



LIBRARIES BRANCH:
2019 PROVINCIAL LIBRARY GRANTS REPORT

Chetwynd Public Library

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Introduction

What makes your library a community hub?

The Chetwynd Public Library is known as the ‘community hub’ because of the large number and wide variety of services it provides to the citizens of the District of Chetwynd and surrounding area. We have become the gathering space for community connections and resources which enhance our regular library services. Patrons come to the library for a large variety of reasons such as:

- Borrowing books and other resource materials
- Attending workshops
- Attending programs available for them and their families
- Accessing the internet for research purposes
- Printing resumes, immigration forms, employment packages, certificates, and other important documents
- Using the computers for a variety of reasons
- Relaxing, visiting, and enjoying a coffee or lunch from the Library’s Bistro
- Watching their children play and learn in a safe and welcoming environment
- Learning about our current resident pets
- Selecting materials from the resource corner on community events and information on community contacts
- Reading current newspapers and magazines
- Borrowing items from our “Library of Things”
- Contributing to or borrowing from our “Seed Library”
- Attending meetings or courses in our community room
- Providing internet access and services to transient workers who reside in camps
- Providing a safe, comfortable and welcoming space for whatever reason patrons may have to visit the library
- Faxing
- Studying and tutoring

With all the services and activities available at the library and with our extremely friendly and welcoming staff, we have become the community’s living room. At times patrons come into the library just to have that sense of belonging and being connected to other community members. Our library collaborates with many community groups which connects and strengthens our community.

Demographics of our community

Chetwynd is located in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains in northeastern British Columbia. It is the first town eastbound that travellers encounter after emerging from the Rockies along Highway 97 and acts as the gateway to the Peace River area. The 64-square-kilometre municipality consists of the town, a community forest and four exclave properties. Nearby there are four provincial parks, two lakes, and several recreational trails; being surrounded by these trails Chetwynd is known for hiking, hunting, fishing and winter sports – perfect for outdoor enthusiasts. Uniquely beautiful chainsaw carved statues can be found throughout the town site, which is renowned for

its annual international chainsaw carving competition. Chetwynd is among the younger communities in the province of British Columbia. In 1962 Chetwynd became incorporated as a Village. The population of the District of Chetwynd is estimated to be 2503 as of the 2016 census data. This does not include the Regional District unincorporated areas of Saulteau First Nations, West Moberly First Nations, East Pine, Hasler Flats, Lone Prairie and Jackfish. The combined population is estimated to be over 5500. It is home to a Northern Lights College campus. The primary Industries in Chetwynd are forestry, oil, gas, mining, ranching & tourism. There has been an increase in flow-through traffic this year with building underway of the Site C hydro dam, which is approximately 120 km from Chetwynd.

Any industries that are present and influence your area

Chetwynd is an industrial based town:

- two large sawmills
- a pellet plant
- three active local coal mining operations
- oil and gas exploration and processing plants

All of these industries provide employment to many local residents. As with many resource-based communities we have been faced with a “boom and bust” economy. The logging and forestry-based industries seem to keep the community moving forward and help maintain the original population.

Due to the development in the oil and gas industry we currently have several very large camps for workers situated close to the town. These workers utilize the library when not on shift.

The major industries offer high wages and good benefit packages which makes it hard for the small local businesses to recruit and retain employees. Many small businesses have had to recruit workers from overseas. We have large Philippine and East Indian populations; many of these people have become Canadian citizens.

Recreational tourism is an important industry for our area. We have many rivers and lakes nearby for camping and boating and large green space areas for hunting, hiking and exploring in the summer months. Powder King Mountain Resort is 110 km west of Chetwynd. It caters to the many snowmobilers/sledders as well as downhill skiers and snowboarders in the winter months. These areas attract tourists and provide income for local restaurants, hotels, and shops.

Chetwynd has a satellite college campus, but the cost of delivering training in a small community is a challenge. Even though there is a childcare centre located right beside the college, and they offer video conferencing to larger campuses and online courses, they still have encountered some issues with costly courses, low registration, and lack of instructors. Many people choose to leave the community for post-secondary education.

