

2021 PROVINCIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY GRANT REPORT (PLGR)

LIBRARY NAME

Taylor 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 District of Taylor, located at Mile 36 of the historic Alaska Highway, has approximately 1300 residents. Within the District's boundaries are several industries such as Enbridge, Coastal GasLink, NorthRiver Midstream, Cameron River Enterprises, Pembina, Nels Osterio Ltd (provider of gravel and sand), and the Canfor Taylor Pulp Mill.

Amenities include:

- the Lone Wolf Golf Club - an 18-hole golf course with an extensive walking trail around its perimeter,
- District Ice Center which is a hockey arena with an added 'leisure pad' for skaters
- a Curling Rink which usually becomes the Summer-time swimming pool,
- a Community Hall,
- the Taylor Elementary School,
- numerous parks, playgrounds, and baseball diamonds,
- a fitness gym – open 24 hours a day (using a card pass)
- the Taylor Medical Clinic
- Peace Island Park Campground
- the Big Bam Ski Hill (when enough snow is present for the runs)
- Redwood Esso gas station and convenience store
- a motel and a few restaurants
- And the Taylor Public Library.

2021 was a continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some aspects of our community were open at times within safety guidelines – the golf course, ice center, hall, elementary school, parks/playgrounds, Peace Island Park, Medical Clinic, and the library. Other amenities didn't have staff or did not meet the health guidelines.

Our community is made up of mostly families, (including some low income), but we do have single transient workers (here for contractual or seasonal work), young people starting out (living in lower cost housing), residents who came for a job and decided to stay, and long-time residents or pioneers who remained in the community.

There are several apartment blocks, houses, mobile homes, an RV trailer park, a hotel, and even a few senior housing complexes to house everyone.

The library began its life on September 8, 2007, and has been a growing library since then. It lives in a refurbished house that was moved from the Westcoast housing complex across the highway from the McMahon gas plant (now NorthRiver Midstream McMahon Plant). This housing was created during the Westcoast Transmission years circa 1955, so a lot of upgrades and renovations were done before the library could move in.

Our Mission is the community's friendly gateway to the world of learning, imagination, and creative pursuits. As an information hub, we are committed to encourage a culture of literacy and to provide access to popular and current materials.

In 2021, as we were still under pandemic rules, we felt obliged to help our community move forward. We kept our doors open when allowed by PHOs, continued with our seed catalogue project, and pushed forward with monthly take-home craft kits for kids. We also surveyed our community, to gain and recognize their thoughts and needs for our/their library. We also provided the BC Summer Reading Club, albeit on a 'take-home' level.

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
Taylor Seed Catalogue
Provide a brief description of the activities involved in this project/program.
<p>Since 2018, we have been purchasing seeds for the gardening needs of our community. These seeds are free for whomever would like or need some. The only ask is if the residents have extra to give or would like to exchange seeds, they are quite welcome to share theirs with the community through the Taylor Seed Catalogue. Over the years prior, there was a real turn to go back to growing your own vegetables and harvesting items within the '500 mile' radius. Also, talk alluding to being able to provide food sustainability for one's family. These were the biggest reason for starting our seed catalogue.</p> <p>In 2021, our seed catalogue was granted just over \$7000 from local companies (Alliance, Canfor, CN Rail, ConocoPhillips, Pembina, Shell, TC Energy, and Tourmaline) to be used for buying supplies and new equipment. With these monies we purchased more seeds, seed potatoes, three dehydrators, two water bath canners, row markers (large and small), seed pellets, Velcro for tying up plants, two seeders, garden gloves, books on preserving and canning, and a lot of canning supplies and jars. Some of the equipment was catalogued so it could be loaned out to patrons right away, while some will have to wait until 2022 to be catalogued. The canning jars and supplies, seeds, and potatoes were all given to residents for free. This was the biggest project we offered to the residents.</p>
How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals and/or community?

This project falls under these goals in the 2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan: Goal #1 - *Advancing Access to Information and Resources*; Goal #2 - *Supports for Education Transformation*, and Goal # 4 - *Shared Services and Collaboration*.

