



Pouce Coupe Public Library Provincial Library Grant Report - 2018

INTRODUCTION

Pouce Coupe is located 10km off the Alaska Highway, Although the locals have heard their community pronounced in a few, sometimes interesting ways, the original name is said to have come from the Chief of the Beaver Nation, "Pooscapee".

Our community was also involved in the construction of the Alaska Highway. In 1942 the population swelled, as the US Army unloaded thousands of men and construction materials nearby to begin the construction. And now with less than 800 residents, we still have a surprising amount to offer.

Over the past few years our community has grown and expanded bringing new families and patrons to our library. Pouce Coupe's main industries today continue to be petroleum, oil & gas, agriculture, and tourism. Popular recreational activities in the area include cross-country skiing, ice skating on our local outdoor rink which in the summer doubles as a skate park, snowmobiling, fishing, hiking and hunting. Looking at the list of activities really proves that we have a lot to offer.

Provincial Library Priority 1 – Improving Access

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

The success of a public library relies on a web of strong, collaborative relationships with individuals, community groups and agencies, and with the municipality.

One of the ways we do this is by working with our local municipality for our Christmas Light-up, the Canada Day Parade and working with our local fire department for our “Wine for Books” Annual fundraiser. Money from this event goes directly back into the library helping fund book purchases, programming supplies and events.

Part of our goal it to improve the ways that we are able to showcase our library. We have accomplished this through our Facebook page, community news letter, and our website.

Other programs that we offer throughout the year is our Doodle Bugs story time, the Summer Reading Club, Comic Book Club, Dungeons and Dragons, Lego Club and Sip and Sew sewing/crocheting group.

Pouce Coupe Library also provides access to computers, printing, copying, scanning, and fax services. We provide free wifi with outlets to charging devices and comfortable sitting areas for people with laptops or tablets. People can study, catch up on their emails and check their Facebook and Twitter accounts. Many of our patrons do not have internet access at home.

Provincial Library Priority 2 - DEVELOPING SKILLS and KNOWLEDGE

Our Goal - Enhance and Strengthen technology.

Successful public libraries thrive within a web of strong, collaborative relationships with individuals, community groups and agencies, and with the municipality.

The success of 2019 could only have been achieved with the ongoing and generous support from the Municipality of Pouce Coupe, North East Library Federation, the Province of B.C. and donations from local businesses in our community

Pouce Coupe library is run by one full time staff member, one part-time staff member, nine volunteers and our current board members. Training staff members, volunteers and maintaining updated procedures are an ongoing priority. In 2019 we were able to send one staff member and one board member to the BC Library Conference in Vancouver. We are a smaller rural library located in the northeastern corner of our province and it is important for us to keep in touch with events and other libraries of different sizes in other parts of the province and we value the face-to-face interaction and one-on-one discussions. As well we have regular check-ins with staff and volunteers, and monthly board meetings to keep everyone up to date on anything new or upcoming events. We continue to work towards finding new ways to keep our library current and relevant.

Provincial Library Priority 3 – Collaborating on Shared Goals

Our Goal – Cultivating collaborative partnerships and promote community engagement.

Collaborating on shared goals show that it is important for us to expand our partnerships, new and old and maintain a strong connection with others in and around our community.

Programs and services that support this priority for us are:

- Interlibrary Loans
- Home delivery/ library services/shut ins
- North East Library federation – cost sharing, programs and resources
- North Coast Library Federation – cost sharing, program and resources
- INTERLINK
- Pouce Coupe Elementary School
- Books for Babies
- NELLIS
- ILLUME
- Summer Reading Club
- Welcome to Kindergarten
- SITKA

One of our greatest challenges that we faced last year was sharing the library space with our Elementary School. In the fall of 2018 SD #59 realized that they would not have enough space for the up-coming school year. In working with the SD, and municipality we gave up half of the library space for a year and a half to accommodate a new classroom. This was a huge change for us, moving books, shelving units, furniture and other supplies in storage for over a year and a new wall had to be built for the classroom.

The end result for this; however, was very rewarding. Parents were very grateful that families and siblings, were not split up, and school staff was also very appreciative. At the end of 2019 a portable was put in place and we are working on getting our library back to normal.

Provincial Library Priority 4 – Enhanced Governance

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

Although the last provincial priority does not entirely fit with our final goal in our strategic plan for our library, I do feel that in order to have enhanced governance we need a strong form of technology in place in order to stay connected to others. As well 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. 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.

Knowing where and how to get the resources you need is also key. 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.

SUMMARY

We are the HUB and a learning place for our community; we are always looking for more partnerships within and outside of our community.

We are constantly learning and changing and staying up to date through reports and surveys keeps us aware of our community needs and requests.

We are looking forward to continuing to provide an inviting and functional space for community engagement and to work on maintaining a healthy vibrant part 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.