2022 PROVINCIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY GRANT REPORT (PLGR)

LIBRARY NAME

Beaver Valley 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. CHALLENGES
- ☐ 4. COVID-19 RELIEF & RECOVERY – 2022 PROGRESS REPORT
- ☐ 5. BOARD APPROVAL

INTRODUCTION - LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY PROFILE

Provide a brief description of the community and library, focusing on what has changed in the past year. If provincial funding is primarily used to support your library's core operations, please include a general describe where it is applied (staffing, utilities, collections, etc.).

The Beaver Valley Public Library serves the communities of Fruitvale, Montrose and Regional District of Kootenay Boundary Area A; library service population according to census and community websites was 4862 in 2022. The challenges faced by the Beaver Valley Public Library include loss of services in our communities to the larger city of Trail, slow Internet speeds for rural customers, lack of a local newspaper to advertise library and our limited space for in-person programming. In addition, lack of adequate signage on Village and highway frontage makes it difficult for those who are new to our communities to know about/find the library; this is a conversation I've already had with our Mayors and Regional District Rep. We hope that signage will be coming, not only for the library but also for other local resources. One of the major things that has changed for us is our increased/changed open hours; we are now open more hours than prior to the pandemic.

Our annual grant from the Province of BC is used to keep our collection current and in good repair. We are very grateful to have this to allow us to provide our small communities with access to up-to-date materials.

2. FEATURED PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

Please describe any featured 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. You do not need to report on every project/program, only highlights/notable examples.

Project/Program Name
Drop-in Christmas Crafternoon
Provide a brief description. Please include details such as any partnerships or resources leveraged to accomplish this project/program.
As a start to beginning in-person programming we planned and hosted a drop-in craft session before Christmas. Our programming space is very small and with drop-in we could accommodate more people without it being too crowded, as COVID is still active in our communities.
How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals?
This program supports the following strategic goal of the Beaver Valley Public Library: **To enhance services to children and youth:** -To develop and implement library centered, literacy-based programs with and for families, local schools and community youth service providers. Since the onset of the global pandemic we have been unable to provide in-person programs to youth, as our building is very small and we have no dedicated programming space. With having this program be a drop-in program we could have more people in, just not all at the same time.
How does this project/program support the B.C.'s strategic goal(s) for public library service from the strategic plan, which include: 1. Improving Access 2. Building Capacity 3. Advancing Citizen Engagement 4. Enhancing Governance

This program supports the following provincial strategic goals:

Improving Access:

This was the first in-person program that we've held since March 2020, due to the small size of our library and the fact that we do not have a dedicated programming space. It was a lovely way to bring parents and children back into the library to craft together.

What are the key outcomes of this project/program?

This was an excellent start back into some form of in-person programming and included both parents and children. 22 parents and children attended this program which ran from 1-4 on a Wednesday afternoon before Christmas.

Did provincial grants enable this project/program? If so, how?

Purchase of crafting supplies did come from our Children's Programming budget, which is supported by provincial grants.

Project/Program Name

Senior's Craft To-go Bags

Provide a brief description. Please include details such as any partnerships or resources leveraged to accomplish this project/program.

As we have received such positive feedback from both seniors homes, the seniors' society and the community paramedic, we have continued this program again through 2022. With the pandemic still affecting our most vulnerable citizens, there is still a sense real isolation among the seniors in our communities. We continue to provide to-go craft bags be-weekly. The bags contain supplies and instructions to make a selected craft, a beverage, snack, resource pages, a copy of local seniors magazine, crossword puzzles, etc. Our staff person delivers the to-go bags to the local homes and the seniors' society drivers deliver bags to those still living in their own homes.

Partnerships: Moutainside Village, Beaver Valley Manor, Columbia Seniors Wellness, Community Paramedic

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

This program supports the following strategic goals of the Beaver Valley Public Library:

To enhance services to seniors:

To develop and implement programming for seniors in the library, in the community and in the local seniors' facilities.

This is one way that we can reach out to those who have long been underserved in our communities, seniors. Many seniors are no longer able to drive on their own, so attending the library would be difficult; providing bags to the seniors where they live is a wonderful way to connect them with the library. In addition, our staff person delivers books to seniors as requested.

