

2022 PROVINCIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY GRANT REPORT (PLGR)

LIBRARY NAME

BURNS LAKE 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.).

Burns Lake Public Library strives to have the community see our library as more than just a place to get books, but rather as the community hub. Crucial to our mission, our library seeks to reach out to our community in a relevant and meaningful way, by delivering stimulating programs and services needed after seeking the public opinion and recognizing trends in the community.

2022 was a year where everyone was trying to return to some kind of normality. However, we were faced with new challenges arising from ascending inflation and mental exhaustion, for both staff and public.

Navigating the old and new challenges, we were still able to deliver meaningful programs and projects to the community such as the Spay and Neuter Clinic for low-income families, Summer Reading Club with extension to six First Nation communities, delivery of activities in celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day plus such significant improvements to our teen area as to be considered a total makeover. The Board's principal focus in 2022 was on low funding and the challenges it brings with it. During this year we successfully organized two fundraisers that boosted our funding to almost \$8,000. Our continued dialog with local government brought a wide understanding regarding the struggles the libraries in BC are facing. As a result of this, the Mayor, Council and both Regional Directors submitted a resolution to the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA), lobbying the Province to provide long-term sustainable funding for Public Libraries in BC.

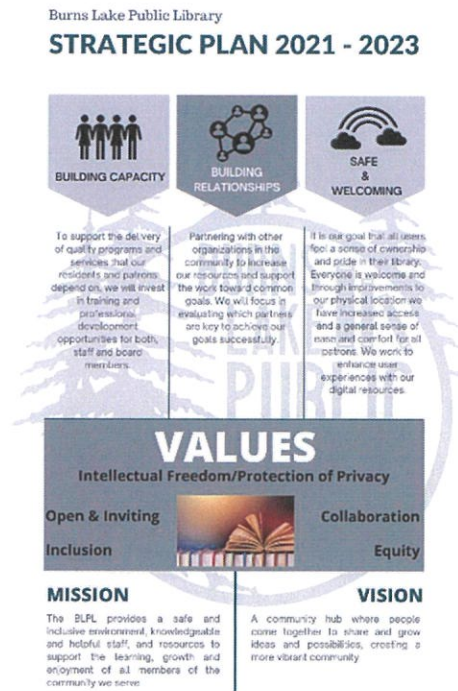
Burns Lake is located in the North-Central Interior of British Columbia, on Hwy 16, midway between Prince George and Smithers. Burns Lake became an incorporated village in 1923. According to the 2021 Census, the village population has been estimated to be 1,659, a decline of 6.7% from 2016 Census. Burns Lake Public Library, founded in 1944, also serves the Electoral Areas B & E within the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako. This includes the six First Nation communities of Lake Babine Nation, Wet'suwet'en First Nation, Ts'il Kaz Koh First Nation (Burns Lake Band), Cheslatta Carrier Nation, Skin Tahi Nation, and Nee Tahi Buhn. In total the population adds up to around 6,000. We have two First Nations reserves that are part of the town, and another four in outlying areas, making it one of the few communities in the province that has an almost equal population of both Indigenous and European descent. The village is renowned for its rich First Nation heritage. Industries that support local families include ranching, logging, and varied businesses related to the forest industry, farming and tourist enterprises.

Library Team



Burns Lake Public Library entered the second year of the **2021-2023 Strategic Plan** that focuses on three key areas:

- **Building Capacity** - supporting the delivery of quality programs and services that our residents and patrons depend on by investing in training and professional development opportunities for both staff and board members.
- **Building Relationships** – by partnering with other organizations in the community to increase our resources and support the work towards common goals.
- **Safe and Welcoming** – focusing on improvements to our physical location to enhance patron experience so that all users feel a sense of ownership and pride in their library.



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.