The seeds and garden or canning equipment are free to use. This program is a learning and participation endeavour for the whole family. We partnered with the local Community Garden and shared seeds with them, as well as gave canning jars and supplies to this small organization to help promote food sustainability and food security. The Community Gardens will preserve or can the fruits and vegetables from their gardens for the betterment of the families and residents in Taylor. Processing of unused vegetables and fruits will last longer than freezing them.

There are families in need within the community – supporting and partnering with other people or groups makes this project a very important one as it helps sustain families all year long.

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)	All items are free to have or use. We don't limit this program to just patrons of the library. We also share our resources with the Community Gardens. For those doing research on seeds and seed saving, we can find free online workshops for them at home or here in the library.
2. Building Capacity for library staff and directors (e.g., training and professional development)	Staff learn about the growing process and what equipment is best used for what fruit or vegetable. This information can then be relayed to other users of the seed catalogue program. We all learn together.
3. Advancing Citizen Engagement (e.g., helping people access government services/resources, fostering community knowledge-sharing, and supporting reconciliation)	<p>We invite all residents to come in and take what they need. In return some of the residents will bring back seeds they no longer need or have excess of. A sharing of resources which helps everyone.</p> <p>Being in partnership with the Community Gardens allows us to have a knowledgeable set of people and their skills who can provide valuable gardening and/or canning/preserving information when needed. Their garden is also free and easily available to the public.</p> <p>Endorsing each other's programs will open other benefits for everyone.</p>
4. Enhancing Governance of the library system (e.g., board/trustee training, developing best practices, strategic planning)	<p>When we are prepared to think 'outside the box' to broaden outreach to target those that might not use the library, it enhances the library system by showing that libraries are providers of many varied services.</p> <p>The more variety of services and programs we can offer, the more people we will be able to welcome. Our pool of people that we can draw ideas from also widens when the library is multi-useful.</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.

We had approximately 25 (twenty-five) individuals using our seed catalogue. Over the course of the summer and fall, we gave away over \$1500 of canning jars alone. Some of these jars were used by the Community Garden for preserving fruit and vegetables, which will be later offered to families in need over the winter months.

We bought four different types of seed potatoes, one type we bought a second round of. About fifteen to twenty seed potatoes in each batch.

Our dehydrators were used by three families and one of our water bath canners was used by a single fellow who was canning peaches for the first-time. Overall, the purchase of the equipment will be useful to our patrons for many years to come.

During the fall, an order of seven varieties of garlic bulbs (33 [thirty-three in total]) was brought in for fall planting. We have six bulbs left.

Some of the row markers, seed pellets, and Velcro will be used in 2022 to create garden kits for the kids. The gloves and seeders were also a purchase which will be used in 2022 as free items for the residents. (The seeders will be a loanable item.)

This project grows every year, as we find more young people becoming interested in growing their own food. An outside hobby that is healthy and life-long learning.

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

We had approximately \$7000 in grants given to us by some of the big companies in our area (Alliance, Canfor, CN Rail, ConocoPhillips, Pembina, Shell, TC Energy, and Tourmaline). This money bought most of the supplies we had last year plus the canning/preserving equipment and books.

We also partnered with the Community Garden. Seeds and canning supplies and jars were given to help them with their project of having a community garden for the residents to be able to harvest food they needed and perhaps try preserving or canning for winter use. What vegetable and/or fruit the residents didn't take, the organization preserved/canned for winter 'residents in need' baskets.

We will maintain the Community Garden partnership as our supply of seeds and equipment will supplement their needs at seeding or harvesting time. A win-win for everyone.

Project/Program Name

Spring Break Take-home Crafts for Kids

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

During 2021, social distancing and limited people in the building hindered in-library programs. We developed the Spring Break take-home craft kits which were designed to help entertain the kids (and adults) in their own homes or while they were enjoying outdoor activities during their away time from school.

Everything from bookmarks to home-made musical instruments, colouring sheets to garden kits. We designed the program to encompass as many interests as possible using what limited resources we or parents might have.

