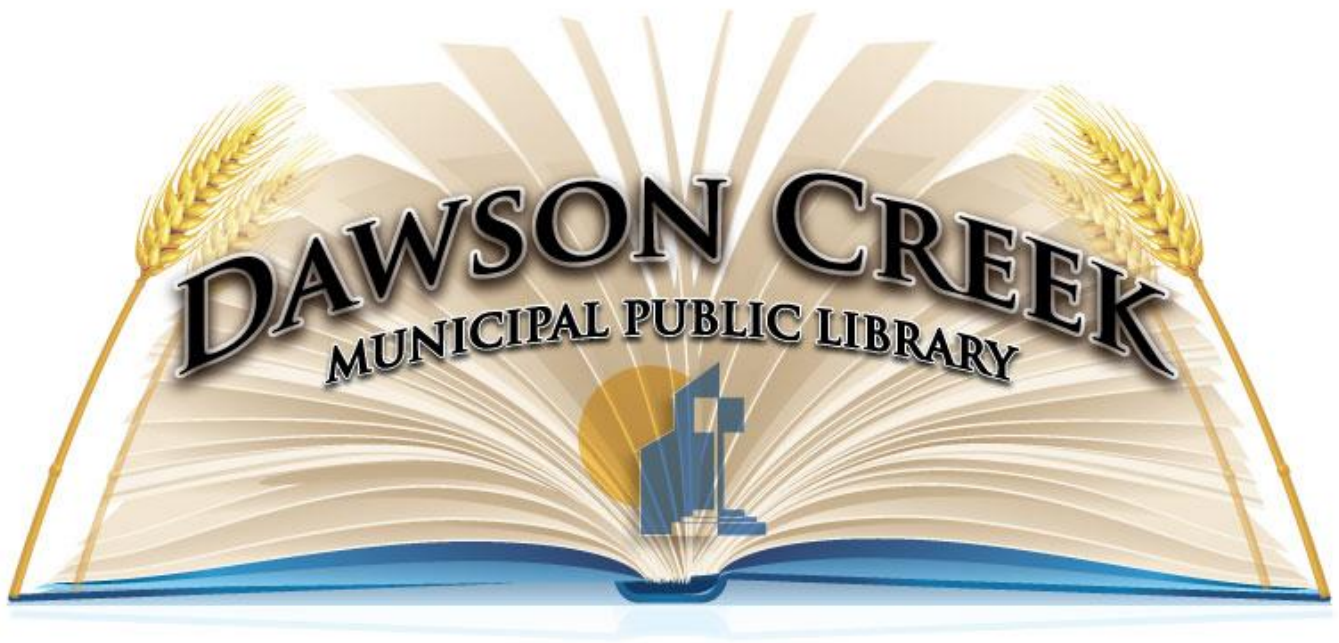


2019 | By: Pamela Morris, Library Manager



Provincial Library Grants Report

Dawson Creek Municipal Public Library



Who we are...

The Dawson Creek Public Library is located in northeast BC a few minutes from the Alberta border. We are a city of about 12,000 people with oil and gas, farming, forestry and tourism being our biggest industries. We are located at Mile Zero of the Alaska Highway. Our population is made up of pioneer families and newcomers to the area, and to Canada. They come here for work and stay because we are a great place to raise families, earn an income and enjoy all that small town life has to offer – including our library. Funding from the provincial government helps our library meet its number one strategic goal – enhancing the community via learning and leisure. Every year the library board and staff look at ways to meet that goal while improving access to library services and collaborating with other groups in our community with similar objectives. We look at ways to offer learning experiences and entertainment for everyone from children to seniors. Our library aims to connect people and resources with free and accessible services for all. The Dawson Creek Municipal Public Library has attempted to address the goals of the provincial strategies in the following ways.

Improving access through outreach programs...

New Community Outreach Program

In 2019, one of our main objectives was increasing the library's presence in the community by leaving the walls of the physical library and bringing our services to the public wherever we could find them. We sent staff to a variety of events in the community armed with a newly purchased laptop, pop-up tent, button-maker, library cards, and books and materials from our collection. We hoped to register new patrons and share information about our collection, programming and services at the library. Some of the events library staff attended included the Multicultural Fusion Festival, Community Services Park and Play, Pioneer Village Opening Day Celebration, and the In Unity Mental Health Awareness Day.

Outcomes

- The library is introducing services to people from a variety of backgrounds who may never have stepped foot inside the library before.
- Books and other items from the library collection were accessible to those people on the spot.

Outputs

- The library registered new patrons at each event and location.
- Several inactive patrons were reminded why they should return to the library and reactivated their library cards.

- Books and materials were borrowed outside the library walls.
- Parents were introduced to children's programming available at the library for free.
- Purchase of the laptop will allow staff to continue to take the library with them to community events in the years to come.

Home Deliveries

The library offers book and audiobook deliveries for seniors and the homebound on a monthly basis. These patrons are unable to travel to the library so we bring their books to them.