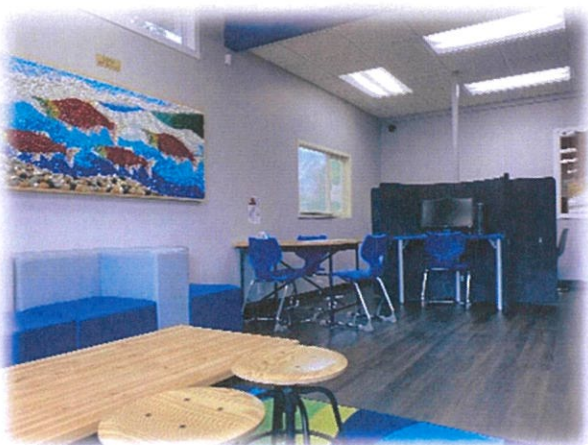
Project/Program Name #1
Teen Room Project
Provide a brief description. Please include details such as any partnerships or resources leveraged to accomplish this project/program.
In recent years, Burns Lake Public Library staff has noticed the need to create a space for our community’s teens where they can spend some time together in a safe environment. The Burns Lake area doesn't offer many places that will engage the minds of our teens in a positive way, while still allowing them to meet up with their friends for interaction. Burns Lake Public Library offers multiple controlled activities that will help keep our young adults focused in a positive manner, out of the line of trouble that's bred from boredom with no guidance, just hanging out on the streets. The “old” teen room was equipped only with three tables and chairs as well as two computers being used for schooling and entertainment.

With the funding in total of almost \$19,000 received from three local organizations, Burns Lake Community Forest, Bulkley Valley Credit Union and Burns Lake and District Community Foundation, we were able to create a new and improved teen room geared specifically to the interests of our young patrons.

The new features include:

- Gaming system (Switch) that can accommodate multiple players
- Improved sitting
- Three study carrels equipped with computers
- Two study tables

These changes support the mental health and social needs of our youth and provide a safe and comfortable space for them to gather. It is important to us that the teen room is thoroughly enjoyed by our young patrons and that their needs are being met in regard to social interaction and involvement. We plan to engage with our youth to ensure satisfaction as the teen room is utilized.



<p>How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals?</p>
<p>This project supports our third strategic objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe and Welcoming – focusing on improvements to our physical location to enhance patrons experience that all users feel a sense of ownership and pride in their library
<p>How does this project/program support the B.C.'s strategic goal(s) for public library service from the strategic plan, which include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improving Access 2. Building Capacity 3. Advancing Citizen Engagement 4. Enhancing Governance
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improving Access Increased number of study stations with improved digital access for teen education and entertainment. This is the only room in our community where the teens can gather and spend time with friends in a safe and inclusive environment. 2. Advancing Citizen Engagement This new and inviting space is a specifically designated area where the teens can access education, fun activities, meet with friends, and participate in group games while using Switch.
<p>What are the key outcomes of this project/program?</p>
<p><u>Immediate Outcomes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved aesthetics • Additional programming • Increased number of study stations <p><u>Intermediate Outcomes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced experience for teens • Safe and inviting space • Increased number of teen visits <p><u>Ultimate Outcomes/Impacts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved conditions/value-added • Addition of tangible assets • Teen spending more time in the library
<p>Did provincial grants enable this project/program? If so, how?</p>
<p>N/A</p>

Project/Program Name #2

Summer Reading Club

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

The Summer Reading Club, held from June to September each year, is our largest program on offer. In 2022 we had 123 children enrolled in the activities.

Once again, we offered a hybrid delivery model. Outlying communities such as the three First Nation Bands (Skin Tyee First Nation, Nee Tahi Buhn First Nation and Cheslatta Carrier Nation) as well as the residents on the Southside were reached with our curbside service. That means over 60 packages were prepared weekly for those participants.

Aside from the outreach program, we also offered the regular in-person programming which took place on Wednesdays at 11am for children age 5-7, at 2pm for children age 8-10 and Thursday at 2pm for children age 11-14. Additionally, the library (in coordination with the local Multiplex Recreation Centre) offered a story time with a craft session for children participating in summer camp.

The *Teen Challenge 2022* was created for teens which included fun activities and a chance to win some prizes.

Juno Award Nominee and children's musical performer, Mary Lambert, was touring this summer in our area as part of our North Central and North East Library Federation Tour.

Mary Lambert, presented her SING OUT SUMMER FUN themed concert at our library on July 5th. Everyone was welcome to come and join in the fun. This musical performance was geared for children of all ages and also adults who are kids at heart. Mary's concert was filled with colourful costumes, props and lots of audience participation. Some willing audience members joined Mary on stage to become part of the show, but everyone attending found themselves toe-tapping and singing along with some old favourite traditional tunes and also some new original Mary Lambert songs. During this musical adventure, kids learned how to do the Black Fly Boogie, how to stop the rain and why they should always, always, take their umbrella to the beach.



