

2021 PROVINCIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY GRANT REPORT (PLGR)

LIBRARY NAME

Dawson Creek 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 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).

The Dawson Creek Public Library is located in northeast BC. We are a city of about 11,700 people. Our major industries are oil and gas, farming, forestry and tourism. We are located at Mile Zero of the Alaska Highway. Many of our citizens move here for work and stay because Dawson Creek is a great place to raise families, earn an income and enjoy all that small town life has to offer – including our library. The pandemic has impacted tourism in our community as border restrictions meant a drop in visitors travelling through our city to reach Alaska. The pandemic also impacted what programming we offered at our library in 2021. Easing of restrictions during the summer allowed our summer reading club to return to a more normal endeavour and we returned to in-person children's programs in the summer and fall. We also offered a variety of online programming throughout the year when we felt that was the safest way to provide access.

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
Expansion of Indigenous-centred children's collection and indigenous community outreach
Provide a brief description of the activities involved in this project/program.

At the request of one of our patrons and her young daughter, the Dawson Creek Public Library created a bookcase that houses all of our collection of children's books written by or about indigenous people and their stories. Our collection of indigenous-centred books was scattered throughout the children's library making it more challenging to find these resources for families. By creating a specific space for these books, our patrons could find them more easily. The library also expanded the collection by purchasing twenty new indigenous children's books including graphic novels and more board books for babies and storybooks for pre-schoolers. Our collection also includes several sets of non-fiction books about indigenous cultures. In addition to the expansion of our in-library collection, our library purchased a collection of books for a new mom's group who meet at the Nawican Bergeron Youth and Culture Centre and a collection of 20 teen books for the centre. The books were a mixture of books that included fiction and non-fiction materials some with indigenous subject matter. This will be an ongoing project. The Dawson Creek Public Library also administers and fundraises for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library book-gifting program in our community. We have arranged to have books delivered to the Nawican Bergeron Youth and Culture Centre each month for free to add to the children's book collection.

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

By creating and expanding our Indigenous children's collection we recognize the value and importance of preserving and honoring Indigenous stories. We listened to what our community was asking for and followed through with providing a collection that is accessible to all.

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)	
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)	The aim of the expansion of the collection and giving the collection its own space is to provide space for indigenous voices to be heard. An indigenous child in our community asked for her stories to be given a space to be better accessed and we recognized the importance of this request. This project supports reconciliation. By providing books to our local indigenous youth centre we are

	taking resources to it's users in an outreach or partnership manner. We also hope this ongoing project will foster life-long learning and love of books.
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.	
<p>Resources and Activities: Funding the purchase of books for the library's Children's Indigenous Stories collection and ongoing purchase of books for a collection at the Nawican Bergeron Youth and Culture Centre.</p> <p>Outputs: The in-library collection has grown in size with the purchase of 20 new baby board books, pre-school books, graphic novels and children's non-fiction. Twenty teen books were purchased and donated to the Nawican Bergeron Youth and Culture Centre. New baby and pre-school books will be provided for free to the centre for its New Mommas group each month through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.</p> <p>Immediate Outcomes: More indigenous stories are available to borrow. There is more access to books and indigenous books outside the walls of the library by making them available at the local youth centre.</p> <p>Intermediate Outcomes: Indigenous children's stories are easier to find in the library. By having its own space in the library the collection recognizes the importance of these stories and encourages the ongoing expansion of the collection. The library's partnership with the local indigenous youth centre grows stronger. Ongoing access to books is expanded outside the library.</p> <p>Ultimate Impact: Fostering children's love of books, reading and indigenous stories and culture.</p>	
Did the project/program involve any partnerships? If so, what was the partner's role (e.g., funding, outreach, service delivery)?	
<p>Yes – our partners were the Nawican Bergeron Youth and Culture Centre and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. The youth centre accepted the collections of books and lends them to its membership. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library allows the delivery of monthly free children's books to the youth centre for its young mother's group.</p>	
Project/Program Name	

Proof of vaccination assistance.		
Provide a brief description of the activities involved in this project/program.		
Library staff helped members of our community access, download or print their proof of vaccination cards.		
How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals and/or community?		
Many members of the community had no way to access the online site to download or print their cards and therefore could not show proof of their vaccination status at sites where it was required (restaurants, arenas, recreation facilities, casinos, travel etc). This ongoing project helps provide access to important government documents vital for the wellbeing 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.		
1. Improving Access for British Columbians (e.g., connectivity, digital collections, shared services)	The library staff were able to use library computers to help more than 200 members of our community access their proof of vaccination cards. Most were seniors who either did not have access to a computer, smart phone or printer, or struggled to understand how to access their information.	
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)	We were able to help our community access government-required documents during a global pandemic.	