How does this project/program support the B.C.'s strategic goal(s) for public library service from the strategic plan, which include:
1. Improving Access
2. Building Capacity
3. Advancing Citizen Engagement
4. Enhancing Governance

This program supports the following provincial strategic goals:

Advancing Citizen Engagement:

This program supports this strategic goal by increasing opportunities for people to access information and resources they need to thrive and be engaged individuals, workers and life long learners, as well as fostering connections between senior residents, the library and the volunteer delivery drivers.

The program also allows seniors who are unable to leave their place of residence a chance to see what is available to them locally and allows the delivery drivers to connect with people and do brief wellness checks. Should concerns arise Columbia Seniors Wellness Society and the Community Paramedic follow up to ensure the health and safety of those living on their own.

What are the key outcomes of this project/program?
The key outcomes of these programs: The library connects with seniors in our communities and our delivery drivers are able to ensure health both physical and mental of each person they deliver to. We are able to work with the seniors' facilities, community paramedic and local seniors' societies, allowing us to form really important community partnerships with a wide variety of service providers in our communities. The most important outcome is the connections and friendships that are formed via this program, with the added bonus of ensuring good physical and mental health in our seniors. In 2022 we delivered 1,152 bags to seniors in our communities.

Did provincial grants enable this project/program? If so, how?
Yes, provincial grants played a very important role in allowing us to provide the resources we do to the seniors; including craft supplies, covering copy expenses and staff time to go out to deliver bags and books.

Project/Program Name
Canadian Children's Book Week Tour

Provide a brief description. Please include details such as any partnerships or resources leveraged to accomplish this project/program.
Once again, we were happy to be able to host another Canadian author/illustrator at our local elementary school. In 2022, we were lucky to be able to host Emma Fitzgerald, an illustrator from Nova Scotia. We are happy to partner with Fruitvale Elementary School for these events; we pay the reading fees and the school librarian sets-up Google Meet on laptops in each classroom to allow many students to participate. **Partnerships:** Kootenay Library Federation, Canadian Children's Book Week organizers, Fruitvale Elementary School

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

This program supports the following strategic goal of the Beaver Valley Public Library:

To enhance services to children and youth:

-To develop and implement library centered, literacy-based programs with and for families, local schools and community youth service providers.

This program is a way to introduce students to the local library and because the teacher/librarian allows us to be present online for the program, the students are able to meet the librarians.

How does this project/program support the B.C.'s strategic goal(s) for public library service from the strategic plan, which include:
1. Improving Access
2. Building Capacity
3. Advancing Citizen Engagement
4. Enhancing Governance

This program supports the following provincial strategic goals:

Improving Access:

This program supports this strategic goal by fostering connections between the public library and the local elementary school. Having good connection with the local school allows us to share resources and to cooperate to provide additional resources with students, both at the school and in the library.
Technology practise and usage by school staff allows a large number of students to participate/learn from the presenter and also allows library staff to attend remotely.

Advancing Citizen Engagement:

This program supports this strategic goal by providing students at the local school with first hand contact with authors and illustrators. This is something that does not always happen for students in our area and it is a great way to help students make these connections in the real world. In addition, this program allows students to grow and explore writing/drawing directly from "real' authors/illustrators. Expanding students' horizons and goals for the future, even potentially to encourage them and help them see that this is a possible career path for them to undertake.

What are the key outcomes of this project/program?
The key outcomes of this project are: -a continued close working relationship with the local elementary school and the teacher/librarian. -this is another way to be able to provide programming to benefit a wider number of children than we could if we hosted the same event at the public library. In smaller communities, the opportunities for these types of events are fewer and this way we can bring programming to as many children as we can, all at once. -In our smaller communities, many of the services that were once in our communities, have relocated to larger centres, it is especially important for those remaining to work together to provide the best quality programming for our communities. This program allowed approximately 275 people to participate at the school.

Did provincial grants enable this project/program? If so, how?
The way that we work together is that the Library pays for the author/illustrator and the school hosts, so yes, we rely on grants to be able to continue to provide these types of experiences to our communities.