Some kits used yarn, or recycled meal containers, egg cartons, donated crafting beads, cereal boxes for postcards, etc.

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

These take-home crafts fit into the 2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan's Goal #1 - *Advancing Access to Information and Resources*; Goal #2 - *Supports for Education Transformation*, and Goal # 4 - *Shared Services and Collaboration*.

While the library could not be used for any indoor programming, we could still have some teachable and creative moments for the kids (and adults). We were advocating for the library while doing this project. Having take-home crafts meant patrons were physically in the building choosing which craft(s) they wished to take home and work on. A compromise for not being able to support programming within the library.

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)	As seen with the COVID protocols, it was hard for this library to do in-house programs. We needed to develop a way for the kids (and parents) to have access to educational and creative programming. This 'curbside' appeal was the best approach.
6. Building Capacity for library staff and directors (e.g., training and professional development)	While we developed this program, the staff had to research and learn how to make these crafts, as well. Some parents were queried on what worked best for their children and what the interests of the children might be. Overall, it was a learning experience for all of us.
7. Advancing Citizen Engagement (e.g., helping people access government services/resources, fostering community knowledge-sharing, and supporting reconciliation)	We created these take-home crafts for one other reason: to keep the library and its value in the eyes of our community. The more we can offer from the library, in the building itself, or in the community, the more our residents are aware of and appreciate the library.
8. Enhancing Governance of the library system (e.g., board/trustee training, developing best practices, strategic planning)	This was the first year we really developed take-home crafts. The value of creating this program for the residents who were looking for 'something to do' during the COVID outbreak put us on the right track to developing best practices while planning for future pandemics or disasters.

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.

We had created twelve (12) different craft kits: bear craft sweater, bookmarks, create-a-book, garden kit using an egg carton, garden kit using papier-mâché, maracas, postcards, straw weaving, pre-threaded straw weaving for the youngest of participants, harmonica, coaster, and a plastic cup craft that kids could create a chicken, frog, or a bunny with.

Craft kit	Created	Left over
Bear Sweater	7 (seven)	4 (four)
Bookmarks	15 (fifteen)	8 (eight)
Create-a-book	6 (six)	2 (two)

Garden Kit – egg carton	4 (four)	0 (zero)
Garden kit – paper craft	3 (three)	0 (zero)
Maracas	3 (three)	0 (zero)
Postcards	6 (six)	3 (three)
Straw Weaving	5 (five)	1 (one)
Pre-threaded straw weaving	8 (eight)	4 (four)
Harmonica	6 (six)	4 (four)
Coaster	6 (six)	2 (two)
Chicken/frog/bunny in a cup	3 (three)	0 (zero)

We will continue to develop more and/or different craft activities in the future. This interaction between library and residents supports the value of the library within the community.

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

We didn't really have a lot of knowledge or practice for developing a craft program, so we relied on other children's librarians and parents to give us a few hints of what crafts worked best and what were used for which age group. We were very fortunate to have the staff from other libraries and parents point us in the right direction for web sites and tools that could be used. The library community is a wonderful source for information and a value for learning/teaching of skills.

Some of our crafting materials came directly from our community members. Our Board members volunteered their time to put a lot of these craft kits together.

Project/Program Name

Summer Reading Club

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

The other major program we provided was the Summer Reading Club. We have done this program since 2008. The only aspect we don't provide is the activities within the library as we don't have the staff to do proper in-house programming. Instead, we relied on partnering with the District of Taylor Kids Kamp or KidZone programs as they held most of the kids' attention for part or all summer by inviting the participants and leaders to come into the library once per week for a story time or mix of activities.

The kids that did sign up for Summer Reading Club got the reading records, bookmarks, etc., that were provided by the BC Summer Reading Club program, and a prize or medal at the end of the summer. Sometimes we created take-home activities with the guidance from the BC reading program manuals.

Over the years of our offering this program, we went to giving away Coles gift cards to those who participated instead of a medal. This worked much better as an inspiration for the club members to finish the program. We found our sign-up numbers seemed to hold steady or improve each year with the gift card motivation.

