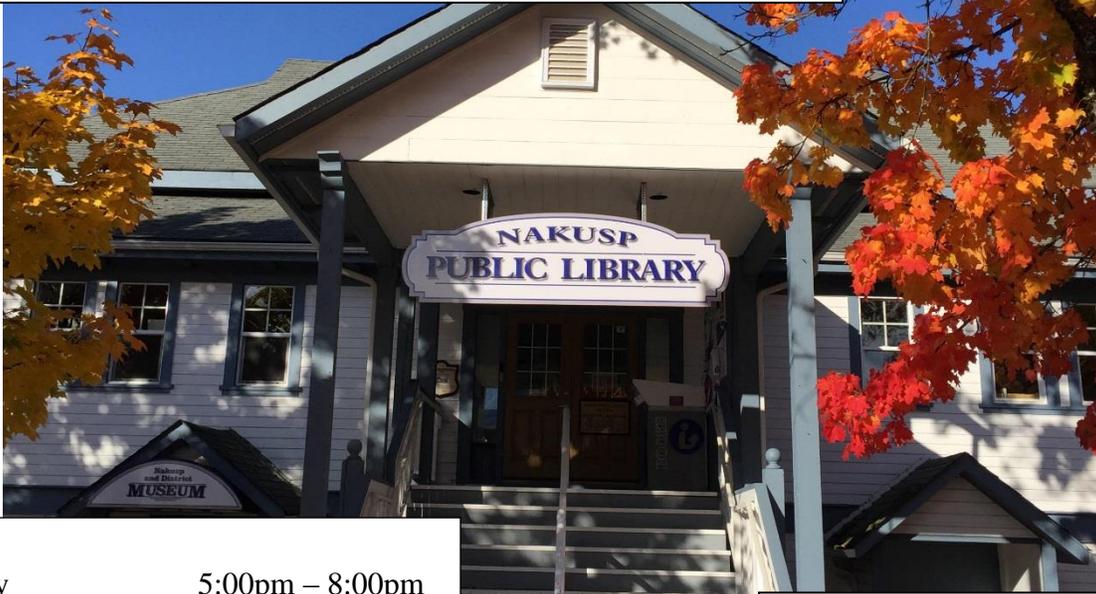




**Provincial Library Grant Report  
2019**



<b>Hours</b>	
Monday	5:00pm – 8:00pm
Tuesday	12:00pm – 5:00pm
Wednesday	12:00pm – 5:00pm
Thursday	12:00pm – 5:00pm
Friday	12:00pm – 5:00pm
Saturday	
Thanksgiving to Victoria Day	12:00pm – 5:00pm
Victoria Day to Thanksgiving	10:00am – 5:00pm
Sunday	Closed

92 – 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW  
 PO. Box 297  
 Nakusp, BC.  
 V0G 1R0  
 250-265-3363  
[www.nakusplibrary.ca](http://www.nakusplibrary.ca)  
[contact@nakusplibrary.ca](mailto:contact@nakusplibrary.ca)  
 Facebook: Nakusp Public Library  
 Instagram: @nakusplibrary

***Mission statement:***

*The mission of the Nakusp Public Library is to provide quality materials, resources, programs, and services, which help fulfill the educational, informational, cultural, and recreational needs of the community in an environment that is attractive, respectful, non-judgmental, and welcoming.*

***VALUES:*** *Community enhancement, literacy, accountability, inclusivity, accessibility.*

***VISION:*** *To become the heart of the community through social activity, distribution of information and creative inspiration.*

***GOALS:*** *The Nakusp Public Library has identified the following professional goals that will be our focus:*

*Goal A: Become a resource center of Nakusp and area*

*Goal B: Enhance strong community connections*

*Goal C: Ensure long-term sustainability*

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# *Education, Information, Recreation*

