

2021 PROVINCIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY GRANT REPORT (PLGR)

LIBRARY NAME

Sechelt 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).

Sechelt Location:

Sechelt is located on the southern portion of the Sunshine Coast on British Columbia's southwest coast, on the isthmus between the Salish Sea and Sechelt Inlet. Approximately 50 km northwest of [Vancouver](#), it is accessible from mainland British Columbia by a 40 minute [ferry](#) trip between [Horseshoe Bay](#) and [Langdale](#), and a 25 minute drive from Langdale along [Highway 101](#), also known as the Sunshine Coast Highway. The name *Sechelt* is derived from the Sechelt language word, *shishalh*, the name of the First Nations people who first settled the area thousands of years ago.

Location: 49°28'27"N 123°45'15"W
Area: 39.02 square kilometres
By road: 66 km NW of Vancouver via Highway 101 and BC Ferries (Horseshoe Bay/Langdale)
By air: 20 minutes to downtown Vancouver via floatplane or helicopter (regular service)

Sechelt Community:

As a popular retirement and vacation destination, there are many reasons to love Sechelt. Water, mountains, music and arts are some of them! Surrounded by water, Sechelt has over 55 beach access trails so even if you don't live on the beach, you have easy access. Fishing, kayaking, diving and parasailing are popular as well as walking the beaches for peace and serenity or for finding those unique ocean treasures. Our mountains host a number of popular activities – snowshoeing, skiing, camping, and our world-famous mountain biking. Hundreds of hiking trails on the Sunshine Coast can be accessed all year long, some with beautiful waterfalls to picnic at. This arts and culture community is known for its many community events, local artists and local musicians. Many events attract visitors from around the world.

Sechelt Statistics:

2021 statistics on the beautiful Sunshine Coast indicated a population of 32,170 with the Sechelt Library, one of two public libraries on the Coast, serving a population of 21,122.

Statistics Canada's 2016 census profile indicated over a third of the population of Sechelt is over 65 years of age, 54% are between the ages of 15 and 64 and the average age is 51 years. We are ranked among the top areas in BC for retirees and our labor force participation number reflects that at only 51.7% of population.

That average price for a home (total dollar volume divided by total sales) on the Sunshine Coast in 2021 was up 27% to \$1,062,000.