Even though the District was still under COVID protocols, 2021 was the best year we had for the Summer Reading Club. I would say mostly due to the theme and how we really stepped up our advertising for the program. Special Items were purchased to coincide with the weekly themes which added to the investment of the participants. It also helped our SRC participant numbers that the District of Taylor's Kids Kamp and KidZone did not happen or did not run at full capacity.

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

Summer Reading Club ties into Goal #1 - *Advancing Access to Information and Resources*; Goal #2 - *Supports for Education Transformation*, and Goal #4 - *Shared Services and Collaboration*.

As BC Summer Reading Club had an online program, we were keen to remind participants to join the online club besides being a participant with our library. There were more activities that could be done from home or while travelling through this online connection.

Keeping the social and learning skills over the summer is the positive outcome of this program. Children need to be stimulated to maintain the learning brain and this program is an integral part of that during the summer.

Having resources like the BC Summer Reading Club and other children's librarians to share their skills and knowledge are very helpful to our small library and staff. We feel more inspired when we can resolve some of the possible issues that may arise and better prepared for any situation that may arise.

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.

Improving Access for British Columbians (e.g., connectivity, digital collections, shared services)	Sharing this valuable program with our younger patrons has always been one of our goals, and having the added shared online connection enhanced the participant opportunities for fun and learning.
Building Capacity for library staff and directors (e.g., training and professional development)	The BC Summer Reading Club is available to our staff for any training or professional development. They have groups of librarians that can support each other when a situation arises that needs advice or further guidance. The teamwork that is propelled in this program is one of excellence.
Advancing Citizen Engagement (e.g., helping people access government services/resources, fostering community knowledge-sharing, and supporting reconciliation)	Each year we advertise for the summer reading club through our social media and District of Taylor's news brochure (Taylor Times). We tried to advertise on the District's digital message board (for the first time). Unfortunately, the electronic message board had a quirk and the advertising was not as we would have liked it to be. Even with that unfortunate occurrence, we had enough word of mouth that helped our participation numbers.
Enhancing Governance of the library system (e.g., board/trustee training, developing best practices, strategic planning)	Encouraging and promoting the Summer Reading Club gives insight into the broader library world for both Staff and Board, as that exposure gives many thoughts and ideas into our own practises and strategic planning. Our library's strategic plan has a mandate to support our community with programming and services locally, but some of these services are collaborative with other organizations and the Provincial mandates.

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.

Our Summer Reading Club was very well received last year! The theme and activities were a big hit with our young readers. I believe it was part of why most of our readers stayed involved to the end.

We had 16 (sixteen) kids join the Club in 2021. Only two of those did not complete the program due to family obligations elsewhere.

We purchased items which coincided with the theme for the week and was part of the overall SRC 2021 theme of "Crack the Case". We had zippered (and lockable) plastic case files to keep all their paperwork in, magnifying glasses, secret pens, mirrors that could be used to "peek" around corners or under things, archaeological or treasure digging activity kits, clue and code breaking activities, as well as crafts.

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

Our Summer Reading Club was based on the BC Summer Reading Club. We did our best to stay within the themes presented to us. We purchased the bookmarks, posters, reading records, and stickers the BC Club offered. We wanted to be close to the web site's content and programming. Easier for the kids to participate from home. We were part of the BC SRC's online sharing group which supported ideas and best practices solutions.

A consortia purchase was done by the North East Library Federation for "secret pens" to go along with the "Crack the Case" summer reading club theme. These pens were divided amongst the seven libraries within the Federation (Chetwynd, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Hudson's Hope, Pouce Coupe, Taylor, and Tumbler Ridge).

Project/Program Name

"Toonied" into your Thoughts Community Survey

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

Our library had missed a year of going out into the community (during COVID) and finding out what ideas, requests, or needs our community was short of with respect to the library's programs and services. This survey was created in part due to the COVID business hours we had and still have. Even though we are open for patrons to come in, we have not added any new 'open for business' hours.