Some challenges that your library and community face

- Chetwynd is located in the heart of a resource-based area and as such we feel the effects from the highs and lows of the oil, gas, coal, and forest industries.
- Since we are a small town and do not have the amenities that larger centres have we encounter problems in attracting professionals such as doctors and nurses. Therefore, it is very important for the library to provide services to the families of such professionals to encourage them to reside in Chetwynd.
- Similar to all communities in BC, Chetwynd has an aging population and as the community hub we must offer services and events to enhance the lives of our seniors and elders.
- Our current building is failing to meet the community's needs. We have outgrown our library space and are looking to expand soon. Lack of adequate space inhibits our ability to offer all the programs and services that the community needs and that we want to provide. In order to continue to provide the services to Chetwynd and area citizens we need additional space.
- Digital access is still a struggle for many residents in the outlying areas. Many areas still do not have cell phone or internet service and those who do pay prohibitive fees.
- There is no public transportation in the town other than a taxi company and the long and cold winters make it difficult for some to travel.

Strategic Plan what your goals are and where you are in the process of achieving those goals.

We have completed year two of our strategic plan which is a vision for our public library service for the community of Chetwynd and surrounding area. With a dedicated and responsive library team, the Chetwynd Public Library strives to deliver high satisfaction by providing the best possible customer service. Our team is personable, knowledgeable, and helpful in accessing services, and are committed to continuous improvement.

Mission

We will nurture the social, cultural and economic success of our community by engaging the community in a spirit of reading, learning, and discovery.


Vision

To empower and inspire a creative and literate community.

2018-2021 Strategic Plan Key Focus Areas

1. Working Together - Community First

The Library merges strategic and responsive approaches to support discovery, creativity, and connections at both the individual and community level. Through effective collaboration, the Library and our partners will help our community thrive. Together, we will nurture the social, cultural and economic success of our community.

- a. Support literacy and lifelong learning through our collections, services, and programs.
- We have a seed library where you can obtain seeds for free and after your plants have grown, harvest the seeds and return some back to the library. This gives many citizens the opportunity to grow their own healthy affordable food. This year we incorporated growing your own food into our children's programs where the children got plant seeds from our seed library and watched their seeds grow into flourishing plants. We are hoping that the community gardens will be ready next year so we can incorporate a sense of community into the programs by utilizing the gardens. Having the free seed library available to everyone brings people into the library who might not normally make use of the library and its services. Those who are new to growing their own food are assisted with researching and learning about the planting, growing, and harvesting process. We encourage them to share their newly learned knowledge with others.
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- b. Empower discovery of emerging technologies and support learning of digital tools & resources
- We have a 3D printer which is used by the community for various projects. We had a trucking company use the printer to create visor clips. They were unable to replace the broken ones, so they used the 3D printer to create their own.
 - All staff are knowledgeable in the use of the public computers and the installed programs. We offer assistance to anyone who requires help with using the computers.
- c. Facilitate community connections to inspire knowledge, creation and creativity.
- The library staff reach out to community groups by attending their meetings and events and assisting and helping the groups reach their goals. One group that we have helped numerous times this last year is the Chetwynd Social Planning Sukunka Group. This group develops and supports initiatives that improve the quality of life in Chetwynd and area. Last year they hosted the '100 People initiative' at the library. The goal is for 100 people to each donate \$100 with the funds going to a group within the community. Local groups submit a proposal which includes a presentation to the donors. The donors vote for the group they feel is most deserving of the funds. This last year the funds went to Windrem Elementary School Pac, who have been fundraising for a much-needed new playground.
- d. Build upon existing and create new partnerships to ensure programs and services meet the needs of our community.
- We have partnered with the Chetwynd Arts Council and run a children's exploring art program Wednesday after school.
 - We partner with our local seniors' facility – Surerus Place – to provide a variety of activities for their residents.
 - We partner with our local First Nations with our 'Library on Location'

2. Spaces to Connect – Spaces to Create

The Library provides engaging, welcoming spaces to support discovery, creativity, and connections. We want to create a comfortable place for citizens to visit by renovating our facilities or building a new library giving us enough space and dedicated areas for the varied needs of our library users (socializing; quiet reading and study; discovery and play;

programs) We will explore creative ways for people to share their stories and learn from each other. We want to connect with our patrons wherever they are – online or in person - in a way that works for them.