Outcomes

- Patrons are able to continue their love of reading despite their mobility issues.
- Patrons with limited eyesight are provided with audio books and large print books.
- Patrons enjoy the human contact when our staff visits to deliver their materials. Often they invite our staff member to stay for coffee and have a social visit.

Outputs

- Currently, nine patrons have books and audiobooks delivered to them in their homes each month. This provides much-needed entertainment for people who spend time somewhat isolated in their homes.
- Approximately 120 books and audiobooks from our collection are loaned to patrons each month.
- The library continues to expand its audiobook and large print collection to meet the needs of our home delivery patrons. This results in a better collection for all library patrons.

Collaborating on shared goals...

Dolly Parton Imagination Library

The Dawson Creek Public Library joined forces with the Dawson Creek Sunrise Rotary Club to deliver free books each month to children up to age five. In 2019 we continued to be a registration hub for families as well as promote the program in the community. The aim of the library is to improve child literacy.

Outcomes

- To date, about 500 children have registered for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Registration is ongoing.
- The DPIL provides a free age-appropriate book each month to each child registered until they reach the age of five. The purpose of the program is to introduce books to children and improve early literacy.
- Positive parent and child feedback to the program. Children demonstrate excitement at receiving their books each month.

Outputs

- The library is a registration hub for the Imagination Library.
- DCPL helped publicize the program with the Rotary Club by taking part in media interviews and sharing information about the Imagination Library with parents in our children's programs

Building Learning Together

The Library is a contributing partner in the Building Learning Together Society in Dawson Creek. The society's focus is on early childhood education and providing programming to families in our community. Other partners include School District 59, Child Care Resource and Referral, South Peace Community Resource Society, and Strong Start. In 2019,

DCPL continued to meet once a month with its partners and took part in an Early Years Pop Up Event and a Baby Welcome Party.

Outcomes

- Introducing the library to parents and children in our community.
- Increasing awareness of children's programming at the library.
- Meeting families where they are, outside of the library's walls.

Outputs

- The library provided 50 age-appropriate books to distribute to babies at the Baby Welcome Party.
- Increased attendance at the library's Babies and Books and Toddler Time programs.

Mental Health Awareness

In October 2019, the library attended the first 'In Unity Mental Health Awareness Day' in our community. DCPL staff organized a display of books and materials around the topic of mental health. We also offered those who attended the opportunity to register for library cards and borrow the books on the spot. Many of the attendees had never been to the library and were surprised by the resources available to them, for free, at the library.

Outcomes

- We hoped to share the library's mental health collection of books and materials.
- Promote the library as a safe place for those with mental health issues.
- Promote mental health awareness in general.

Outputs

- Eight new patrons were registered at the In Unity event.
- Several books were loaned on the spot.
- The library was part of the discussion around destigmatizing mental illness/health.

Enhancing the community via learning and leisure...

Just One More Chapter Book Club

In 2019, the DCPL created the Just One More Chapter Book Club for its patrons. The club meets once a month to discuss a book chosen by a member.

Outcomes

- The bookclub is a fun way to encourage its members to step outside their reading comfort zone.
- Discussions about the books are thoughtful and enthusiastic.
- Patrons have formed a community of readers and created new friendships.
- The library uses the interlibrary loan service to provide the books to its members – eliminating the barrier of joining because they would have to buy each book.

Outputs

- There are currently 15 members of the book club who meet regularly.

- Twelve books are read throughout the year by each member – increasing literacy.
- The interlibrary loan system use has increased by about 14 books per month.
- The library collection has expanded to include some of the books chosen by the bookclub.

2019 Reading Challenge

In January, the library created the “2019 Reading Challenge” to encourage our adult patrons to set a reading goal for 2019. They were given a reading tracker to record the number of books they hoped to read by the end of 2019 and also the title of each book they read. They were given a challenge to read certain genres/types of books and record those books. An evening social was held at the end of the year to celebrate their reading achievements.

Outcomes

- Reading trackers were given out to our patrons in January (they were also available throughout the year for late starters) to track their reading. This was designed to make patrons more conscious of the books they were reading and encouraged them to read more.
- Reading as a leisure activity was promoted.
- Patrons were challenged to read books in the collection that they might not normally read.

Outputs

- Increase in book borrowing.
- Approximately 150 patrons took part in the challenge
- Twenty people attended the end-of-year social where prizes were given out for completing their challenge. Attendees and staff discussed favorite books of the year, least favorite books, etc.
- 2020 Reading Challenge trackers were given out at the social to continue the program.

Noon Year's Eve

On December 31, 2019, the library held its first family Noon Year's Eve party. The event was created for children and their parents/caregivers to celebrate the new year. The celebration included crafts, scavenger hunts, refreshments, photobooths and an exciting 'balldrop' at 12 noon.

Outcomes

- To provide entertainment for families on a day where there are few activities in our community.
- Encourage library use and patron borrowing during the event.
- Scavenger hunt tested patron's library knowledge and encouraged use of online catalogue etc.

