanie asking if we'd like to nominate our local elementary school, FES to host a virtual author reading. The author reading was a part of Canadian Children's Book Week at the beginning of May. I nominated FES and connected with the teacher/librarian there, Val. She was very excited to work together to bring a new event to the elementary classes, especially since during the pandemic no one had been allowed into the school. Fruitvale Elementary was selected as one of the schools and we set about having Val apply with the billing to be paid by Beaver Valley Public Library. The author chosen was Lori Doody, from Newfoundland and Labrador with a suggested age group being grades 2 & 3. Val, the teachers and the students were very excited to participate and get to know an author from so far away. Val is very technologically savvy; she connected with the teachers and set-up computers with video programs so that the two (2) classes could participate at the same time. The program was hosted in two (2) sessions and included a reading portion and a portion for the children to ask the author questions. The library staff was provided with the video link so we could sit in on the reading as well. This event was very well received by students and teachers alike; we are in fact working with the school again to bring illustrator Emma Fitzgerald to the students for the 2022 Canadian Children's Book Week. Developing and maintaining community relationships is very important and worthwhile, especially in smaller communities.
How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals and/or community (250-500 words)?

This project/event supports the following strategic goal of the Beaver Valley Public Library:
-To enhance services to children and youth:
-Develop and implement library centered, literacy-based programs with and for families, local schools and community youth service providers.

To be able to help provide program enrichment for students at our local elementary school is a really important way to reach out into our communities. We provide the funding for the author/illustrator, with support from the Kootenay Library Federation and the school provides the staff, students and is the main organizer of the event.

It is also a great opportunity to meet and work with the new teacher/librarian since Val has retired, showing him how connections with the library can enhance all the school can offer students and it is such a great way to introduce the children to the fact that there is a public library in their community. In addition, it has established good communications between the public library and the school teacher/librarian with opportunities to share the free literacy-based resources the library has to offer to elementary age children in our communities.

How does this project/program support the B.C.'s strategic goal(s) for public library service? Please list as many goals as needed (250-500 words per goal)?	
9. **Improving Access** for British Columbians (e.g., connectivity, digital collections, shared services)	This program/event supports this strategic goal by: -Community/school/library connections Having connections with the greater community and school allows us to share with the school staff what e-resources (and physical resources) we have that could be used by students, i.e. Tumble Books is available for free on our website, without the requirement for the student to have a library card AND many children can read the same title simultaneously which works well in a classroom setting. Our local school received Chromebooks via a donation and so most, if not all students can be using the online resources at the same time. -Technology practise and usage by the school staff allow two (2) classes of children to attend the author/illustrator talk at the same time AND allows library staff to attend remotely as well.
10. **Building Capacity** for library staff and directors (e.g., training and professional development)	
11. **Advancing Citizen Engagement** (e.g., helping people access government services/resources, fostering community knowledge-sharing, and supporting reconciliation)	This program/event support this strategic goal by: -Providing students at the local elementary school with first hand contact with authors and illustrators. This is something that does not always happen for students in our area and it is a great way to help students make these connections in the real world. -Encouraging students to grow and explore writing and drawing directly from "real" authors and illustrators Expanding students' horizons and goals for the future, even potentially to encourage them and help them see

	that this is a possible career path for them to undertake.
12. **Enhancing Governance** 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 information on short, medium, and long-term outcomes (500-1000 words).

The key outcomes of this project/event are:

-A closer working relationship with the elementary school and the teacher/librarian.
In our communities a close relationship between the public library and the school has now always been allowed; we had one principal for a five (5) or six (6) year period, who would not allow anyone in to the school and would not work on joint programs to benefit the students. Thankfully the principals changed school and we now have had a couple of really great community minded principals that allow the teacher/librarian to work in partnership with other community resources (BV Public Library, in this case)

-This is another way that we can provide programming to a wider number of children than we could if we hosted the program at the library or remotely at the library. In our smaller communities, many programs (such as sports, etc) are hosted in larger centres and children are often out of the communities and not available to attend the library for programs, so this is a way we can not only work with the school but with a wider number of students.

-In smaller communities, where many resources have relocated to larger centres, it is especially important for those remaining to work cooperatively to provide the best quality programming for our communities.

This program/event allowed approximately 70 students plus teachers and teaching assistants to experience the author event.

Did the project/program involve any partnerships? If so, what was the partner's role (e.g., funding, outreach, service delivery? (Maximum 100 words.)

