2021 PROVINCIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY GRANT REPORT (PLGR)

LIBRARY NAME

Rossland Public Library Association

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 feel free to include more or less text as needed – text boxes will expand as you type. Click on a title in the list below to jump to that section of the document.

- ☐ 1. INTRODUCTION - LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY PROFILE
- ☐ 2. MAJOR PROJECTS/PROGRAMS
- ☐ 3. KEY CHALLENGES
- ☐ 4. SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL

1. INTRODUCTION - LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY PROFILE

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

As of 2021, the Rossland Public Library has been serving the community of Rossland for 82 wonderful years! We live in a City fueled by outdoor enthusiasts committed to seeing Rossland grow and thrive. The expanding population is a mix of long-term residents, vacationers and seasonal workers who come for the mountain views, friendly citizens and all-year activities and events hosted by Red Mountain Resort. Rossland has made a name for itself as one of the best ski towns in British Columbia and visitors come from all over the globe to enjoy what we have to offer.

The Library serves this community by offering a wide variety of services and programs from free computer, WiFi and printing access, to programs and events for children and adults, to information on community events as well as borrowing materials that include books, food preservation materials, snowshoes, nature backpacks and more. In the past year the Library has undergone a change in both the Board and the Director and a new Strategic Plan is underway to help expand on what is already working well and to help the Rossland Library maintain its outstanding reputation as a pillar of the community and a safe, welcoming, fun (and informative) hub for all.

2. MAJOR PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

Please describe any new or major ongoing projects/programs the library has delivered in the past year. To report on multiple projects/programs, "copy" the blank table below and insert additional tables as needed using the "paste" function. Use one table per project/program.

Project/Program Name
Books and Babies
Provide a brief description of the activities involved in this project/program.

The Rossland Library provides an ongoing program for families with children from 0-3 years of age. Our Children's Programmer engages participants through songs, stories, puppet shows, interactive activities and more. The is the longest running program held at the Rossland Library and there is great attendance.

How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals and/or community?

Our goal to Inspire the Curious, as outlined in the previous strategic plan, includes good programming that meets the community's needs. While Books and Babies was unable to run because of the pandemic, there was a loss felt by the community and many families said that it was one of the things they were most looking forward to when they had new babies or were hoping to return to. The program is always well attended and gives caregivers an opportunity to interact with their babies in a structured environment. Families often spend some time selecting books for themselves to take home once the program is finished for the day.

How does this project/program support the B.C.'s strategic goal(s) for public library service? Please provide information for as many goals as applicable.

1. **Improving Access** for British Columbians (e.g., connectivity, digital collections, shared services)	Book and Babies creates connections between the Library and new families in Rossland who are looking for engaging, structured activities for their little ones while building literacy skills and age appropriate engagement.
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)	Book and Babies fosters community by providing caregivers with the opportunity to connect with library staff and materials, as well as other families with similar age children.

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 examples of how to write short, medium, and long-term outcomes.

Short Term Outcomes:

Caregivers engaging with young children from 0-3 in age-appropriate ways to encourage a strong beginning with literacy in a fun, safe environment.

Medium Outcomes:

Families develop a relationship with the Library.

Circulation increases as they take home materials outside of the program.

Participants will encourage others to attend through word-of-mouth, increasing participation.

Long-Term Outcomes:

Children will develop a relationship with literacy and the Library which will foster a lifelong love of reading, singing, and family engagement with one another and Library staff. The program will bring new families into the Library, which will be seen as a place to gather with friends and family, and a place to meet new people.

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

We partner with the BC Library Federation who provide packages for families to take home from the Books and Babies program. We also take our program to schools and the local Strong Start initiative.

Project/Program Name

After School Program (Cool Crafts)

Provide a brief description of the activities involved in this project/program.

In September of 2021 the Rossland Library began their first, regular After School Program. Each block will focus on a particular skill or theme and for the Fall it was "Cool Crafts". We hired a new programmer who led school aged children (K-7) through various activities, crafts, experiments and projects. The program ran for 13 weeks and included an artist series, painting, sculpting, and more with a tie in to literature we had in the Library or were able to get so that participants were able to continue their learning and crafting at home. Families were encouraged to participate with their children although it did function as a Drop-Off program.

How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals and/or community?

Our goal to Inspire the Curious, as outlined in the previous strategic plan, includes good programming that meets the community's needs. The Library hadn't been offering any programming for school aged children since the beginning of the pandemic and it was a need that desperately needed to be filled.

How does this project/program support the B.C.'s strategic goal(s) for public library service? Please provide information for as many goals as applicable.

5.	**Improving Access** for British Columbians (e.g., connectivity, digital collections, shared services)	Our After School Program filled a need for many parents and caregivers who require a safe place for their children to go where they are engaged, learning and safely with their peers and a professional.
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)	The After School Program supports families and local artists as their works were highlighted throughout the 13 weeks of *Cool Crafts*. Many of our programs tie in to various organizations in Rossland so that we are able to create partnerships, share knowledge and foster community together.
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 examples of how to write short, medium, and long-term outcomes.