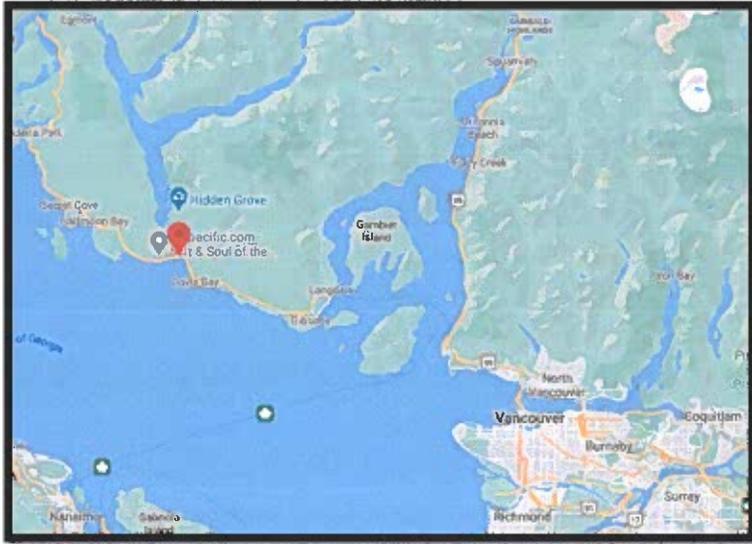


Figure 1 Sechelt (red dot) in relation to Vancouver

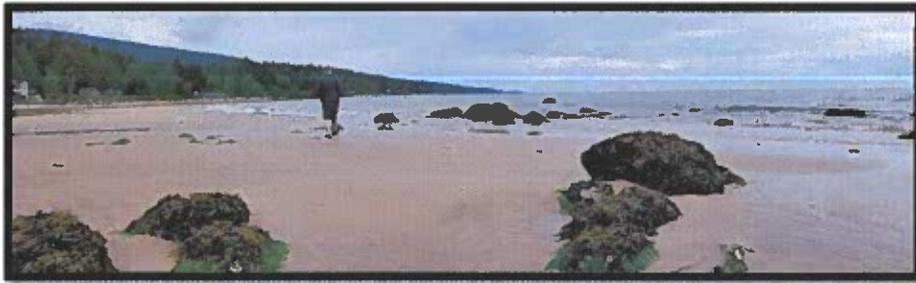


Figure 2 Low tide on a beautiful Sunshine Coast beach

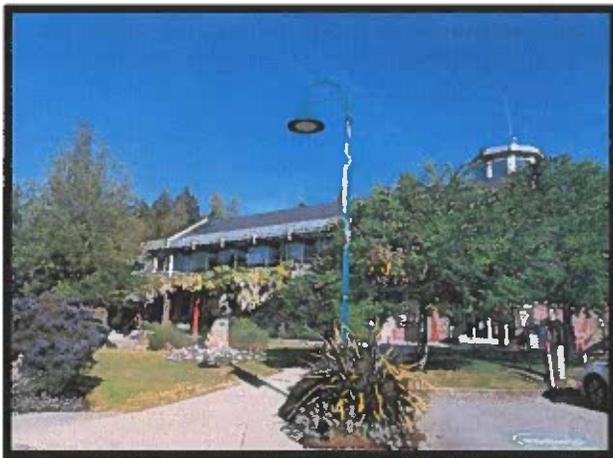


Figure 3 Sechelt Public Library

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	
<h1>1. Chair Yoga Program</h1>	
Provide a brief description of the activities involved in this project/program.	
<p>Chair yoga is a form of gentle yoga that can be done sitting on a chair or standing while using the chair for support. Chair Yoga has been shown to improve overall health when practiced regularly. As with many forms of exercise, it can be modified for people with varying abilities or disabilities, as well as varying ages from children to older adults.</p>	
How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals and/or community?	
<p>How did this project support the Community?</p> <p>In 2021, we saw an urgent need in the community to provide a program for our patrons that offered both social interaction and physical activity. In response to the in-person gathering restrictions during the pandemic, we started offering the Chair Yoga program through Zoom. Eventually, as restrictions changed, we offered it in person as well and then as a hybrid program.</p> <p>The Sechelt Public Library, in its capacity as an equalizer, made it possible for anyone in the Sunshine Coast community, regardless of socio-economic status, to participate in Chair Yoga classes for the latter part of 2021. Extra funding acquired in 2021 has made that possible. Some yoga classes offered in the community cost between \$15-\$20 per session and this can be too steep a price point for many of our patrons, and one that could prohibit their participation. Chair Yoga at the Sechelt Public Library is FREE.</p>	
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)	
2. Building Capacity for library staff and directors (e.g., training and professional development)	

<p>3. Advancing Citizen Engagement (e.g., helping people access government services/resources, fostering community knowledge-sharing, and supporting reconciliation)</p>	<p>Chair Yoga advances citizen engagement in the communities we serve by bringing together citizens in a safe manner and respectful manner for a healthy experience in both mind and body. This is especially important in a time of great uncertainty and fear among our citizens (especially older).</p>
<p>4. Enhancing Governance of the library system (e.g., board/trustee training, developing best practices, strategic planning)</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.

1. Resources and Activities

Connect with qualified local Yoga Instructor to put together a yoga program that could be done in approximately one hour, for a varied audience in age and physical ability, and that could be done via ZOOM, in person or via hybrid manner.

2. Outputs

A professional hosted Chair Yoga program was offered each week for adults in the latter half of 2021. It could be offered and changed depending on the ever- changing provincial health and safety regulations.

3. Immediate Outcomes

In addition to the obvious mental and social benefits of Chair Yoga, the physical benefits include improved flexibility, better concentration, increased strength, mood enhancement, and reduced stress and strain on joints. As funding permits, the ability to offer the Chair Yoga, as an optional program, helps the Sechelt library contribute to the overall well-being and vitality for our participating patrons.

Chair Yoga has been shown to improve overall health when practiced regularly.