Kootenay Library Federation
-The KLF is the initial connection point with the organizers of the Canadian Children's Book Week and is the initial contact with member libraries for interest and nominations of local schools. The KLF director not only connects with member libraries but, also with the elementary school libraries/librarians to facilitate proper applications being submitted by the school and ensures the connection of public library to the FES teacher/librarian. The virtual tour is organized and kept on track by the KLF Director, to ensure that all parties are ready and the author/illustrators time is put to best use.
Fruitvale Elementary School
-As laid out above, while the Beaver Valley Public Library provides the presenter and pays for reading fees, the elementary school provides the technology and the students. This is a real advantage as we would not have the number of attendees if we hosted at the library.

> **Canadian Children's Book Week organizers**
> We are so grateful that the CCBW organizers do all this work to make these opportunities available to students and teachers in our little communities, that might not otherwise have this chance.

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 and provide a description of how the library addressed them. Leave any other listed topics blank if they did not significantly impact the library.

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.
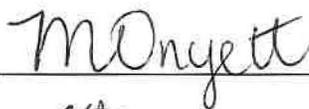
Challenge	Briefly describe how this challenge has impacted the library/community, and what steps the library took to address it in 2021. Including examples or stories (optional) may also illustrate how service changes helped addressed this challenge. Please specify if any provincial funding was used (e.g., annual library funding, the technology grant, other provincial grants, or local grants). (Maximum 500 words per topic.)
COVID-19 (e.g., safety protocols, proof of vaccination)	Let me begin by stating categorically, that the points I share below are not complaints but a real look at how the pandemic has affected this library, staff and me, both at work and personally. We all consider it a privilege to be able to share the library space, materials and literacy-based programs/events with our communities.

Well to say that the COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenge is an understatement, with signage, floor signs, plexi-glass installs, changing cleaning protocols, physical barriers between chairs and public computer to all of the every-changing the public health orders (PHO)/plans. In a smaller public library all of this plus the regular day-to-day tasks fall to a Library Director.

Each time the PHO changed it took a while to create and change signage and keep an eye on people attending the library to ensure they were following the latest requirements. After nearly two (2) years of lots of changes members of the public became frustrated and started taking it out on the |

	staff by being rude and asking to attend the library without wearing masks, etc. The number of changes to the plans we were required to create/implement has been very onerous, from the "Safe Return to Work" plan, to the "COVID Safety" plan, back to the "Safe Return to Work" plan, back to the "COVID Safety" plan, then the "Communicable Disease" plan, and once again to the "COVID Safety" plan and now we are back to the "Communicable Disease" plan. Do not misunderstand me, I know that these are required and necessary, I am speaking to the added work load on top of all the regular tasks that are part of the job of the director of a smaller public library. With the different PHO different requirements of cleaning, etc became more time consuming for staff and the staffing requirement changed. For the first part of the pandemic in 2020 we were able to run on a skeleton crew with the building closed and during curbside service, but as we opened more hours staff schedules had to change to allow for enough staff presence to keep up with the PHO requirements. The last two (2) years have been very overwhelming and stressful for both me and the staff with all the changes and obviously the anxiety surrounding COVID, both work-wise and personally; we all have families, children and grandchildren we worry about. While we do feel very privileged to be able to provide such an important service to our communities, it has been a lot for all of us. A positive that has happened due to the pandemic is that it has allowed us time to look at the services we make available to our communities and see how we can improve them. One of the major outcomes is that we have changed our open hours; in fact, we now provide more open hours over the year than we have ever have previously and we have standardized our opening times, which makes it easier for library users to remember.
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)	

Connectivity (e.g., low bandwidth, lack of home internet in the community)	Connectivity continues to be an issue for our library users, as unfortunately because of supply chain issues due to the pandemic, the company that is to do our network upgrades (IT Blueprint) has not been able to begin the work; it is completely understandable and totally not the fault of the contractor. We look forward to our upgrades when they happen and are grateful for the grant that allows this to happen for us and our library users. Poor connectivity in our communities has also become glaringly obvious during the pandemic, with many more people staying home and making use of our online resources. These resources are not available to the portion of our library users that live rurally and are still on either dial-up or satellite Internet, since their Internet connections/speeds do not allow them to make use of many of the online offerings.
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: _MOnyett_   Date: _Mar 17/22_

Board Chair Signature: _Mark Schmutz_   Date: _March 17 2022_