Short Term Outcomes:

Provide a safe, welcoming space for children from Kindergarten to Grade 7 to engage with the Library, Library staff, and Library materials in a worry free, and no cost environment to alleviate pressure on families to find after school care for their children.

Medium Outcomes:

Families develop a relationship with the Library.

Circulation increases as they take home materials outside of the program.

Participants will encourage others to attend through word-of-mouth, increasing participation.

Long-Term Outcomes:

Children will develop a relationship with literacy and the Library which will foster a lifelong love of reading, singing, and family engagement with one another and Library staff. The program will bring new families into the Library, which will be seen as a place to gather with friends and family, and a place to meet new people.

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

For our After School Program we were able to partner with local artists, and received grants from the City of Rossland and the Rossland Rotary Club.

Project/Program Name
BC Summer Reading Club

Provide a brief description of the activities involved in this project/program.

During the pandemic, the Library took a hiatus from participating in the BC Summer Reading Club and we were very pleased to be able to offer it again over the summer of 2021. The BC Summer Reading Club is a free literacy program designed to engage school-aged children, ages 5-14, with libraries and reading, throughout the summer in a way that is fun, educational, inclusive and community-oriented.

Each year, the BC SRC commissions a BC artist to realize their annual theme. Most recently, they had the privilege of working with artists Zoe Si, Bambi Edlund, Jami Gigot, Jeff Solway, Darlene Gait, Lee Edward Födi, Shayne Letain, and Jeremy Tankard. They work with a graphic designer and web designer to ensure high-quality, visually-appealing print materials and an interactive website (www.bcsrc.ca).

The program is designed to allow libraries from every part of the Province to plan and deliver the program in the way that best meets the distinctive needs of their communities. All children are invited to join the BC SRC by visiting their local library.

The BC SRC welcomes the participation of all children and their families, and seeks to provide an accessible and fully inclusive program.

How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals and/or community?

The BC Summer Reading Club allows us to build on our goal to strengthen our community and library partnerships while providing engaging programming to our community and a safe space for children that maintains their literacy skills throughout the summer.

We are able to:

- engage children in fun, free summer programming that supports literacy and literate citizenship
- connect children with a range of reading materials best suited to their needs and interests ultimately increasing their enthusiasm for and confidence in reading
- provide appealing and high-quality program materials for children to track their voluntary reading (reading records, bookmarks, posters, stickers)
- receive sufficient quantities of the above materials at no cost, so that any child who wishes to participate may do so

How does this project/program support the **B.C.'s strategic goal(s) for public library service**? Please provide information for as many goals as applicable.	
9. **Improving Access** for British Columbians (e.g., connectivity, digital collections, shared services)	The BC Summer Reading Club not only connects patrons with their libraries and introduces new community members to the great resources available to them, it also fosters community and connection between all BC Libraries.
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)	The BC Summer Reading Club is well-known throughout the province and often visiting children and families will participate, already knowing it is in place. The community knowledge-sharing is monumental.
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 examples of how to write short, medium, and long-term outcomes.

Short Term Outcomes:

Engage with children of all ages (0-18) to foster literacy throughout the summer months while schools are out.

Medium Outcomes:

Families develop a relationship with the Library.

Circulation increases as they take home materials outside of the program.

Participants will encourage others to attend through word-of-mouth, increasing participation all across the province.

The Library will be seen as a fun, engaging place for children to spend their time while not in school in a low-pressure environment for a set period of time.

Long-Term Outcomes:

Children will develop a relationship with literacy and the Library which will foster a lifelong love of reading, singing, and family engagement with one another and Library staff. The program will bring new families into the Library, which will be seen as a place to gather with friends and family, and a place to meet new people.

The Library will be seen as a safe space for families to bring their children so that they can learn in a stress free environment for free, and will know that the Library is committed to meeting community needs at all times of year.

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

The BC SRC is sponsored by the British Columbia Library Association and your local public library with the generous assistance of Public Libraries Branch, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, and CUPE BC.

We are able to hire summer students (and had 2 in 2021) thanks to grants from the Canada Summer Jobs program and the Young Canada Works program.

Project/Program Name
Technology Enhancement

Provide a brief description of the activities involved in this project/program.
In Winter of 2021 the Rossland Public Library applied for a technology grant through the Columbia Basin Trust and were approved. This grant will allow the Library to update computers, laptops, tablets, and purchase technology to enhance programming. We are also able to purchase security software to protect external and internal information.

How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals and/or community?
This project aligns with our strategic goal to maintain useful, up to date, and functional technological offerings to our community. One of our most used services is providing patron access to free computers, printing services and the internet. Functional computers for staff that do not break down or require constant updates will allow them to provide consistent service to our community. Allowing our patrons to use our tech to complete work or school projects on working technology will increase awareness that the Library is not outdated or out of touch and that we can meet the needs of our community.

How does this project/program support the B.C.'s strategic goal(s) for public library service? Please provide information for as many goals as applicable.	
13. **Improving Access** for British Columbians (e.g., connectivity, digital collections, shared services)	Functional technology means that all areas of access are improved for British Columbians visiting or living in Rossland.