- a) Explore opportunities for expanding library spaces to respond to community needs, including outreach services.
 - Advisory Committee meetings, working together with the District of Chetwynd and Peace River Regional District for a potential new library.
- b) Ensure the safety & comfort of all library patrons and employees.
 - Staff will continually use items from the policy manuals and best practices to ensure needs of all patrons are met.
- c) The Library will be a safe, inclusive, and vibrant community space where everyone is welcome to learn, work, connect and have fun.
 - We refreshed our children's area to make it more vibrant and inviting for our youngest patrons.
- d) We will continue to support the Library facility as a community connector, social gathering space and centre of information.
 - Continuing to meet with our stakeholders and community organizations to see how we can be of assistance in helping them meet community goals.
 - Resource Corner – we have an area in our library dedicated to information and material on everything Chetwynd has to offer: information on groups, organizations, businesses, recreational activities, maps and more.

3. Bold Leadership – Sustainable Success

The Library is responsive and accountable to our community and our partners. We want to ensure sustainability of our facilities and services. We will build our library and community's reputation as innovators, creators and game changers. We strive to be the best employer, partner and library.

- a) Ensure core library services are delivered efficiently and effectively
 - Regular meetings, team building and program planning.
- b) Communicate about library services and their value to ensure they are widely understood.
 - Advertising and promotion.
- c) Be inclusive of and accountable to municipal, regional and provincial governments.
 - Reporting as required.
- d) Ensure governance and management practices support the library's goals and objectives.
 - Annually reviewing policies and procedures.
- e) Ensure the library operates in an environmentally sustainable manner in all areas.
 - Recycling.
- f) Ensure the library team is provided with opportunities for lifelong learning. Recognizing that each individual has their own personal strengths and potential, we encourage a culture of leadership and empowerment from and for all team members.
 - Professional development.

In support of the vision set forth by the board, the library staff have an action plan which translates the vision into a solid work plan which can be referred to throughout the year. This document essentially explains why we do what we do and is operationally focused. The way the action plan ties in the key areas of focus in our strategic plan enhances the way that staff and board members better understand our roles in our public library and the symbiotic relationship which exists in the planning and future of our library.

Changes since 2018

Our library is still working on our facility issues with the support of our major funding partners: The Peace River Regional District and the District of Chetwynd. The Library Feasibility project from 2017 gave a clear direction that our time in our current facility is coming to an end. The facility issues that our aging building is facing are simply too great to patch and repair. The building no longer meets the needs of our community and the fixes which must happen do not make financial sense. This issue has brought the partnership to a much stronger place than before. A shared love for the library and the services we offer the community have given all stakeholders a vested interest in coming up with a viable and fiscally responsible solution. It is a great example of what can happen when all partners come to the table as equals and with the community-led philosophy leading the process.

We started 2018 with the concept of attaching the library to the Chetwynd & District Rec Centre, sharing meeting spaces, storage areas, and mechanical operations. It was determined in this study that the current location is ideal and the library is a community hub, but a bigger space is needed, parking is a challenge and more natural light is required. The feedback received from the board, staff and community members was unfavourable in regard to having the new library building attached to the back of the Chetwynd & District Rec Centre. It did not align with the goal of having the library being visible and at the front of the lot.

A Library Advisory Committee was formed which is comprised of the architect, members of the Peace River Regional District and District of Chetwynd staff, elected local officials, the Chetwynd Public Library Board and library staff. The Advisory Committee started to proceed through the steps of obtaining a new library building.

A more favorable site was agreed upon with a standalone building located between the Chetwynd & District Rec Centre Leisure Pool and the Skate Park.