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## Introduction



The Nakusp Public Library holds a vital role in its community. As a well-loved establishment reaching a wide range of demographics, it operates with a mandate of inclusivity. The Library is centrally located in the “Centennial Building,” one of the oldest original buildings in the village core. Built in 1912, it was the village’s third school house. In 1957 it was sold to the Centennial Committee becoming the Centennial Building & Library in June 1958. Today the Centennial Building not only houses the Nakusp Public Library, but also the Arrow Lakes Historical Society Archives, and Nakusp and District Museum. The Centennial Building is not the first home of Nakusp’s Library. The Nakusp Public Library Association was registered with the BC Government in Victoria in 1920, officially opening January 1921. Between that time and 1958 the Library was

located in numerous building around the Village, including various churches, the Co-operative Hall, the General Store, and the courthouse.

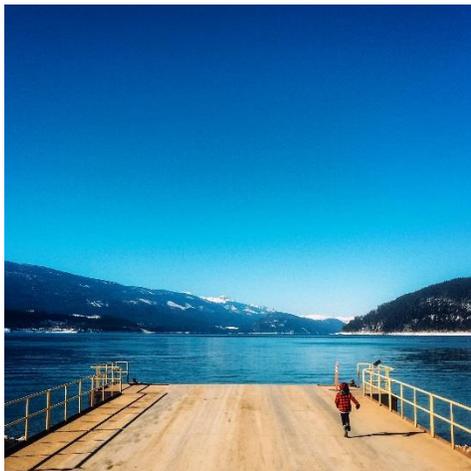
Today the Nakusp Public Library not only aims to fulfil the educational, informational, cultural, and recreational needs of the people of Nakusp, but also provides services to seasonal visitors and patrons in

many of the outlying areas which do not have their own Library, namely Burton, Edgewood, Fauquier, New Denver, Silverton, Galena and Trout Lake. Many of our patrons live rurally and often do not have computers or internet at home. In fact, much of the outlying regions are black areas for cell reception, and our computers are well used by locals in these situations.

Libraries fill the gaps in formal education systems, especially in places such as Nakusp that are remote without easy access to continuing education or which have a population not able to financially endure the large burden of formal education. The Nakusp Public Library's motto is "Education, Information, Recreation" and we are dedicated to giving our patrons a chance to educate and better themselves no matter their origins or interests. In 2019 we provided our patrons with the new offering of free online Gale Courses, as well as many programs dedicated to S.T.E.A.M., technology, and life-long learning.



The community of Nakusp and surrounding area is currently undergoing a period of change, with the focus moving away from traditional economies, such as lumber, to those of tourism and holistic health. It



is the natural beauty of the lake and 360-degree mountain views that really make Nakusp stand out and appeal to visitors and new residents. Many young families and new retirees are moving to the area, drawn by the quality of life provided in the Kootenays. The Nakusp Public Library is a microcosm of the community as a whole, as we see the direct impact of all these new people who, more often than not, sign up for a Library card shortly after relocating. In 2019 the Library added 186 new patrons, 124 in the summer months alone with many being newly moved families looking forward to starting the school year in our Village. This increase is certainly evident in our well attended programming for children and the very successful Summer Reading Club. These newcomers are all bringing with them new ideas and vibrancy and it is the Library's job to adapt along with them. Going forward the

Library has a strong commitment to meeting the ever-changing needs of our ever-changing community, through education, information, and recreation.

The Nakusp Public Library saw many gradual improvements in 2019. We started the year with new Monday night hours, a new more streamlined website domain name and email addresses. We also completed a mini facelift on the front entrance and used book area, which appears to have led to a significant increase in used book revenue! The Library purchased three new computers, a subscription to the full Adobe Creative Suite subscription, and added Microsoft Office and security software to all public terminals, thanks to a grant from the Columbia Basin Trust. The CBT grant further supports monthly programming on computer applications that will continue for the



next two years. The Centennial Building signage was updated and made cohesive thanks to the CBT Community Initiatives Grant, and we received a number of grants for collection development from BC Law Matters, Arrow Lakes Health Care Auxiliary, and generous patrons.