<p>4. Enhancing Governance of the library system (e.g., board/trustee training, developing best practices, strategic planning)</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>Resources and Activities: Front-line staff helped citizens access the provincial government website to download or print their proof of vaccination card. We also used our laminator to laminate printed copies of their card for their wallet.</p> <p>Outputs: People visited the library and were able to get their physical proof of vaccination card or download the card onto their smart phone.</p> <p>Immediate Outcomes: More than 200 people were able to enter restaurants, recreational facilities, casinos, library programming and have documentation to travel etc. because they were able to show proof of vaccination.</p> <p>Intermediate Outcomes: More people in our community are aware that the library can help them access government documents. The project also fostered a feeling of good-will toward the library and they shared their appreciation for the staff's help.</p> <p>Ultimate Impact: The library helped deliver the provincial strategic goal for libraries to improve access to government services/resources.</p>	
<p>Did the project/program involve any partnerships? If so, what was the partner's role (e.g., funding, outreach, service delivery)?</p>	
<p>No</p>	

[Copy and insert additional tables below for each additional project/program as needed]

<p>Project/Program Name</p>
<p>Online programming during the Pandemic</p>
<p>Provide a brief description of the activities involved in this project/program.</p>
<p>The library hosted several online programs throughout 2021. This allowed us to offer quality programming safely during another year of the global pandemic. Programs included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self Care Strategies for Women to celebrate International Women's Day • The ABCs of LGBTQ2S+ with the Dawson Creek Pride Society during pride month • Gardening 101 with the South Peace Garden Club • Intro to Seed Saving and the Seed Library with Tiffany Traverse of Fourth Sister Farm • Lets Talk About the Opioid Epidemic with members of the Society for Narcotic and Opioid Wellness • Monthly meetings of Just One More Chapter – the library's bookclub
<p>How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals and/or community?</p>

Our online programming in 2021 supported the library's goals of offering relevant programming, welcoming community connections and maintaining a safe, accessible and welcoming space – even during a global pandemic.

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)	
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)	Our online programming allowed our citizens to access information and conversations safely during the pandemic. We facilitated the sharing of information around important topics like self-care, the opioid epidemic and terms and concepts in the LGBTQ2S+ community. We also enjoyed informative and fun evenings discussing gardening, seed preservation and books.
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.

Resources and Activities: Facilitating conversations, discussions and sharing information on a variety of relevant, important and fun topics.

Outputs: The library created and hosted Facebook and Zoom events, registered attendees, and sought out partner organizations and experts to lead the programs.

Immediate Outcomes: People in our community were able to come together virtually to gain understanding around important topics and also enjoy discussions about gardening and books.

Intermediate Outcomes: The library continues to host online events and programming as a way to connect with our community.

Ultimate Impact: The library was able to expand understanding around LGBTQ2S+ concepts and language, the local narcotic and opioid epidemic and what services are available in our community, as well as share strategies for self-care for women during a pandemic. We were also able to facilitate a well-attended and energetic evening of questions and answers with our local gardening club and an expert in heritage seed-saving. Our book club currently has 12 members who meet online to discuss a new book each month.

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

Yes – Society for Narcotic and Opioid Wellness, Annette Jalbert registered clinical counsellor, Dawson Creek Pride Society, South Peace Garden Club and Tiffany Traverse Fourth Sister Farm. These partners co-hosted our programming, sharing their knowledge of the program's subject and answering questions.

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)	Safety protocols meant that for the first half of 2021 our library did not host in-person programming. When restrictions eased we were able to host our Summer Reading Club for children and in-person children's programming in the fall. We were required to maintain physical distancing, capacity limits and proof of vaccination was required to attend indoor events. To adapt, we hosted several online programming events for adults. We were also able to help more than 200 people in our community access their proof of vaccination and either download or print their cards. Staff had to adapt to safety protocols such as mask wearing, daily health checks, and increased cleaning protocols. Staff also were faced with ensuring our patrons followed our Covid-19 protocols. Most of our patrons were happy to comply but we

	encountered some people who refused to wear masks. We offered curbside pickup and shared information about ebooks etc to those who would not comply with masking mandates.
Emergency response (e.g., fires, floods, extreme weather)	
Financial pressure (e.g., rising costs, reduced revenues)	We continue to operate with no increase in our municipal or provincial funding. In 2017 the City of Dawson Creek's operating grant to our library was \$606,440. In 2021 the City of Dawson Creek's operating grant to our library was \$391,435. Meanwhile our provincial grants have remained virtually stagnant for a decade. Costs of operating increase every year. We have had to cut hours, staff, and operating costs wherever we can including cancelling extra phone lines, reducing garbage pickup, IT maintenance, and professional development. We rely on donations from the United Way and other local donors to fund our children's programs. It becomes more difficult each year to create new programs or projects with less money.
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)	
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)	Our library is 50-years-old and has two floors. We do not have an elevator to the second floor. The cost of installing an elevator has been prohibitive.

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:

Pamela Moins

Date:

March 10, 2022

Board Chair Signature:

K. L. L.

Date:

March 10, 2022