4. Ultimate Outcomes

Here are some comments from our patrons about the adult Chair Yoga program:

"I joined the Chair yoga sessions at the Sechelt Library in the Fall of 2021. I had not done yoga in the past and was a bit apprehensive about my abilities. After the first class, I was hooked---I felt so wonderful afterwards. The instruction includes several options for participation to meet a wide variety of fitness levels and flexibility. As we age, our balance, strength and flexibility become paramount to our well-being and the option of remaining in our own homes. Julie is an excellent instructor that is mindful of the various needs of the group. My strength, flexibility and posture have improved enormously. (As has my pickleball game). I highly recommend chair yoga as activity to join and to enjoy. Good luck with funding and I want you to know that, if necessary, I'll be happy to donate some money to the cause because I LOVE this class!" – P.D.

"The Chair Yoga Class was my first experience, after a month's hospitalization, of my real world as I knew it. Exercise has always been an important part of my life. I was unable to walk yet or stand up alone but I could sit and do these movements with an incredible teacher, Julie Morgan. As the weeks went by, it was, and still is, my favorite exercise moment with a smile, encouragement, spirituality, social connection and a happy body for which I'm forever grateful." – name withheld, 88 years old (who is now working out at the gym, walking daily, etc.) Gall bladder November 2021

“The Chair Yoga Class run through the Sechelt Library has become an important part of my week, physically and mentally. Julie, our gracious instructor, makes it gentle enough for us to do allowing for health limitations, yet the movements are so effective. Even online, meeting the joyful people who run and attend the classes brings a mental boost through connection. And having free access to this class – invaluable! Thank you for supporting this wonderful initiative.” – S.O.

This is only a sample of the wonderful, heartfelt and grateful feedback and numerous comments from Sechelt library patrons. The positive outcomes will continue as this class continues.

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

Our partnership was with a local business and local instructor who was on contract with the Sechelt public Library to deliver this service in a weekly program for adults. As this program did require a substantial portion of our programming budget, we were fortunate to have acquired additional funding in 2021 which made this possible for as long as it did.

2. Technology Assistance Appointments

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

½ hour technology assistance appointments are offered to any patron wishing to have some assistance with their technology issues – whether it is their tablet, phone, laptop, software or something else. These appointments are private and they are FREE.

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

How does this program support the community?

Anyone in one of our surrounding communities, or even a visitor to the Sunshine Coast, who is having difficulty with technology or just needs some tutoring is able to make a ½ hour appointment with our Technology education Coordinator – for free. This free service is offered to anyone regardless if they have a library card or not.

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.

<p>5. Improving Access for British Columbians (e.g., connectivity, digital collections, shared services)</p>	<p>Out technology assistance appointments offer a supportive, private and comfortable service for any person, but most times older adults, wishing to enhance their technical knowledge, overcome a frustrating issue or access the many digital services now offered in libraries.</p>
<p>6. Building Capacity for library staff and directors (e.g., training and professional development)</p>	
<p>7. Advancing Citizen Engagement (e.g., helping people access government services/resources, fostering community knowledge-sharing, and supporting reconciliation)</p>	<p>Out technology assistance appointments offer a supportive, private and comfortable service for any person, but most times older adults, wishing to enhance their technical knowledge, overcome a frustrating issue, fill out government forms, access provincial or federal paperwork only available online, make an appointment, learn how to use ZOOM, take courses, or just use their phones or computers to connect with their community, friends or family</p>
<p>8. Enhancing Governance of the library system (e.g., board/trustee training, developing best practices, strategic planning)</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.

5. Resources and Activities

Connect with each individual patron who calls or comes into the library to understand what their needs are in relation to technology assistance. Either assist on the spot if possible or put them into a private ½ hour scheduled appointment.

6. Outputs

½ hour appointments, over three days per week, were made available over 2021. The room where appointments were conducted, was set up to be able to conform to all health and safety standards required by provincial regulations.

7. Immediate Outcomes

We were able to connect with almost 500 patrons in a private appointment setting in 2021. Morning or afternoon appointments were done in a private room with doors and windows, at a table that can include distancing if necessary, with a turntable to easily spin a computer around for ease of viewing and with a computer screen large enough for older patrons to easily view.