Project/Program Name
Children's/Youth Craft to-go Bags

Provide a brief description. Please include details such as any partnerships or resources leveraged to accomplish this project/program.
Due to limited indoor space, no outdoor space and the pandemic we were required to stop hosting in-person programming. We spent a lot of time dialoguing about how we could effectively meet the needs of children and youth in our area, beginning when schools remained closed due to COVID-19. We decided we would provide craft bags for children ages birth-3yrs once a month and for children ages 4-12yrs every other week. We also added in weekly bags following the theme for Summer Reading Club. In addition to the above reasoning we had noted a marked decrease in the numbers of children attending programming prior to the pandemic. Many children in our little communities participate in sports (most of which are not hosted in our communities) and are therefore not able to attend programming in-person. Where we had maybe 12 kids register for a program 1 or 2 would attend; seeing this trend we made the decision to pivot and continue to provide to-go craft bags for children and youth in our communities. **Partnerships:** BC Summer Reading Club, Friends of the Beaver Valley Public Library

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

This program supports the following strategic goal of the Beaver Valley Public Library:

To enhance services to children and youth:

-To develop and implement library centered, literacy-based programs with and for families, local schools and community youth service providers.

How does this project/program support the B.C.'s strategic goal(s) for public library service from the strategic plan, which include:
1. Improving Access
2. Building Capacity
3. Advancing Citizen Engagement
4. Enhancing Governance

This program supports the following provincial strategic goal:

Improving Access

This program is helping give children and parents access not only to a lovely craft to take home but also books/magazines etc that are available in the library.

What are the key outcomes of this project/program?
As mentioned above, we have pivoted how we present programming to children and youth in our communities, as in-person attendance was just not reliable enough. Since this pivot we have approximately 22 children ages birth-3yrs receiving a monthly to-go bag containing materials to make an easy craft, snack and song sheet and 17 children ages 4-12yrs receiving a weekly to-go bag containing materials to make an age appropriate themed craft. In addition, we do a display of books matching the theme of each craft bag to allow parents/children to choose books that follow the same theme. In 2022, we distributed 574 craft to-go bags to children in our communities.
Did provincial grants enable this project/program? If so, how?
This program is jointly funded by the Library using grant monies and the Friends of the Library.

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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 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 2022. 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)	As many of the COVID-19 protocols have been lessened or dropped completely, this has eased off some for us. As I mention below in staffing, we have implemented a vaccine policy for staff and I believe that did affect the number of applicants for our recent opening.
Emergency response (e.g., fires, floods, extreme weather)	During the summer of 2022, the Library was designated a community cooling centre. I connected with both Villages we serve to let them know that the Library was available and had been designated as a cooling centre; I gave my personal number should the library be required during closed hours. Since this time, we have spoken with the Villages and Regional District rep regarding funding to supply water, etc should we be asked to act in this role again.
Financial pressure (e.g., rising costs, reduced revenues)	
Staffing (e.g., recruitment and retention, mental health, and wellness)	When one of our staff left during the summer of 2022 the requirement to fill the position was made more difficult by the library requirement to be fully vaccinated (the position was working with our most vulnerable citizens, seniors and children. We only received one application for the position and happily the applicant was a perfect fit. This response to a job ad was unusual as we usually receive several applications.
Disappearing services in the community (e.g., government, banking, health)	This has been an ongoing concern for us in this community but this began well before the pandemic; many services have relocated to the larger centre of Trail and due changes in hours etc in our local banking facility, we wonder how long it will continue to function locally.
Connectivity (e.g., low bandwidth, lack of home internet in the community)	Many of our library users live quite rurally and many are still either on dial-up Internet or satellite which often is much slower than what is available to those right in town, but service is often sketchy even in town.
Aging/damaged facilities (e.g., need for repairs, renovations, upgrades/expansions)	

Community access to the library (e.g., geographic isolation, lack of local public transit, building accessibility)	
Vulnerable communities (e.g., people experiencing homelessness, addiction, mental health crisis)	Since the advent of the pandemic we have started to experience more attendance at the library by those who are living without housing and also those living with addictions. We have begun experiencing having to monitor length of time spent in the public washrooms due to having people use drugs in our facilities. It is a concern especially since we just have one washroom and it is important that it is safe for all library users.
Other (please specify)	

4. COVID-19 RELIEF & RECOVERY GRANT – 2022 PROGRESS REPORT

Summary and Overview

Please provide an executive summary (overview summary) on the library's use of the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Grants. The purpose of this section is not to duplicate the individual projects details, instead provide a short analysis and summary of your overall approach and progress. Please limit to 2 paragraphs and feel free to use bullet points.

ummary and Overview
All of our COVID Relief and Recovery projects are still in process: -Sanitizable furnishings are on order -Sanitizable furnishings for children's area are on order -Laptops for community/food bank users use are on order -E and Audiobooks collection via Overdrive Advantage continues to grow We have found the pandemic related supply chain issues have definitely affected the availability of items, pricing and the speed that we receive items. For example, our local office supply store had to pass on ordering items for us due to financial hardship and also lack of local staffing, which required us to find and work with another local business.

