

LILLOOET AREA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION 2019 PROVINCIAL LIBRARIES BRANCH REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The Lillooet Area Library Association provides library services to residents of the District of Lillooet, Squamish Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) Areas A and B, and the six Northern St'át'imc communities T'it'q'et, Tsal'alh, Se'k'elwas, Xwisten, Xaxli'p and Ts'k'way'laxw.

We operate three branches in Lillooet, Gold Bridge and Shalalth (Tsal'alh) at the Bridge River Power Site. We also provide outreach services to communities without a branch.

The Lillooet branch is part of a community hub in the Recreation, Education and Cultural (REC) Centre. The Gold Bridge branch is housed with the post office, next door to the school, and helps form the town centre. The Bridge River branch in Tsal'alh is central to the newly developed BC Hydro housing complex, but much of the local population is spread out over a large area with multiple community sites.

The town of Lillooet is the service centre for a very rugged, remote, mountainous rural area. The population of the town itself was 2275 in 2016. There are 1757 people living in scattered communities and isolated homesteads throughout the 7,474 square kilometer region that surrounds Lillooet.

This is St'át'imc Territory. The St'át'imc people compose approximately 50% of the population. The Lillooet Tribal Council, St'át'imc Government Services and the Band Councils of the six communities are important local government bodies. LALA works with diverse St'át'imc organizations to offer relevant, innovative programming. We daily serve the self-identified needs of St'át'imc patrons.

In the summer of 2019 the LALA Board began a new Strategic Planning process. A local consultant was hired, and initial discussions, investigations and community surveys were completed. In the autumn, due to a large turnover in staff and contractors, the Library Director requested that the process be delayed. The public consultation feedback is very positive, the overall tone being: "keep doing what you are doing" and the highest priority in surveys was "continue growing relations with St'át'imc communities". The board had already decided to retain our vision and mission, and to streamline our strategic priorities. Since winter travel within our service area can be uncertain and dangerous, we decided to hold our final consultations in the spring of 2020 when board and staff members from all three branches can safely and dependably gather in Lillooet. This gives us time to prepare for a thorough strategic planning process when new staff members have settled into positions and our team as a whole is ready to act on new ideas and initiatives.

LALA STRATEGIC GOALS AND OUTCOMES IN RELATION TO PROVINCIAL PRIORITIES

Provincial Priority 1. Improving Access

LALA Goals that support the priority:

We will provide even more inclusive, free, friendly, flexible, accessible, safe, open and comfortable space for all community members and tourists.

Action: *Make Bridge River Library accessible for community members and tourists*

2019: *Provide the Summer Reading Club at the Bridge River Branch*

This is the first time a summer children's program has ever been offered in this branch, and the wider community has not had any summer children's programming for many years. LALA staff met with Youth Programming staff at the Tsal'alh First Nation to discuss ideas and receive some direction on how and when to offer our Summer Reading Club. The Friends of the Bridge River Library provided financial support. The Bridge River Library staff a six-week program, with one session every Tuesday from 10am to 12:30pm. Nine local children attended. The feedback was tremendous, parents and guardians were all delighted to have an educational, free program in their community. The children had great fun, which

they expressed regularly to the staff. Since the program family attendance at the Library has increased with seven local children registering new library cards.

Action: *Reconfigure or build at Lillooet Branch for a quiet study space, effective storeroom etc.*

Renovations were completed on the multipurpose room at the Lillooet Branch. Many programming options have opened up and been implemented. We had two author readings; Don Dickinson filled the house with 42 people when he read from his newest novel “Rag and Bone Man”, and Matt Legge shared his work on “Are We Done Fighting Yet?” with 11 interested guests. Visiting day care and school groups enjoyed the cozy corner for 12 story-time sessions, serving 108 children. The Community Adult Literacy program held 514 one on one tutoring sessions. We hosted two community climate action meetings that were attended by 22 people. The room is transformed into our MakerSpace on Tuesday afternoons. The Volunteer Connect drop-ins have all been held in this new space, providing a location for non-profits to learn and explore together.