8. Ultimate Outcomes

Although all our staff regularly assist the simple technology issues, our ½ hour appointments scheduled with our technology education coordinator offered our patrons a private one on one setting in which to ask whatever questions they had, without embarrassment, and with the knowledge they were asking those questions to a professional who could understand the issue as offer assistance that had positive results. The private setting allowed us to give that patrons our full concentration in a quiet and private setting without distractions.

Some of the many issues we have assisted with are:

- Installation and set up of their profiles in the “ArriveCan” app
- Access and operation of Libby and Overdrive on their tablets
- How to use every kind of device better
- How to use every kind of device oriented to first-time owners of technology
- How to apply for online courses at other educational institutions who’s websites were difficult to navigate
- How to apply for things when English language barriers made it difficult to understand
- Fraud awareness, especially with older seniors, such as intrusive popups and scamware
- Troublesome software upgrades, particularly with new Microsoft upgrades
- How to use social media on cell phones and computers
- How to use their new cell phone

Ultimately these sessions will make our patrons less fearful about asking for help in future, less frustrated with technology in general and more empowered to live with knowledge, confidence and independence in an age of continuing advancing technology.

Patrons are so grateful for this incredible and FREE service that they constantly bring us chocolates and baking accompanied with sincere words of appreciation. This speaks volumes. For the almost 500 private one-on-one appointments made over 2021, this service has made a significant difference in their lives.

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

This service offering at the Sechelt Library is made possible by ongoing operational funding and our internal staff.

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>Enormous amounts of time in 2021 were taken up with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - watching for continually changing BC provincial health and safety regulations and Orders - watching for continually changing provincial restrictions - watching for and understanding everchanging BC CDC regulations and information - watching for and understanding ever changing WorkSafe BC rules and regulations - understanding all those confusing regulations and many times reading between the lines on even how to interpret them - asking for clarification on how they should be interpreted for libraries which was not always obvious – and not always clarified - not receiving clear rules and regulations for libraries and how different libraries ended up doing different things at different times - translating those ever-changing regulations from all sources into how it would effect the physical library, the staff, the patrons, the operations, the operational process, the space requirements, the technical requirements on changing internal and external processes, the marketing, the safety protocols, the cleaning, the staffing levels, the mask wearing and consumption, the offerings to the public, physical library layouts, the type of programs and events we could or could not offer, the messaging to the staff and to the public, signage, - writing and re-writing so many iterations of the COVID 19 Re-Opening and Safety Plans - continuing the stringent COVID 19 cleaning protocols and providing hand sanitizing stations throughout the library - policing the new regulations with patrons in the library <p>The need, time and labour for enforcement of Proof of vaccination requirements resulted in us deciding to cancel many Friend of the Library book sales and indoor events. We avoided having to deal with POV as much as possible.</p> <p>Note: All of the above is very taxing on existing staff levels. Annual library funding and 3 months of government wage grants assisted with extra casual labour for a short period of time. Far too many hours of the Library Directors time was spent on dealing with the above listed items, which of course was necessary, but resulted in other things suffering as a result.</p>