### Library Priority 1: Improving access

The Nakusp Public Library is committed to connecting communities and providing equitable accessible service. Our building is physically accessible to all with an elevator servicing the Centennial Building, and we strive to maintain a diverse collection. We keep up to date on purchasing a variety of books, DVDs, audio books, and large print. We offer a number of online subscriptions, including Zinio and Overdrive for e-books. The Gale Courses provide access to free online courses for Library patrons who may not be able to otherwise access education or personal development courses either because of financial restraints or their isolated location. They can now access a free education from their own home. We also have a subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud, to be used for free by patrons, and provide monthly programming on the software, as well as programming on basic computing. Ancestry.com is a popular tool and we even had a monthly Genealogy group helping people understand how to get started. The Library provides seven computer workstations and two iPads to patrons, even for those without a Library membership, as well as free barrier free WiFi. In 2019 the BC Lung Association and Kootenay Library Federation funded the purchase of a radon detecting kit that can be loaned out to patrons. This is a popular service with a long wait list, enabling locals to check their radon levels in their home without having to purchase a potentially cost prohibited kit.



The Nakusp Public Library keeps people in the community connected and aware of programming and events in a multitude of ways. We hang posters around the Village and a monthly calendar of events goes up on a well frequented bulletin board in the post office. We maintain a Facebook page and Instagram Account and share our Facebook posts to the local communication group that is very well utilized and the main source of information in the community. There were several articles written about the Library in the two local newspapers, and the Director regularly submitted her own articles about important events or services. During October, which is “love your Library month,” we shared a series of daily book recommendations on social media with reviews submitted by staff, board members, and patrons. This was a very popular series with many of the suggested books gaining long hold lists as patrons were excited to read something new!

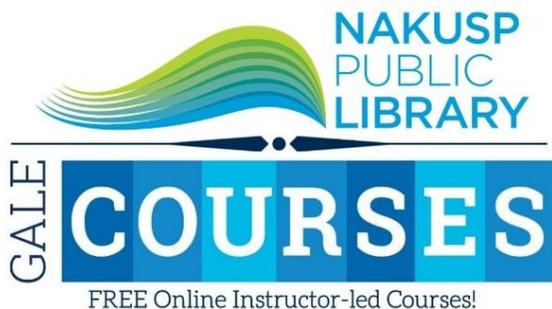


The outcome of this communication and connection is a significant increase in programming attendance in 2019 from

previous years. The Nakusp Public Library saw 920 adults and 858 children attend 49 adult and 80 children's events. Summer Reading Club was very successful with 60 children registering and 28 completion medals handed out. Quite a few long-time locals came in to sign up for their first Library card in 2019 after seeing our services advertised on social media, a direct result of our initiative to increase our online presence. The new offering of free online courses through the Gale database (with 104 courses completed in 2019), the radon detection kits, and the Adobe programming were some of the other draws. In this way, the Nakusp Public Library improved access in a multitude of ways in 2019, which directly led to the outcome of increased program attendance and membership.

### Library Priority 2: Developing skills

The Library's motto of "Education, Information, Recreation" is central to what we stand for in our commitment to community development and developing the skills and knowledge of our patrons and staff. We provide programming to encourage personal development, we purchase non-fiction and information material, and help patrons access all this information. Regularly, Library staff sit with patrons and assist them in using the computers; logging on, using the catalogue, creating email addresses, and doing various kinds of research. We purchased the subscriptions to online Gale Courses and the full Adobe Creative Suite for the purpose of fostering skills and knowledge in our community. Much of the programming we provided in 2019 involved developing skills, this included courses on Photoshop, PremierePro, InDesign, beekeeping, puppetry, genealogy, and writers' groups. We also provided a number of S.T.E.A.M. workshops and have S.T.E.A.M. equipment available from patrons to play



with during our open hours.



Not only do we focus on the development and bettering of our patron base, the staff and board members of the Nakusp Public Library are also committed to both personal and professional development. Staff members regularly sign up for webinars to learn new skills related to Librarianship, and all new trustees complete the Trustee Orientation Program.