<p>How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals?</p>
<p>This project supports two of our strategic objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Capacity - supporting the delivery of quality programs and services that our residents and patrons depend on by investing in training and professional development opportunities for both staff and board members. • Building Relationships – by partnering with other organizations in the community to increase our resources and support the work towards common goals.
<p>How does this project/program support the B.C.'s strategic goal(s) for public library service from the strategic plan, which include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improving Access 2. Building Capacity 3. Advancing Citizen Engagement 4. Enhancing Governance
<p>Improving Access Through sharing common goals with Lakes Literacy, we were able to reach the remote communities with high quality programming.</p> <p>Advancing Citizen Engagement: We worked closely with First Nations communities in our region such as: Ts'il Kaz Koh First Nation, Lake Babine Nation, Skin Tye Nation, Cheslatta Carrier Nation, and Wet'suwet'en First Nation; this enabled us to provide meaningful events to our most remote communities with materials and activities throughout the entire summer.</p>
<p>What are the key outcomes of this project/program?</p>
<p>Immediate Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building closer connections with First Nation communities • Offering programming for children, teens and adults during the summer months <p>Intermediate Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaching our patrons and residents in remote areas • Delivering programming that the community can depend on <p>Ultimate Outcomes/Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping to deliver two of libraries' strategic goals: Building Capacity and Building Relationships • Helping to deliver provincial strategic goals; Improving Access to British Columbians and Advancing Citizen Engagement
<p>Did provincial grants enable this project/program? If so, how?</p>
<p>This project was delivered thanks to financial support from North Central Library Federation, Lakes Literacy, BCLA and CUPE BC.</p>

Project/Program Name #3

Vet Clinic for Families

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

After two years of pandemic and cancellations of programs as well as high-end valuable services, we were able to again facilitate a Vet Clinic for low-income families. This was a crucial community project, a collaboration between the library and long-standing partner – Lakes Animal Friendship Society (LAFS). During four days of clinic, the veterinary team was able to spay and neuter many animals helping over 50 low-income families. A large number of volunteers, including students, came to give a hand with animal care after the surgeries that allowed humane educational interaction with our youth members as well.

COMMUNITY ANIMAL CARE EVENT!



\$50 SPAY / NEUTER FOR DOGS AND CATS FROM LOW INCOME FAMILIES

JUNE 23 to 26, 2022 – BURNS LAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Around Back - Doors Open at 8 am each day

*First come, first served – female dogs and cats are priority
Bring proof of income and address*

**NAIL TRIMMING AND MAT REMOVAL
FRIDAY JUNE 24, BY DONATION**

Questions? Message Lakes Animal Friendship Society on Facebook or email info@lakesanimalfriendship.ca

"Less yowling and crying, roaming and running, mess, fuss, and hungry mouths to feed? Sounds great!!!"



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

This project supports our second strategic objective:

- **Building Relationships** – by partnering with other organizations in the community to increase our resources and support the work towards common goals

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

Advancing Citizen Engagement

Partnering with LAFS reflects the evolving roles libraries can play in the community. It has allowed us to offer help to our community in a myriad of different ways: LAFS spay/neuter event allows our library to help financially struggling families access to a service they otherwise could not afford. The spay/neuter event cuts down on tax costs for the entire community by alleviating local pound costs with less animals roaming the streets. LAFS' continuing humane education teaches young ones how to avoid dog bites, easing emergency visits for hospitals. LAFS 'Read to a Dog' program, offered through our library, helps to engage both our youngest members and remedial readers in the wonder of books.

What are the key outcomes of this project/program?

Immediate Outcomes

- Offers service to low-income families
- Support relationships between community organizations working towards common goals

Intermediate Outcomes

- Improves care for animals in the community
- Delivers service that the community can count on
- Offers protection to entire community as event results in fewer animals roaming the streets
- Saves community tax dollars by keeping unwanted pets out of the pound

Ultimate Outcomes/Impacts

- Helping to deliver the second goal of library's strategic plan; Building Relationships
- Helping to deliver provincial strategic goal; Advancing Citizen Engagement
- Enhancing the goal of our library being 'not just for books'

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

N/A

Project/Program Name

Indigenous Peoples Day

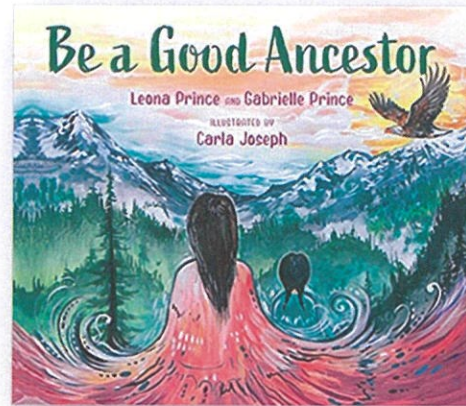
Provide a brief description. Please include details such as any partnerships or resources leveraged to accomplish this project/program.

