



INTRODUCTION

The Mackenzie Public Library serves a population of about 3500 people, including the McLeod Lake Indian Band and the District of Mackenzie. Housed in the District of Mackenzie Recreation Centre, we are in the hub of the community, located across the street from the Mackenzie Mall, the high school, and gas station. We are one of the many essential stops for townspeople as they go about their day.

The following report gives an account of the successes of the Mackenzie Public Library in improving access for patrons, developing skills in our users, collaborating on shared goals within the community, and enhancing our own governance model. These successes would not be possible without the tremendous support we receive from the District of Mackenzie and the Mackenzie Recreation Centre which houses us.

LIBRARY PRIORITY 1

Improving access

Improving electronic access was a priority for our library in 2019. We were able to fundraise money to replace all our public computers. We purchased six brand-new adult computer stations and they were set-up in their own Adult Computer Area. Previously, we only had one computer area for all ages. Now we have a Game Zone for youth with refurbished laptops and a Nintendo Switch that is separate. Both areas are seeing excellent usage and are enjoyed by patrons, as those in the Game Zone can have their fun without disturbing those who would prefer to focus. Funding to replace staff computers in 2020 was also approved.

The library continues to provide access to e-books and audiobooks to our patrons. These formats are wonderful for equalizing access because any e-book has the potential to be a large print book, so we are not limited by what is in our physical large print collection. Audiobooks are great for those with print disabilities or who prefer to read along to the dictation.

LIBRARY PRIORITY 2

Developing skills

At MPL, we believe in developing skills and knowledge from a young age. Our Assistant Librarian is very dedicated to children's programs, from baby-time to storytimes for older kids. She also participates in community programs for children under five, representing the library and contributing to children's lives.

The inclusion of our two online course modules, Gale and Pronunciator also contribute to developing skills and knowledge for adults. Gale offers courses and certificates on countless subjects, from improving skillsets in areas such as accounting and finance to writing and publishing. Pronunciator is an

interactive tool for learning new languages that has been very helpful for our patrons who have gone travelling.

In 2019, we also launched a new program for adults called Club Français. This is a weekly program that focuses on conversational French and caters to all levels. Each week attendees are introduced to vocabulary on a particular subject, such as travel, the grocery store, a restaurant, etc. and complete a writing and listening exercise. There is also lots of informal chatting as regular attendees build their vocabulary. We also expanded our French collection this year from only Easy level materials to Easy, Junior, Teen, and Adult materials and created a separate showcased section for them. Part of our strategic plan is to increase opportunities for adult learning, so we are very excited by the success of this program.

LIBRARY PRIORITY 3

Collaborating on shared goals

In 2019, the Mackenzie Public Library worked with many community partners to host two large fundraisers that are looked forward to each year by residents. In February, we hosted the third annual book slam event at the library. This event provided a night on the town within the cozy atmosphere of the library. Secondly, in May we hosted our fifth annual Touch-A-Truck event for families. For both of these events, we relied on corporate sponsorships from almost every business in town. Some businesses chose to make cash sponsorships, while many businesses donated an item for the silent auctions at each of these events. Our two flagship fundraisers are heavily supported by community groups and businesses and would not be possible without them.

LIBRARY PRIORITY 4

Enhancing governance

We were very fortunate in 2019 to have many opportunities for professional development for our Board members and Library Director on the topic of enhancing governance. Our newest Board member as well as our Library Director were able to attend the Trustee Orientation Program hosted by BCLTA. Most of our Trustees have attended the training at some time during their service. Our Director was also able to attend many workshops between BCLA, Beyond Hope, and ABCLD conferences and meetings on the topic of governance. The collective knowledge gained from these opportunities was shared at Board meetings. We feel that our governance model is strong and that the Board and the Library Director work well together to propel the best interests of the Library.

SUMMARY

2019 was a year of growth for the Mackenzie Public Library. We were proud to have overhauled our public computing structure. The new Adult Computer Area and youth Game Zone meet the needs of our patrons much more effectively. We introduced a new program, French Club, for adults – the only regular program for adults on our roster. We also raised over \$9000 between our two fundraisers which was contributed to the computer upgrades as well as program supplies for our children’s programs. Finally,

our Board received plenty of information for professional development regarding governance. We also gained two new Board members in 2019, whose fresh perspective will be a welcome addition. It is with excitement that we begin 2020 with momentum to keep changing and growing.