After a few meetings and workshops, images of both the internal and external layout started to come together. The Advisory Committee submitted a proposal in the hopes of obtaining grants for the building of a new library. The committee had hoped to announce the building of a new structure at the end of September 2019; however, at this time we are still waiting to hear if we are the successful recipient of the Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure Grant.

Improving Access

Outcomes	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting our digital library through social media Regular library hours 7 days a week where patrons can visit the library to use the digital resources. Inviting atmosphere where everyone feels welcome to come and use the library and its resources. Librarians always available and willing to assist patrons with our computers, Wi-Fi, digital library etc. Had a computer upgrade in 2019 We have a portable Lulzbot 3D printer that we use on location within local schools. Library resources are available for all Fine-free library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A continuation of building relationships with our patrons. Working with our IT specialist to ensure we are offering the best possible digital services within our constraints of budget and our rural location. We increased our number of public computers and now have an area that our afterschool children utilize for their gaming and learning. Schools are booking the 3D printer for specific class projects.

The Chetwynd Public Library works towards exploring opportunities to provide open and wider access to a core suite of digital resources and provincial digital library initiatives with our diverse digital collection which is available 24/7 to all patrons with a current library card. We empower the discovery of emerging technologies and support learning of digital tools and resources in the library and through our website. We have ensured that the collection is easy to access and meets a wide variety of user needs. Subscriptions to Overdrive/Libby, RB Digital, TumbleBooks, digital encyclopedias and much more all enhance our physical collection. Learning how to access and use these subscriptions is very important and we offer one-on-one support for our patrons as they discover the digital tools their library card can access by helping them access and trouble shoot. We also support digital literacy with our library programming. We simply could not offer the digital literacy services we have without the support of BC Libraries Cooperative and our IT firm ESW IT North. Consortium pricing through the North East Library Federation enables us to subscribe to collections that may otherwise be cost prohibitive. With 3033 people using public access computers we need to be able to offer reliable connections to the internet. Therefore we budgeted for a computer upgrade that took place in 2019. This upgrade was a success, and I think our happiest users are our afterschool students who now have their own area for computer use. We had five

public computers and after the upgrade we now have eight along with a new server. We were having issues with our telephones; each time dialling out we would have to call a number twice. Patrons using the computers would often become frustrated as sites they were trying to access would not open due to the speed of the internet and timing out before a site would open. Along with our computer upgrade, Telus was also able to update and increase our internet speed eliminating both the internet access and telephone issues.

As we are still considered rural, access to Wi-Fi and the internet are essential for our patrons, and we are grateful for the support and funding we receive to help us ensure that our website, digital collection and Internet access run smoothly and effectively. We are constantly looking for ways to work on and keep up with the technological changes.

Developing skills

Outcomes	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the love of reading in preschool and school age children. To make the schools at West Moberly First Nations and Saulneau First Nations reserves feel part of the library and have the members enjoy both coming to the library and our librarian visits to them. Encourage school children to use the library as a resource centre and as a place to come to learn and have fun. Ensure that our staff and board receive training and networking opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our children's programs are always well attended. Our travelling library called "Library on Location" visits the preschools and schools at both reserves at least once a month. Visiting the children at their schools has encouraged them to use the library. Some of them register in our library programs and others attend our library special events. Beyond Hope, TOPS, new directors boot camp, NELF meetings, Decoda Conference.

As lifelong learning aligns with the province's strategic goals, we ensure that our library staff and board of trustees have every opportunity to participate in training and learning opportunities. We were able to send three staff including our new Library Director to the Beyond Hope Conference. Our Library Director also attended the new library boot camp and TOPS orientation. In September our NELF board representative and Library Director joined the other libraries in the NELF federation for a road trip to Fort Nelson where they collaborated in a day of networking and idea sharing. In November both our Library Director and Assistant Library Director took part in the Decoda Conference in Vancouver. By networking with others both federally and provincially we can ensure that our "small town" library is meeting and exceeding the needs of our community as well as meeting the governing guidelines of the Province and the Ministry of Education.

