



Provincial Library Grants Report 2019

The Midway Public Library is located in the village of Midway, a community founded along Hwy 33 in the West Boundary; 70 km west of Osoyoos, and 55 km east of Grand Forks. Our central location makes the library a hub within the community serving a population of approximately 650+ people in Midway and the surrounding Area “E” of the RDKB, as well as, a place for tourists passing through. We have achieved our goal of improvements over the three years of creating a friendly, welcoming environment where you can access information, computers and books, and will continue to work on providing the best service to or patrons and community. The Village of Midway is the main supply town for all communities in this area of the West Boundary, which makes it convenient for patrons to stop in while running errands or to plan to attend a program.

The Village of Midway is mostly a retirement community because of the affordable housing, but is also a good area for families and has many small or homebased businesses. The main employer is the local wood mill as well as the local grocery store.

The challenges for the library and community the last few years have been improving the building’s interior space and areas of public use. Many changes have been achieved and areas are being used more effectively. There are still more improvements to come.

Our strategic plan goals are:

Community Service – to engage and support community members.

We continue to make progress with this goal by our engagement with local senior groups and our local retirement home and our commitment to provide materials in a way that is easy for them to access. We also stay committed to facilitating exams for community members in need of this

service, we find this is a very important service that mostly helps young mom's getting back to work or improving skills.

Community Partners – to engage in opportunities to develop strong relationships with others from our community organization, local government, and the local business community to make our community stronger, including those from Area “E”.

We continue to make progress with this goal and our partnership with the RDKB and Vicki Gee, who is a great support. This partnership has opened the library to all Area “E” residence and they really value this program.

Sustainability – to advocate for more secure operational funding.

We continue to make progress with this goal but it is slow progress. We are looking for ways to pursue new fund-raising ideas, and to engage the local government to see the value on investing in the library and what the library has to offer.

Facility – to make the existing facilities more accessible and functional.

The Library has worked very hard for the last 3+ years to make this space as user friendly as possible. The biggest problem the building has is the front door access for wheelchairs, walkers and other disabilities. We are seeking an automatic opener. The next project to improve will be the public washrooms, these doors are also not user friendly. This is a problem for our elderly and handicapped.

Provincial Priorities

Priority 1 – Improving Access

The Libraries goal of improving access to the library was improved this year by making a few changes to our “in-house” program at our local senior home Park View Manor. We have put an emphasis on large print books available and kept a better/fresher rotation of materials. These patrons are appreciative and we are hearing positive feedback all the time.

Priority 2 – Developing Skills

The Goal of the Midway Library was to improve the main floor computer area and to add extra work stations in quiet areas in the library for students and business people as well as regular patrons. This year because of ongoing problems, that were slowing our progress, we sought to improve the system for the public WIFI and printer. The set up had become completely unreliable and we could no longer afford to waste time with Shaw or worse disappoint our patrons. We formed a partnership with a local tech person, because of this partnership we were also able to improve the patron ability to print from the public computers and we now have a much better WIFI connection. This WIFI is on 24/7 and is greatly appreciated by all our patrons.

Priority 3 – Collaborating on Shared Goals

The Midway Library goal is to maintain existing programs like the Reading Link Challenge. We have developed partnerships with the Greenwood and Grand Forks Libraries to support this goal. The Grand Forks and Greenwood libraries work with us to facilitate this event, this partnership is now three years strong and getting better every year.

Priority 4 – Enhancing Governance

The Midway Library's goals to complete our building improvements and to create more programs are almost complete. We have completed our new strategic plan that will go from 2019 until 2023. The Library board has been a stable group of helpers for the last year, with no members leaving, but we have not achieved our goal of a community assessment survey in 2019. We would like to re-set this goal to be accomplished by the fall of 2020.

Summary

The Midway Public Library is a much improved, functioning part of the West Boundary area. We now can boast about a beautiful meeting room, with room for 14 comfortably. A clean and durable craft room that can host; Advanced Knitting Circle, drop-in Lego, SRC messy craft's, or an extra work space for those in need. We still have challenges, like an upgrade to entrance and washrooms, and to keep improving our computer lab. The Library staff and Board Members look forward to those challenges and to the opportunity to make more partnerships as we make our strategic plan goals.