Provincial Priority 2. Developing Skills

LALA Goals that support the priority:

We will be a centre for access to new information technology.

Action:

2019: *Determine hardware, software and space requirements for a creative or ‘makerspace’.*

Our first MakerSpace events were held, starting with traditional skills. We decided to start “soft” with skills and equipment that were readily available. The format was a youth and family session from 3:30 to 5:00 and then an adult session in the evening, one day a week. A total of 9 Youth/Family sessions were held with 70 participants. For the 9 adult sessions there were 66 in attendance. During October there was art mail, November saw the room turn into a huge sewing circle, and in December people gathered to learn knitting and crochet. The young people who participated had the chance to learn with craftspeople who had years of experience. It was wonderful to see how happy the elders were to share their skills and knowledge and how much the young people enjoyed learning in this informal setting. We were inspired to have nine community volunteers come out to share. Bringing people together has sparked new initiatives. The sewing group plans to gather in 2020 to sew “boomerang bags” from recycled cloth. They will be distributed through the Library and local businesses to replace single use plastics. At the end of 2019 we purchased Sphero Bolts and began planning for the February robotics program.

Provincial Priority 3. Collaborating on shared goals

LALA Goals that support the priority:

We will enjoy a renewed/-enhanced relationship with St’át’imc Communities.

Action: *Partner with local agencies to improve outreach programs.*

LALA continued supporting the Community Adult Learning Centre (CALC). Leadership for this project is by the Lillooet Tribal Council, LALA Director sits on the advisory committee. The CALC Committee provides leadership and advisory support on community needs. The committee consists of members from Lillooet Tribal Council, Sekw’el’was, Ts’k’way’laxw, Xaxli’p, Xwisten, T’it’q’et, Tsal’alh, Aboriginal Skills Employment and Training Strategy, WorkBC, Thompson Rivers University, St’át’imc Government Services, Lillooet Friendship Centre, and the St’át’imc Education Authority. The committee meets on a quarterly basis or more often if needed.

In 2019, 53 adult students were registered with the CALC. 22 people have continued their studies, and 20 students graduated with an Adult Dogwood. The program provided 439 direct one on one tutoring sessions for it’s students.

In the autumn of 2019 we cooperated with LTC staff on grant writing efforts to provide funding to deliver a program that will address the legacy of residential schools and the disenfranchisement with traditional educational institutions which is still affecting St'át'imc community members. If successful, this program will provide a range of programs available to both St'át'imc and non-St'át'imc patrons.

As stewards of the Community Adult Literacy Program (CALP) we partner with Thompson Rivers University and the Ministry of Advanced Education to provide basic literacy training for adults. Our clients include people who have multiple barriers such as cognitive and physical disabilities, mental health issues, and trauma that keep them from formal learning opportunities. We help clients connect with other services in order to find solutions to the barriers they face. The Lillooet CALP is the only English as an Additional Language program in our region. We serve a diverse group of new Canadians, helping them learn English and connect with other services and social opportunities. An increasing demographic who utilize the CALP are retired adults seeking to learn new skills in order to fully take part in an increasingly digital society.

The CALP works almost exclusively one on one with clients. Outcomes for these individuals can be transformative. In 2019 we began working with a client whose first need was help filling out some forms. Nine months later they are advocating for us to start a book club for adults who struggle with reading, which we are confident we can deliver. This is the power of Libraries to meet the needs of our patrons.

Provincial Priority 4. *Enhancing governance*

LALA Goals that support the priority:

We will increase effective services and programming and eliminate waste.