Outcomes	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North East Library Federation (NELF) Interlibrary loans Cooperators and Sitka/Evergreen Digital Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have a very good working relationship with the NELF manager and the other library staff members in the area. We can discuss solutions to problems with staff from other rural libraries. We have met and worked with most of the library directors and with some of the staff from all the other NELF member libraries. Knowing someone makes it easier to approach them for help and advice. Through NELF we are able to purchase supplies at a reduced price NELF assists with obtaining multiple copies of books for local book clubs We are able to obtain interlibrary books from other libraries

Creating opportunities for libraries to work together with the provincial government to identify and achieve mutually beneficial outcomes, through the understanding that libraries provide British Columbians with diverse information, programs and services in their communities is something that we really appreciate at the Chetwynd Public Library. The connection we have with libraries across the province helps us when we are contemplating changes or needing advice. The North East Library Federation (NELF) plays a very important part in this connectivity. NELF assists us with opportunities to combine the strength of the federation for group purchases, educational opportunities and bringing in special events to our remote area. We have been able to participate in author readings within our library, and this last year we had a magician for our Summer Reading Program for very little cost. It allows us to host something that would otherwise be cost and resource prohibitive.

We are grateful for interlibrary loans, and if there is a book one of our patrons is looking for it is wonderful that we can provide excellent customer service to ensure they are able to receive the requested book through interlibrary loans. This service alone collaborates and brings all participating libraries together as a united group. It is wonderful to be a part of such a diverse group that puts the needs of the patron first.

Outcomes	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with our funding partners with the planning of a new library • Supporting fundraisers such as our bi-annual Festival of Trees; planned, organized and put on by our Friends of the Library. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with the Peace River Regional District representatives and the District of Chetwynd councillors regarding the building of a new library. • Raising funds to ensure we financially meet the needs of our community.

We have a very active Friends of the Library (FOL) group. This group meets once a month and assists both patrons and library staff. They perform a lot of mundane jobs for the staff such as doing the laundry, shoveling snow and decorating the library for special events. This frees up the library staff so they can spend more time with patrons. Every second year the FOL host a Festival of Trees. Local businesses donate to the purchase of trees and wreaths, and community groups and schools decorate them. The trees and wreaths are then auctioned off at a special event. The Festival helps keeps local businesses involved in the library's activities and gives local groups and schools the opportunity to give back to the library. The night of the auction brings people into the library who may not have visited the library in a while. Our services and activities are highlighted that evening giving those in attendance an opportunity to learn more about what the library has to offer.



A success story from the Chetwynd Public Library

With our Crazy Beanz Bistro offering healthy breakfasts, lunches and gourmet coffee, our library offers a comfortable and welcoming environment. The Chetwynd Public Library is truly the hub of our community and sometimes known as the community living room due to the friendly and warm atmosphere.

We offer a variety of fantastic programs and are incorporating or trying new things all the time.



We are in our second year of offering Wellness Wednesdays at the library. With our amazing health and fitness instructors that reside in our community we have been able to offer an array of activities for our community such as: meditation classes, reiki, yoga, drumming, pound fitness, art and nutrition. This gives people an opportunity to meet the instructors and try out a class for free. For the instructors it is an opportunity to showcase what they do.

We decided to offer space for a Magic Game night this year. It has been a successful program bringing in a large and consistent group. We even have some fathers and sons attending this intense group of players which is great to see!



We offer annual special events within the library such as the baby welcoming party where we get to welcome all the new babies born into our community. Our library participates in the baby bag program gifting all the new babies a book, toy, registration form for a library card, and we are very proud to offer the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

Hosting an annual amazing book challenge brings classroom visits into our library. We set up scavenger hunts and various stations within the library so the students and teachers are able to see all the library has to offer. On many occasions staff overhear students say, "this is the best day ever!"