The other factors that we wanted to know was if our programs and services were meeting the needs of the community and if we were doing enough to promote what we did have.

We tried face to face research, take home and fill-in questionnaire, an online format, and even one that went out in the monthly 'Taylor Times' news brochure.

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

All four of our Strategic Plan goals (Goal #1 - *Advancing Access to Information and Resources*; Goal #2 - *Supports for Education Transformation*, Goal #3 *Enhancing Governance and Demonstrating Impact*; and Goal # 4 - *Shared Services and Collaboration*) are represented by this survey. We were researching ways to get the word out about our programs and services, but we also needed to know what programs and services we needed to create. Putting the survey out there in as many formats as possible show that we are thinking of all the ways that people interact within our community – some families still do not have access to the internet. Good leadership propels our library forward, viable, and valuable.

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)	<p>While we were doing the research for ourselves, the results indicated to us what digital needs and shared services our library needed to expand on or create.</p> <p>The research that was done for our Strategic Goals, also fit into the Provincial goals. We learned where and what services or collections were needed by our community. We were also looking to improve the access to our services and programs through this survey.</p>
10. Building Capacity for library staff and directors (e.g., training, and professional development)	<p>The more input we gain from community members, the better we can plan and offer items, services, and opportunities for patrons. We recognize that training and development doesn't always come from formal courses or seminars. Your own community can teach Staff and Board a lot.</p>
11. Advancing Citizen Engagement (e.g., helping people access government services/resources, fostering community knowledge-sharing, and supporting reconciliation)	<p>This survey is part of advancing citizen engagement. It is through their input that we can support their needs and promote the various government services that are available to our community.</p>
12. Enhancing Governance of the library system (e.g., board/trustee training, developing best practices, strategic planning)	<p>Outreach is one of the ways to keep the leadership in any governance body on track with the needs of the communities or investors. Our community is invested in its library.</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>Our library used as many formats as possible for delivering this survey to the community.</p> <p>Handed out through the library... 5</p> <p>Post Office ... 6 paper quizzes</p> <p>Social Media...2 online</p> <p>eQuizzes - 3</p> <p>Total Filled in : 16</p> <p>Age categories that filled in the questionnaire:</p> <p>12 to 17 = 1</p> <p>18 to 24 = 0</p> <p>25 to 39 = 4</p> <p>40 to 60 = 6</p> <p>60 + = 5</p> <p>The votes for hours that the community would like to have the library open: Wednesday evenings (10) and Thursday evenings (11). Tuesday evening (9), Friday evening (8), Monday evening (7), Sunday and Tuesday afternoon (6 each), Monday Wednesday Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoon (5 each),</p>	

Saturday evening (5), Sunday evening (4), Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday morning (3 each), and finally Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday morning (2 each).

Adult programs (Bookclub, Computer skills, Budget & Financial, and Taxation/Taxes/Benefits) were the most sought after.

Collections that patrons wanted to see more of: adult paperbacks and CD or Audiobooks. The preferred format is still paper or “real” books.

The genres that are most popular are Action, Adventure, Detective, and Mystery. The ones that followed closely were Romance and Science Fiction.

By doing this survey we also learned that we need to do more promotion of our online databases and resources. Some who answered were unaware of the different programs and services, as well. It is always good to reach out to the community and garner input. Without it, we would be developing the wrong programs or services and not be a valuable asset to our community.

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

We used the District of Taylor’s “Taylor Times” newsletter and the local Post Office for distribution, as well as a few local businesses. Electronically, we posted the survey on our social media pages – Facebook and the Taylor Public Library website. (The website is maintained and provided by the BC Libraries Cooperative.)

Project/Program Name

BC Interlibrary Connect and Interlibrary Loans

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

We are part of a community of libraries that provide reading and audio materials for patrons across British Columbia and sometimes to a few libraries across Canada. Our library joined the interlibrary loans programs shortly after we opened in September of 2007. When BC Interlibrary Connect was initiated, we joined immediately.