Action: *Reallocate resources to most effective and desired services and programs.*

LALA has been the steward of the Decoda Literacy Outreach Coordinator (LOC) funding since 2010. In 2018, through the work of the LOC, LALA embarked on a public engagement process aimed at addressing the challenges facing the local non-profit sector. LALA is one of the biggest and most sustainable non-profit organizations in our region. Local non-profits provide a wide array of services from essential community justice and safety, to sports, to the arts. Our communities are vibrant, welcoming, safe places to live because of these efforts. All of these groups face similar challenges; funding pots get smaller, volunteers age and burn out, and people have less time to devote to volunteerism. A detailed public process involving most members of the non-profit sector met in late 2018 for our first "At The Table" gathering. The process generated several goals, including the creation of a "Community Coordinator". LALA worked with the Lillooet Chamber of Commerce, the Lillooet Invasive Species Society to fundraise for the position. A person was hired in mid-2019 and has fulfilled the goals outlined in the first public "At The Table" gathering. Please see the attached info-graphic for details of the amazing things accomplished in 2019. This work benefits LALA, and the local community as a whole.

Summary

The funding provided to the Lillooet Area Library Association from the Ministry of Education Libraries Branch represents 11.2% of our total 2019 budget. It may appear to be a small part of the whole, but it is a crucial one. We can count on this funding. Provincial literacy grants are \$15,839 that form the backbone which enables us to support and steward innovative literacy and community development programming. We have the infrastructure, oversight and expertise to share with our communities and help us all improve our internal capacity and increase our impact. The fact that we have a stable provincial funding enables us to continue this important work.



Lillooet Volunteer CONNECT Annual Report 2019



Lillooet Area Library Association
currently umbrellas the program
<https://lillooet.bc.libraries.coop/>

SINCE ITS LAUNCH:

50+ DROP-INS

Supports to non-profits with
promotion, event calendar,
planning, funding, and
partnership development



CONVERSATIONS 5



Community Conversations
with Service Clubs, Youth
Groups, Fall Fair folks,
SWIMS, At The Table; plus
meetings with many groups

PARTNERSHIPS 3



Facilitated partnerships
between organizations:
Youth Interact, Plaid
Friday, Fall Fair

4 SOFTWARE TOOLS

LACE Event Calendar
Volunteer NOW
Grant Advance
Volunteer Directory



5 EDUCATION TOOLS

Mini-Lunch Time Training
7 Keys to Vol Recruitment
Grant Advance Training
Support with Grant Research
Resource Links



PROMOTIONAL TOOLS 7



Facebook X 3
Email Newsletter
Lillooet News Spotlights
Web Spotlights
My Giving Story

NETWORKING LOTS



Kamloops Volunteer Centre
Whistler Foundation
Volunteer Vancouver
Volunteer Canada
Ashcroft HUB

LOTS RESEARCH

Funding, Training programs,
effective meetings, dialogue
systems, all things non-profit!



WORKING TOGETHER MAKES US STRONGER

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Lillooet Volunteer CONNECT Annual Report 2019



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SINCE ITS LAUNCH:

7 FUNDERS

SLRD Area B,
100 People Who Care,
United Way, BCICF, CPRG,
Libraries Cooperative,
Volunteer Canada



Nonprofits
want funders to know

FUNDRAISING 6



Lillooet Community Fund
Giving Tuesday
100 People Who Care Promo
Grant Writing

RECRUITMENT DAYS 5



Registration Day
LSS Volunteer Fair
Plaid Friday
Farmers Market X 2

3XWEEK SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Volunteer Connect Facebook
LACE Facebook Page
Lillooet Community Events
Facebook Group



8 BOARD MEETS

Attendance of Board
Meetings of various
organizations, including
Chamber, SWIMS, Lillooet
Rowing, Rotary



WEBINARS 10



Charity How To X 4
Co-Operatives X 2
Social Enterprise
Grant Info Sessions X 3

NETWORKING LOTS



Meetings with many
organizations and
individuals at their own
locations and in town

1 CONFERENCE

Attended VolunteerBC
Symposium - made good
connections and learned more
about Volunteer Centers



WORKING TOGETHER MAKES US STRONGER

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