Together with the WOW bus from Lakes Literacy, the library was present at Spirit Square. Craft time with children, making buttons, coloring pictures and cuddling with our service dog-Clive, were only some of the activities everyone participated in.



On this special day, our library wanted to focus and promote a book written by local authors, Leona and Gabrielle Prince, titled “Be a Good Ancestor”, a good read for all ages. We specifically used this book for our Story Walk, an activity enjoyed by both youngsters and seniors, to create a wonderful outside exercise for the entire family. This allowed all those participating in the Story Walk the opportunity to read and learn about Indigenous teachings and how we can all live in connection to the world around us.

We also featured Indigenous literature that is available at the Burns Lake Public Library on social media for the entire week.



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

This project supports two of our strategic objectives:

- **Building Capacity** - supporting the delivery of quality programs and services that our residents and patrons depend on by investing in training and professional development opportunities for both, staff and board members.
- **Building Relationships** – by partnering with other organizations in the community to increase our resources and support

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

Advancing Citizen Engagement

Here at the Burns Lake Public Library, we brainstorm regularly to come up with diverse and unique ways to offer more services, projects and activities to engage with all our community’s citizens. Given how deeply enriched our area is due to our location among the various local First Nation communities, we strive to promote further awareness and education on our First Nations’ culture and the very important role they continue to have in the making of the Lakes District communities over the years.

What are the key outcomes of this project/program?
<p>Immediate Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building closer connections with First Nation communities • Providing more meaningful programming <p>Intermediate Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the Truth and Reconciliation journey • Enhancing relationships between community organizations working towards common goals <p>Ultimate Outcomes/Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping to deliver two of libraries' strategic goals; Building Capacity and Building Relationships Helping to deliver provincial strategic goal; Advancing Citizen Engagement
Did provincial grants enable this project/program? If so, how?
N/A

3. 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 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)	In spring 2022, we resumed regular service hours. However, the in-person visits did not return to pre-pandemic numbers. As COVID months drug on, the mentality in the community changed. We are witnessing significantly higher levels of stress and illness.
Emergency response (e.g., fires, floods, extreme weather)	N/A
Financial pressure (e.g., rising costs, reduced revenues)	After two years of fundraiser cancellations, finally we were able to go back to these activities. In 2022 we were fortunate to fundraise almost \$8,000. However, even with this, we are getting more dependent on community donations/support to be able to provide quality programming. Significantly higher stress levels, due to financial instability, is becoming very apparent in both staff and patrons.

Staffing (e.g., recruitment and retention, mental health, and wellness)	With an ever-increasing work load and weekly increasing costs of every day living, staff's mental health has become a grave concern. We are witnessing more and more days of sick leave along with struggles of focus, all due to anxiety over financial stress. This creates an even further increased workload on the rest of staff. With projects such as the LNG pipeline, offering high wages with significant benefits, it's becoming more and more difficult not only recruiting new workers but also retaining them. Currently wages are either minimum or only slightly above, with benefits available for the full-time staff only, despite significant efforts at trying to obtain more funding for same. In essence, being handcuffed to not being allowed to offer higher wages, it is seriously looking like we might have to shorten library hours to compensate for lack of acceptable wages.
Disappearing services in the community (e.g., government, banking, health)	Northern communities are experiencing a vast shortage in medical staff and health care workers. The pandemic magnified this issue even more and it appears layoffs and further cost cutting measures are only going to continue. We have witnessed numerous businesses closing, and with the remaining businesses we are witnessing serious cutbacks in staffing, creating a Catch 22 in workloads and stress. Of most serious concern is the lack of access to mental health services especially when levels of stress and anxiety are so prevalent.
Connectivity (e.g., low bandwidth, lack of home internet in the community)	As a rural northern community, Burns Lake struggles with internet connection. While the Village of Burns Lake enjoys the high-speed internet, the surrounding areas still have great difficulties. Over half of the area we serve has very slow or no internet connection. Many of our patrons depend on public computer access in the library, especially filling out government applications that are time limited. As a result, the library continues to provide many services in a traditional way.
Aging/damaged facilities (e.g., need for repairs, renovations, upgrades/expansions)	We keep updating and improving our building as much as funds allow, since we totally depend on grants available. In 2022 thanks to three local organizations we were able to renovate/improve another section of the library as described in Project 1 of this report.
Community access to the library (e.g., geographic isolation, lack of local public transit, building accessibility)	Burns Lake Public Library is fortunate to be a free-standing building in a central location. Since Burns Lake is devoid of public transportation, all library users depend on their own transportation. Some of our patrons who live in electoral area E are across the lake and have to take the ferry to access the north shore. Many of them are travelling to town only once every other week or less; for many, this is over a two-hour drive, one way. To make our services better accessible, the library has a designated drop box at the Southside Health and Wellness Centre as well as the WOW bus service going out to this community every Monday and stopping at three different locations. This way our patrons and families can receive new materials or return them via the bus.