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

Strategic Plan goals: Goal #1 - *Advancing Access to Information and Resources*; Goal #2 - *Supports for Education Transformation*, Goal #3 *Enhancing Governance and Demonstrating Impact*; and Goal # 4 - *Shared Services and Collaboration* all fit this program. We advance information and education through sharing of our resources and borrowing from partner libraries. It shows to the Community the value of this library and its leadership to maintain the many partnerships involved in this/these programs. We are here to help our community, and this is a valuable way to encourage movement forward.

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)	Through the many partnerships with other libraries and the BC Libraries Cooperative, we have been able to increase access to other resources and materials for our community. We also share what we have and is needed by other libraries, thus keeping other communities connected.
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14. Building Capacity for library staff and directors (e.g., training and professional development)	The ILL and BC ILC services require knowledge on processing requests and knowledge of what is available for our staff and patrons. Continuous webinar updates and educational upgrades are needed as the technology highway changes daily and the information available for patrons and staff grows in capacity.
15. Advancing Citizen Engagement (e.g., helping people access government services/resources, fostering community knowledge-sharing, and supporting reconciliation)	This leans towards the knowledgeable ability of staff to understand the resources and information available for patrons. Staff have the ability to share with the community this wide network of informational resources.
16. Enhancing Governance of the library system (e.g., board/trustee training, developing best practices, strategic planning)	Good leadership knows that having this/these programs within the library advances communities forward. Education and knowledge are valuable assets for any individual looking for job or training improvements. We are a rural community and having this/these programs is a leadership strategy to improve the prospects for our community.
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>Over the course of another COVID year, we did find that our materials loaning stayed on the average of 100 (one hundred) items per month. We also found that our borrowing from other libraries increased over the previous year (noting that in 2020 the library was closed for about four months due to PHO COVID-19 protocols).</p> <p>These are the approximate numbers for our loaning and borrowing of physical materials. Electronic materials would have a different set of statistics.</p> <p>Loaning from our library: 2020 = 594 (five hundred ninety-four); 2021 = 1223 (one thousand two hundred twenty-three)</p> <p>Borrowing from other libraries: 2020 = 145 (one hundred forty-five); 2021 = 264 (two hundred sixty-four)</p> <p>We expect that our loaning and borrowing numbers will increase when COVID Provincial health orders allow for patrons who chose not to wear masks or vaccinations be permitted in the public buildings once more.</p>	
Did the project/program involve any partnerships? If so, what was the partner's role (e.g., funding, outreach, service delivery)?	
<p>This/these programs are partnered with other libraries across BC and Canada. Our ILS system is maintained by the BC Libraries Cooperative and provides the database for BC Interlibrary Connect. The other database is ILLUME which gives our library a secondary source for material loaning and borrowing.</p>	

The funding partners we have are the Provincial government, the Peace River Regional District, the District of Taylor Municipal government, and our North East Library Federation. These organizations provide the monies needed to purchase mail bags and postage for the materials. Another partner that is sometimes forgotten is the Canadian Urban Libraries Council. This organization provides the online shipping tool where shipping labels are created.

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.

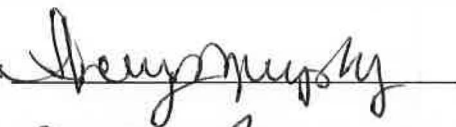
Challenge	Briefly describe how this challenge has impacted the library/community, and what steps the library took to address it in 2021. Please specify if any provincial funding was used, e.g., annual library funding, the technology grant, other non-PLB provincial grants (up to 250 words per topic).
COVID-19 (e.g., safety protocols, proof of vaccination)	<p>COVID-19 safety protocols have limited the number of patrons that want to come to the library, as some did not want to wear a mask or want to use the hand sanitizing. (Some hand sanitizer is possibly harmful to children, expectant mothers, and nursing mothers.)</p> <p>We did not have extra toys out for the kids to play with (our most popular being the Lego) nor kids furniture out. This was done to lessen potential transfer of the virus.</p> <p>Aiding future possible opportunities, the Taylor Fire Department's Deputy Chief trained library staff on how to use the AeroClave sanitization equipment/fogger inside the library.</p> <p>COVID protocols determined the hours that our library was able to operate for business hours. We are hoping that in 2022, we can add more 'open for business' hours and possibly increase the number of staff and staffing hours with that increase.</p>
Emergency response (e.g., fires, floods, extreme weather)	We are fortunate that Emergency response issues did not affect us in 2021.
Financial pressure (e.g., rising costs, reduced revenues)	<p>We had used the Technology grant to upgrade our Wi-Fi system. We found that having a password protected system was not feasible and would hinder those who wanted to use Internet with their own device (very noticeable during the COVID months where the library was closed to patrons) . Making the Wi-Fi system available without having to physically come into the library for a timed password/code removed some of the barriers our patrons had.</p> <p>Our 2021 budget was better than in 2020.</p> <p>In 2021, we increased our commitment to our community even though we kept our COVID operational hours. We focused on a few of our main projects</p>