	Grant budget	**Reallocated budget**
COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Grant Amount	24,963.96	
Emergency Planning & Preparedness Grant Amount	8,321.32	
Total Grant Amount	33,285.28	

Project Progress Report

Please use this section for:

1. Report progress on projects included interim report **and/ or**
2. New projects developed since interim report (copy and paste tables as needed)

Project/Program/Activity	Craft to-go bags for Seniors
Rationale	
Area of Need	COVID recovery
Action/Output/Deliverable	Providing activities to seniors who are still our most vulnerable community members during a time when the pandemic is still affecting our seniors at a higher rate. In addition, many of our seniors do not have their own transportation to attend the library or any programs.
Outcome/Impact	We continue to meet the needs of senior members of our communities by providing them with activities in their own homes.
Metrics	To provide funding for this project for the next three (3) years.
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	We are collaborating with Columbia Seniors Wellness Society, both seniors homes in our communities and the Community Paramedic.
Expenditure	$10,000
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	This project is still in progress and will be for the next three (3) years. At present we provide approximately 70 bags bi-weekly.
Comments (optional)	The feedback we receive from seniors, from the seniors homes and from the community paramedic have been nothing but positive.

Project/Program/Activity	Local e and audiobook upgrades via Overdrive Advantage
Rationale	
Area of Need	COVID Recovery
Action/Output/Deliverable	Providing additional copies of e and audiobooks for our local library users when wait times are long and also to clear our "Recommended Titles" monthly.
Outcome/Impact	Overdrive is one of our most used online resources and that increased even more during the pandemic; we see this as a need in our communities and are happy to be able to rise to meet this demand.
Metrics	To provide funding to allow us to meet community demand.
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	
Expenditure	$10,000
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	Beginning in May, 2022 I check the "Recommended Titles" list monthly and to date have purchased $2,267.48 worth or e and audiobooks to meet the needs of our communities.
Comments (optional)	

Project/Program/Activity	Upgrading soft furnishings to wipeable/sanitzable materials
Rationale	
Area of Need	COVID Recovery
Action/Output/Deliverable	Providing comfortable spaces for library users and members of the public to sit and read/game, etc in furniture that can be wiped down and sanitized easily.
Outcome/Impact	During the pandemic (and still now) we've removed all the cloth furnishings as we are not able to clean/sanitize the cloth surfaces.
Metrics	To restore comfortable seating for computer use, reading and for at meeting tables for our users.
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	Due to issues with our usual office supply store we have made connections and ordered via another local store in another community. We have made it a priority to spend as locally as we can to support local businesses and also keep local folks employed.
Expenditure	$10,000
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g.,	The computer chairs, laptop chairs and meeting chairs have been ordered and will come in at approximately,

complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	$7, 172 plus taxes and we do not currently have pricing for the Junior/Young Adult furnishings at this date.
Comments (optional)	

Project/Program/Activity	Dedicated laptops for use by those who may be unable to access affordable technology and/or Internet.
Rationale	
Area of Need	Emergency Planning and Preparedness
Action/Output/Deliverable	Providing access to technology and the Internet for those who may be unable to access such resources on their own.
Outcome/Impact	With the food bank and thrift store relocating to across the street from us, it is perfect timing to provide technology, Internet access and staff support to those who may need them and require assistance.
Metrics	To provide technology and assistance for those who need in our communities.
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	
Expenditure	$3,286
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	The laptops have now been ordered after research by our contracted tech support person; due to pricing increases we find that we are now at approximately $5,100 for this purchase.
Comments (optional)	

5. BOARD APPROVAL

Electronic signatures are acceptable where physical signatures are not feasible.

Library Director Signature: _M Onyett_   Date: _Feb 16/23_

Board Chair Signature: _Mark Schade_   Date: _Feb 16 2023_