Emergency response (e.g., fires, floods, extreme weather)	We were often a place our patrons would come to be “cool” in such extreme hot weather conditions
Financial pressure (e.g., rising costs, reduced revenues)	<p>COVID 19 effected much more than just people just being sick from COVID 19. The overall effects of COVID 19 itself and the resulting decisions made to limit our freedoms and movements with regulations and restrictions created, amongst other things, confusion, hostility, financial devastation for many personally, financial devastation for many commercially, mental fatigue, changes to technical requirements and space requirements for everyday meetings (eg. Zoom), incredible fear, rising costs of materials, delays in receiving materials and rising costs for basic living necessities such as food and gasoline.</p> <p>2021 definitely took a financial toll on our library and its staff personally. With no increases by the province in over 11 years to ongoing operational costs and a reluctance or hesitation of local governments to take all this additional annual financial burden on, our staff, once again, had to do more with less. We also had to rely on finding the time and staff to apply for additional grants for pay for additional financial requirements in 2021. But these grants still do not cover our ability to hire additional staff or pay those staff additional wages to compensate for the incredible high rate of inflation we are all now suffering from. We never missed a day assisting patrons but this, as it has for many, taken a toll on our staff.</p>
Staffing (e.g., recruitment and retention, mental health and wellness)	Staff are continually being relying upon to fill gaps in communities and in society. 2020 and 2021 especially showed how libraries showed up when the need was there when others did not. Libraries in general are consistently doing more and more with less and less each year. Staff in general are exhausted and they most definitely are not paid enough. We need more staff and they need a raise - both of which are currently very difficult. Every business is now competing for the same few employees. Retention has been an issue due to low wages and the cost of living.
Disappearing services in the community (e.g., government, banking, health)	<p>Again, our staff have been doing more and more each year with less and less – and this has been especially profound in 2020 and 2021. The additional mental and physical effort required combined with the obvious increases in the time requirement of delivering great service as a library and as a library staff in general have taken a toll.</p> <p>We have had to compensate for changes in our communities and the businesses (government and non-government) that operate, do not operate as they should be or cannot operate because they had to close.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Federal and provincial service centres were not open to assist when citizens in the community needed them most. The library stepped up to assist patrons every day. - Local businesses had to close due to financial and or health reasons – for example closure of our local print shop (which we stepped up to the plate to compensate for at the huge expense of staff time) and closure of places that sold transit tickets (which we stepped in to sell)

	<p>We had to act as ambassadors to the BC provincial government to assist patrons with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information about an ever-evolving world-wide pandemic occurring - COVID 19 information – signs and symptoms - understanding the many many changes in health and safety rules from BC CDC, Worksafe BC and BC Health Authorities (beyond confusing to most trying to understand on their own) - information on the roll out of vaccines, how to get them, where to get them and why to get them - understanding vaccine passports, how to navigate websites, where they were required and when they were required - being safe in the community
<p>Connectivity (e.g., low bandwidth, lack of home internet in the community)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We made sure to have the maximum public computers available, within public regulations, at all times. We also purchased and installed dividers between them for more privacy and protection. - We ensured our wife extended as much as possible in the outside area of the library so it could be used after hours by the public - We applied for a grant (from United Way) to be able to offer Samsung tablets to the community. Our grant allowed us to be able to offer 5 tablets for home use to our community – tablets that came with prepaid data plans
<p>Aging/damaged facilities (e.g., need for repairs, renovations, upgrades/expansions)</p>	<p>We have been waiting now for two years for the District of Sechelt to address necessary repairs to be done in our library building. COVID 19 has delayed many decisions and effected many budgets.</p> <p>We also had to put out the money for an internal small staff extension to be able to house staff in a safe and reasonable way. We used to have 6 people sharing about 6 ft of space. Not acceptable under any conditions but especially not during COVID.</p> <p>We are exceptionally short of space for adult and children’s programming and general library seating. Many patrons request (and many staff now need) a space for ZOOM meetings – and there is almost none to offer.</p> <p>We do not have any space to offer patrons a quiet place to have a zoom meeting or zoom interview. We barely even have a space for staff to use. Zoom has changed requirements for space availability.</p>
<p>Community access to the library (e.g., geographic isolation, lack of local public transit, building accessibility)</p>	<p>We have been here every day for our community. Open six days per week. We area also fortunate to be near public transit.</p>
<p>Vulnerable communities (e.g., people experiencing homelessness, addiction, mental health crisis)</p>	<p>In 2021 we had to deal with citizens exercising their perceived rights to share their extreme points of view on provincial regulations. The burden of enforcing the provincial mask wearing regulations and rules also fell upon our staff – certainly a task dreaded by many. The local RCMP had to be called in on one occasion and we had a patron to patron fight once.</p>

	Like every community, we have patrons that are dealing with mental illness, homelessness and drug addiction. There are many times this results in a higher level of required staff oversight and cleaning afterwards
Other (please specify)	

4. SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL

Electronic signatures are acceptable where physical signatures are not feasible.

Library Director Signature: Kerianne Emery

Date: April 12, 2022

Board Chair Signature: [Signature]

Date: April 13/22