The direct outcome of our focus on developing skills in a more educated, skilled, and involved community who is dedicated to the Library and excited by what we have on offer. Our membership demographic is diversifying along with our diverse offerings. No longer are all dedicated users of the Library "readers," instead we have a patron base that comes to the Library for education, information, and recreation, and are developing their skills at the same time.

### Library Priority 3: Collaborating on shared goals



Collaborating with as many other organizations in Nakusp as possible is a priority for the Nakusp Public Library. Living in a small community it is imperative to encourage communication and partnerships. The Library has a relationship with both local newspapers, and often collaborates on articles and promotion. The Library Director attends as many meetings as possible, such as those for Stepping Stone, Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, the RDCK and the Village, and Selkirk College. The Library also collaborated with the Rotary, High School and Elementary School, the Youth Center and the two senior homes in 2019. The Nakusp Public Library shares its building with both the Arrow Lakes Historical Society Archives, and Nakusp and District Museum, and often collaborated on events such as the annual big summer book sale, bake sale and BBQ. In this

way, close collaboration between these organizations is strong.

One example of a successful collaborative event in 2019 was the “Mystery Suitcase,” lent to us from the Royal BC Museum and organized by the Kootenay Library Federation. We had an event in the Library attended mostly by children, but a sister of one of the Librarians works with seniors and asked to bring the suitcase full of interesting and unique artifacts to the senior homes. This was hugely successful and loved by the residents. For Heritage Week in 2020 we recreated a similar event in collaboration with the Nakusp Museum and the seniors’ homes, this time hosted in the Library, and hope to continue collaborating in the future. A few of the seniors started to come to the Library for the first time in years after they learned we were a welcoming place for relaxing. We have a table set up in the adult’s section of the Library with magnets and other S.T.E.A.M. toys, as we encourage that you are never too old to play! The table is popular with people of all ages.



We have seen many positive outcomes with our dedication to working together and collaboration. By collaborating on shared goals, you have a stronger voice when bringing topics to bodies such as the Village of Nakusp. As a group, the Centennial Building has reviewed our leases with the Village, and dealt with parking shortages. We also increase our membership and program attendance by collaborating with other groups to communicate what is happening in the Library and encourage people to attend.

## Library Priority 4: Enhancing governance



The Nakusp Public Library is very lucky in being overseen by such a dedicated and supportive board. Many of the members are long standing and all are enthusiastic in making sure Nakusp has the best Library possible. They are involved and proactive in creating and reviewing policy and the strategic plan, and encouraging fundraising. They are involved with annual events such as the Book Sale and Silent Auction, and shelf reading parties. All board members sit on multiple active committees, including the Walton Bequest Committee, Centennial Building Committee, Fund Raising Committee, Finance Committee, Governance Committee, and Friends of the Library. The Board members are involved in applying for grants.

In 2019 this meant the fundraising organized by the Board exceeded our projected budget with is one beneficial outcome of their dedicated governance. They also received a Museum and Archive Grant to build an interactive structure to house the Milk Wagon we wish moved from the front of the building, the Friends of the Library group increased and diversified, they updated the Library's lease with the Village, and much more. In many ways, the Board of the Nakusp Public Library is committed and proactive in sustaining the Library's success, and have been nothing but supportive to the operating of the Library.

## Summary

In summary, the Nakusp Public Library had a successful year in 2019. We saw an increase in patrons, with 186 new patrons registered, both new residents and long-term locals. There was a focus on increasing our online presence, offering diverse and exciting programming and events, and updating the standard of our technology. Going forward, the Nakusp Public Library's goals for 2020 include: increasing the professionalism of our social media and marketing, focusing on programming for both children and adults, ensuring our policies are robust and up to modern best practice, and continuing to update our technology. We look forward to all the continuing improvements in the next year, while keeping loyal to the motto of "Education, Information, and Recreation."