We are continually enhancing our children's programs and are very proud of our alphaBITES program where we offer a healthy snack or meal to all our library program participants. We are ecstatic to be able to provide healthy snacks for children that nourish their growing bodies and to give their caregivers an opportunity to learn along with their child about the importance of nutrition and the lifetime bonus of a stronger, healthier and more positive mind and body. Providing snacks also incorporates a social atmosphere for the children where they learn how to socialize and share with one another.

We added “grow your own food” to the program this year where the children planted seeds from our seed library: peas, beans, squash and marigolds (to keep the deer from eating their vegetables). We let the children transplant their vegetables into large pots for them to take home and care for until they are ready to harvest. We are hoping that the community gardens will be ready this coming year. Giving the children a place to transplant their vegetables will encourage a sense of community. It will be wonderful to have families utilize the gardens.

We added a Cooks and Books program for our children in grades 4 to 7. This program gave our older children the opportunity to learn how to prepare and cook their own healthy food. The children enjoyed the cooking days so much that it was sometimes hard to motivate them on the “Books” days.

<p>Testimony 1.</p> <p>I like cooks and Books because it is fun, I get to learn how to cook because cooking is a good life skill I also like cooks and Books because we get to make stuff and then eat in cooks and Books we don't just cook we also make recipes. we also made recipe Books.</p>	
<p>Signature <u>Jaglee</u></p>	<p>Date <u>15/08/2019</u> (DD/MM/YYYY)</p>



<p>Testimony 2.</p> <p>We really enjoyed the Lunch n Tales program at the Chetwynd Public Library. Our boys love books and crafts, and the program is put on by an energetic, loving “teacher”. The opportunity of a healthy snack during the program is great! It introduces foods my kids may not have tried, allows them a different way to interact with the kids in the group, and takes one thing off my list as a mother of things to bring! The thoughtful way this program is put together and presented makes it a valuable resource and experience for both the children and the parents.</p>	
<p>Signature <u>M. Wiley</u></p>	<p>Date <u>13/08/2019</u> (DD/MM/YYYY)</p>



When we are not enhancing our programs inside the library, we are taking our programs out to explore the community in which we live. We created an Adventure Friday group where the children and their caregiver meet with our Children's Program Coordinator at a different location around the community each week. These locations vary.

Our program participants have been seen:

- having a story time and picnic at one of our playground parks
- exploring one of the local trails
- bundled up and skating on the outdoor rink
- swimming or enjoying the indoor play area at the rec centre
- on camera in a police cell or behind the bars of a police car
- being lifted on a stretcher into an ambulance
- with a fire hat on and in the front seat of a fire truck ready to go
- making their debut and hearing their voices on the local radio station
- visiting the local seniors for a morning of snacks, games and storytelling



Our library advocates physical literacy, and to get people out and about and active we created a "Where's Winnie?" scavenger hunt. There were posters set up at all the parks in our community, and children had to visit all the parks in order to complete the scavenger hunt. By families visiting all the playgrounds and parks we successfully promoted active play, which is so important to the growth and development of a child. We had a wrap-up party where the children got to meet Winnie, and Winnie became our new paws for stories dog. During our i-read program the kids take turns reading to Winnie. We have found that when a child reads to Winnie they are super excited, and their reading skills quickly improve.

This leads me to what makes our library truly unique, our library on location. We take our library services out of the building to where the people are in a variety of ways. This could simply mean a librarian visit to one of the schools, collaborating with community groups, planning and hosting a variety of community events, or simply setting up our outdoor tent with books, games, activities and fun to enhance one. We are very passionate about being active and involved in our community.

Last year, through our library on location program, we became active in all the Chetwynd schools, preschools and daycares including Saulteau First Nations, West Moberly First Nations, Strong Start, Peace Christian School and our Chetwynd Secondary High School. Our Librarian or Children's Program Coordinator will visit a school to exchange books and they sometimes add a story, game, or craft. Our Librarian started visiting the High School last year where she worked on journaling with the students, and this year she is speaking with some of the students about body image. We support our schools in promoting the importance of education, literacy, creativity and imagination any way we can. We are also judges for their science fairs. This is an exciting time for the students to showcase their experiments, let us know if their hypotheses were right, and tell us what they learned and if they enjoyed their projects. We get to interact with many creative and imaginative students!