14. **Building Capacity** for library staff and directors (e.g., training and professional development)	
15. **Advancing Citizen Engagement** (e.g., helping people access government services/resources, fostering community knowledge-sharing, and supporting reconciliation)	Our computers and printing services are often accessed by users who require help with government documents, accessing other library materials or completing research.
16. **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 examples of how to write short, medium, and long-term outcomes.

Short Term Outcomes:

Providing reliable technology to patrons and staff.

Medium Outcomes:

Building a reputation for being up to date, relevant and useful.

Allowing for patrons to access assistance with government documents, research and work/school.

Increasing reliability for staff to avoid moment of, "Sorry, our computers are down."

Long-Term Outcomes:

Maintaining a reputation in the community as a place that is reliable, relevant and modernized.

Meeting community needs for connectivity and steady internet.

Being a place for newcomers, visitors, and anyone attempting to become a permanent resident.

Consistency in offering reliable services.

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

We were very pleased to be able to partner with the Columbia Basin Trust to use this grant to provide better service for our community.

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 that you wish to comment on. Leave any other listed topics blank.

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.

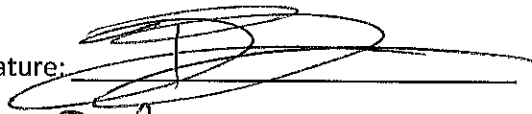| Challenge	Briefly describe how this challenge has impacted the library/community, and what steps the library took to address it in 2021. Please specify if any provincial funding was used, e.g., annual library funding, the technology grant, other non-PLB provincial grants (up to 250 words per topic).
COVID-19 (e.g., safety protocols, proof of vaccination)	COVID-19 presented many challenges, and Rossland was similar to most. Shutting down and eliminating in-person services was a hit to the community. Offering virtual and take-home options seemed to help significantly. An increase in cleaning, protective gear and implementing plexiglass barriers both hindered our ability to provide services by eliminating the personal, one on one connections libraries are known for, but also allowed for safe in-person interactions to take place. We implemented a COVID-19 Safety Plan and developed Occupational Health and Safety policies and practices. We received a COVID-19 Community Relief Fund grant from the City of Rossland to recoup some of the costs we lost on protective materials, plexiglass, and enhanced cleaning methods that were outsourced to our cleaners.
Emergency response (e.g., fires, floods, extreme weather)	The fires that happened across BC missed our community but made us aware that disaster preparedness is important and necessary. We had several close calls in neighbouring communities and managing the concerns of the community became an important and overwhelming part of being a library worker.
Financial pressure (e.g., rising costs, reduced revenues)	Rising costs of digital and physical materials are an ongoing issue for our small Library. While our funding is secure it is not increasing provincially or municipally for the foreseeable future and our collection development budget gets smaller and smaller over time.
Staffing (e.g., recruitment and retention, mental health and wellness)	It is important to us to be able to offer some sort of competitive wage for staff to incentivise them to stay but with the majority of our budget going to staffing we are facing some challenges that require creative problem solving. The staff are paid on the lower end of the wage spectrum and often do not get cost of living increases because of our fixed budget. Although we have

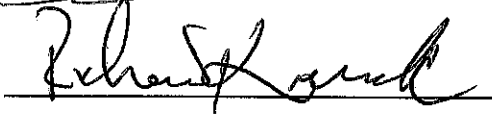|	
	two wonderful, long-term, permanent staff members it is difficult to recruit and maintain younger staff who are looking for benefits packages, competitive wages (or just living wages) and regular pay increases. The Kootenay Library Federation and the BC Library Association began offering free counselling services, free workshops, and free mental health and wellness seminars throughout the pandemic that have been instrumental in increasing overall well-being for staff who feel more supported and like they have options and a clear set of instructions on how to obtain any help necessary.
Disappearing services in the community (e.g., government, banking, health)	
Connectivity (e.g., low bandwidth, lack of home internet in the community)	Internet connectivity is an issue in Rossland and we are fortunate to be able to fill that need for our community with WiFi in and around the building, as well as access to computer and printing.
Aging/damaged facilities (e.g., need for repairs, renovations, upgrades/expansions)	Our building is beautiful but aging and we face issues related to an older sewer system as well as general heating and cooling issues. Fortunately the building is managed by the City and we are happy to be supported by them. Long-term we hope to be able to expand as the population of Rossland grows.
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)	This is a concern that is at the back of our minds, often. While the number of incidents at the Rossland Library are minimal, or nearly non-existent, with the growing population is an awareness that maintaining training around homelessness, addiction and mental health issues is important for Libraries everywhere and to stay relevant we are doing our best to attend training sessions when available and partnering with other communities who face greater challenges in this area than we do.
Other (please specify)	

4. SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL

Electronic signatures are acceptable where physical signatures are not feasible.

Library Director Signature: _____ Date: March 17, 2022

Board Chair Signature: _____ Date: March 18, 2022