	and/or programs and added a few more crafting activities that can be done at home or while patrons are travelling. Our minimally increased budget and grants went towards those ideal programs and projects while materials purchasing (physical and electronic) were secondary.
Staffing (e.g., recruitment and retention, mental health and wellness)	<p>We did manage to recruit a new casual staff member in 2021, as our budget allowed for more staff, but that did not mean the casual worked many hours. Approximately 113 hours, mainly to cover when the Library Director AND the part-time staff were away on vacation. The two casuals we lost in 2020 due to COVID financial and/or budget restraints did not return.</p> <p>In 2021, staff did some training in mindfulness courtesy of the ABCPLD team. Training was also done for Arete de-escalation best practices. All sessions were free for our library.</p>
Disappearing services in the community (e.g., government, banking, health)	Some of the amenities within the District did not open due to some staffing shortages or ongoing various PH orders. Efforts were made to open some programming under the guidance of the same PH orders.
Connectivity (e.g., low bandwidth, lack of home internet in the community)	We had upgraded our wireless system to perform better and be password free. We also upgraded our Internet computers and a few of the office computers using the technology grant. Bandwidth, in general, is Shaw Cable – which seems to drop connectivity for residents once in awhile (usually due to cables being dug up between our area and Calgary, as that is where the service comes from). Telus Fibre optic has not reached Taylor, yet. This would give the library a choice between the two services.
Aging/damaged facilities (e.g., need for repairs, renovations, upgrades/expansions)	We continue to live in our library, even though we have outgrown our walls. We are ready and waiting for an opportunity to join with another organization in Taylor who would like to partner with us to construct a “shared” building. We are not sure when this will happen.
Community access to the library (e.g., geographic isolation, lack of local public transit, building accessibility)	<p>The library remained open to the community but with less ‘patron’ hours. Staff used one hour per day to clean or sanitize the library – ½ hr before opening and ½ hour after closing.</p> <p>Curbside pickup remained available to those who preferred to stay within their own bubble and away from the other patrons.</p> <p>With the help of BC Libraries Cooperative and our North East Library Federation, online services were “buffed up” to help fill some gaps of access to online resources and databases.</p>
Vulnerable communities (e.g., people experiencing homelessness, addiction, mental health crisis)	Our library did not have any experiences which included the vulnerable communities during 2021.

<p>Other (please specify)</p> <p>Computer equipment upgrades</p>	<p>Computer equipment seems to need constant upgrades. The faster internet and applications/programs has been an issue with some of our older equipment. We had to replace several towers and monitors this past year. Thankfully we received some of these items from a donation of 'used' equipment from Pembina who were upgrading their office equipment. Normally we would put out a grant request to local companies for funding to upgrade our equipment.</p> <p>We decided it was better to ask for monies for our seed catalogue and garden equipment instead. Food will undoubtedly increase in price over the next few years due to supply issues.</p>
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4. SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL

Electronic signatures are acceptable where physical signatures are not feasible.

Library Director Signature: 

Date: March 9 2022

Board Chair Signature: 

Date: Mar. 9/22