In partnership with the Chetwynd Arts Council we have hosted the Children's Art Gala. This is a busy and exciting event where children in grades seven and younger get to showcase their artwork to the community. This is an opportunity for the children to sell their art as well. The event is organized through our Resource Corner Coordinator, who handles the distribution of submission forms and the drop off for the student's artwork. Staff and Chetwynd Arts Council volunteers work together to create a fun environment for an evening of art.



Another annual event that we plan and facilitate is the Annual Community Yard Sale, where the residents in the area have an opportunity to come together for one large garage sale. It is a fun community event!

Our Annual Seniors Community Christmas Dinner organized by the library staff and the Young@Heart

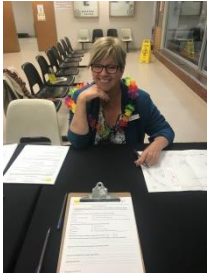


committee has come to be a much-loved tradition in Chetwynd by our seniors and elders. A bus brings our elders in from both West Moberly First Nations and Saulteau First Nations. Our goal is to continue this wonderful event where our seniors can come together and enjoy and celebrate the holiday season. For many of them this will be their only Christmas event with a turkey dinner and all the trimmings. We strive to create an inclusive event which is welcoming to all our seniors doing everything possible to make it as memorable as possible: a day full of joy, laughter and holiday spirit. This community event also includes blessings, student volunteers, songs, stories, games and Santa. Being part of social engagements, especially when doing something fun, helps keep a healthy mental state and is important in maintaining emotional health. For all seniors, especially those that have lost a spouse or close friend this Christmas dinner greatly benefits them by giving them an opportunity to engage with others, cultivate friendships, create lasting bonds through doing something meaningful together and giving them a sense of community.



Our library staff have facilitated two successful Bursting with Brilliance Conferences for the women in our community and are busy planning a third. We received great reviews about this conference, and everyone who attended the last is looking forward to the next one. This conference is about women empowering women with keynote speakers and breakout sessions with comedy, and covers topics like self-defence, meditation, self-care, art and inspirational stories to name a few.





We advocate for health and wellness for all age groups and have been present and helped out with both the Chetwynd and Saulteu First Nations Health Blitz's. At both health blitzes care givers establish access to early childhood health providers, educators and community service providers. It is a great place for families to come out and see what resources and support are available to them in the community.



We not only celebrate health and wellness, but we also celebrate all of our community members and their ethnicity and background. We celebrate multiculturalism day at the Rotary Soccer Fields, set up a story book tent for Aboriginal day at Saulteu First Nations and participate in the Canada Day parade and provide activates in the park.



We set up our library on location when the Peace River Regional District held their Park Promotion for Sundance Lake. This was to promote the small fishing lake approximately 15 km east of Chetwynd. With an outdoors theme we took out nature books, set up nature crafts and put together a nature scavenger hunt. We were asked to participate in the Conuma Coals family day celebration where we had a lot of fun playing games and painting faces. We were seen again out in the community at Harvest Fest, this time taking on the challenge of doing crazy hair.



It is evident that our community sees us not only as a building with books and computers, but they also see us as active community members who are very passionate about our community and all that we do. We do not just say that our library is a place without walls. Our actions speak loudly when we grasp every opportunity to take the library out to the community. Our Resource Corner Coordinator switches out books at our local businesses that have waiting rooms. We promote a literate community. We have large Philipino, East Indian and First Nations communities and we celebrate everyone's backgrounds and ethnicity. Everyone is equal and included. We support health and wellness and physical literacy. We celebrated our Summer Reading Wrap-up party at Saulteau First Nations Fire Lake. It was a beautiful location, beautiful day and a beautiful way to keep our culture growing and healthy. We believe in taking our library to where the people are and enjoying every aspect of a fun, healthy, creative, and literate community.