Outputs

- 120 children plus their parents/caregivers attended the celebration.
- Daycare attended with 15 children.
- Event attracted families who had not used the library before.
- Feedback was extremely positive from everyone. Parents were excited to bring their children again in 2020.

Children's Programming and the Summer Reading Club

The Dawson Creek Public Library offers several children's programs throughout the year including Babies and Books, Toddler Tales, Preschool Storytime and Afterschool Kidz. These are offered in eight-week sessions in the fall and

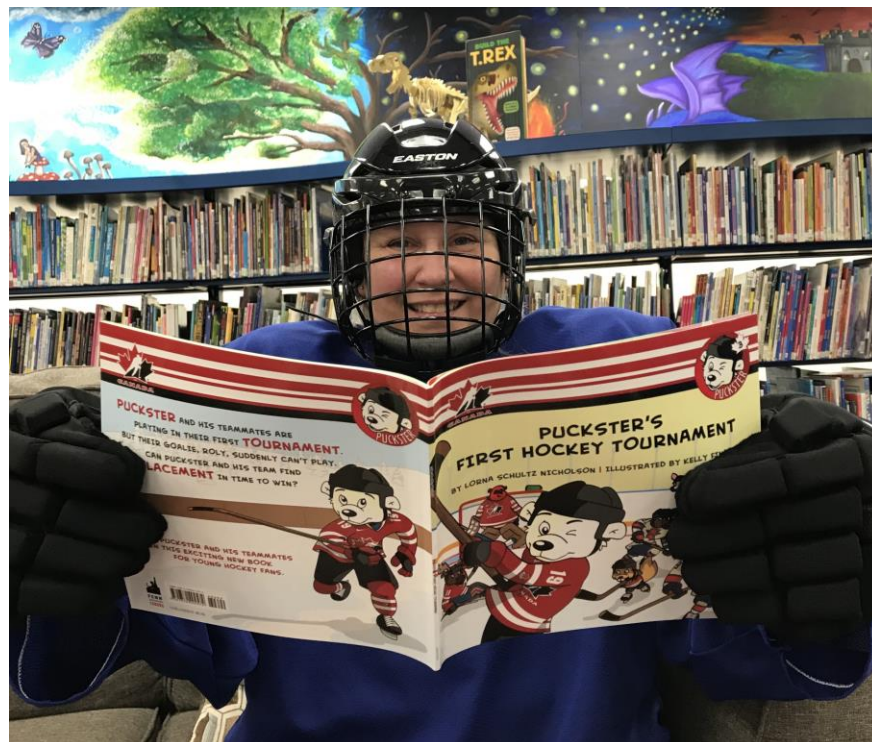
spring. Our Summer Reading Club encourages children to read during the summer months while they are on vacation from school.

Outcomes

- All programs are meant to encourage and improve early literacy skills in children of all backgrounds and ages.
- Increase library use by children and families.
- Increase borrowing of the children's collection.
- Free programming for all children in our community.
- Encourage life-long reading by introducing children to the library early in life with the hope they become life-long users.

Outputs

- Eighty children participate in Babies and Books, Toddler Tales, Preschool Storytime and Afterschool Kids each week when the sessions are offered.
- 600 children registered for the Summer Reading Club in 2019.
- Several special event days are held every summer as part of the SRC. In 2019 the library hosted a family barbecue, a magician performance, picnic and storytime on the lawn, mad scientist day, superhero day, lego day and a windup pizza lunch.
- Children kept a journal to keep track of their reading throughout the summer.
- Incentive prizes are awarded to children throughout the summer.
- Thousands of children's books are loaned throughout the summer.
- New young patrons (and often their parents) are registered for library cards every summer.



Meeting our community's needs...

This report is a glimpse of what we believe to be vital programming and services the Dawson Creek Public Library provides to our community.

We have a collection of just under 70,000 physical books and other materials. Our patrons also have access to 88,400 ebooks and e-audionbooks through DCPL. Our patrons can interlibrary loan books we don't have in our collection and we loan books to other libraries patrons.

Everyday we provide free internet access at six public internet computers, free wifi, scanning and copying services, and exam invigilation services for our patrons. Users access job search sites, write and print resumes, apply for jobs, access citizenship and immigration forms, government forms, legal forms, and online work training. Our computers are used one evening a week by people in a residential addictions treatment centre to contact family and friends while they are in treatment. Sometimes the computers are used to check in with friends on Facebooks.

Our space is used by people to study, work, read to their children and is sometimes just a warm place on a cold day for people in our community who have nowhere else to go.

This year has been a challenging year – our city council voted to reduce the library's budget by nearly \$60,000 as part of its long-term plan to reduce city operational costs. This had a significant impact on the library. It meant a reduction in staff and Sunday closures among other cuts. We continue to do our best to offer quality programming and services to our community with the resources we are provided and work toward increasing our own fundraising efforts. Provincial government funding helps provide stable funding for our services.