Vulnerable communities (e.g., people experiencing homelessness, addiction, mental health crisis)	
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.

Summary and Overview

Burns Lake Public Library will designate the Covid-19 Relief & Recovery grant amount to:

- Exchange old furniture such as seating to allow more comfort for patrons and easier sanitizing for staff.
- New signage around the library with focus on promotion and advertising new item arrivals as well as programming and upcoming events.
- New technology that will be used to improve programming as well as governance of the library.

The Emergency Planning & Preparedness grant amount will be used to boost the WiFi access around the library building to allow residents free access 24/7 and First Aid training for library staff.

	Grant budget	Reallocated budget
COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Grant Amount	\$23,761.73	
Emergency Planning & Preparedness Grant Amount	\$7,920.58	
Total Grant Amount	\$31,682.31	

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	Exchange old furniture such as seating to allow more comfort for patrons and easier sanitizing for staff.
Rationale	The library was still using an old-style fabric furniture which proved unusable during the pandemic. We plan to invest in new furniture that will allow more comfort for patrons and simplify cleaning procedures for staff.
Area of Need	Covid-19 Recovery
Action/Output/Deliverable	The purchase of new furniture ensures comfort and safety for patrons and staff. Items such as light-weight book carts and processing stations lessen the likelihood of mechanical injury to staff.
Outcome/Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved conditions/ Value-added • Addition of tangible assets • Enhanced experience for patrons • Improved aesthetics
Metrics	All patrons and staff
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	N/A
Expenditure	\$13,539
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	This amount increased by \$3,539 since the interim report. We were able to identify a larger need in this category.
Comments (optional)	

Project/Program/Activity	The library will focus on improving the signage (physical and digital) in the library to inform patrons about upcoming events as well as to direct them to appropriate areas. Event tent will increase awareness of library's presence in the community during small and large events.
Rationale	
Area of Need	Covid-19 Recovery
Action/Output/Deliverable	Increased awareness about the services being offered and accessibility to the public both online and in-person.
Outcome/Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening our relationship in general with our patrons and community. • Helping to deliver the library strategic goals: Building Capacity and Building Relationships. • Helping to deliver the provincial strategic goal to improve access for British Columbians.
Metrics	All patrons and community members
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	N/A
Expenditure	\$4,554
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	The expenditures show the amount spent by December 31, 2022. We still have a deferred revenue in this category.
Comments (optional)	

Project/Program/Activity	The library would like to focus on enhancing programming that improves living standards for all community members. Being a small northern community with a large number of low-income families, we need to address their needs as inflation continues to rise. Investing in smarter technology will allow us to deliver this kind of programming to families. The smart conferencing system (Owl Pro), will assist us with a better and safer option for meetings of both the board and other organizations.
Rationale	
Area of Need	Covid-19 Recovery
Action/Output/Deliverable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augments programming that improves living standards for all community members. • Enhancement of governance by helping to improve quality and safety of meetings
Outcome/Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves access to a larger demographic in the community. • Enhanced experience for patrons. • Helps to deliver library's strategic goals such as Building Capacity.
Metrics	Entire community
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	N/A

Expenditure	\$2,281
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	The expenditures show the amount spent by December 31, 2022. We still have a deferred revenue in this category
Comments (optional)	

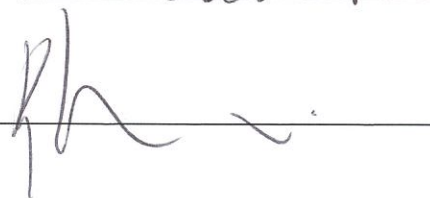
Project/Program/Activity	During the 2018 wildfires experienced by the community, the library became the epicentre of communication between families and neighbours. Being the only place with free WiFi access in the community, it became apparent that our system needed to be updated. Many residents live remotely and this is the only internet connection to the outside world. By installing the WiFi booster system, we are improving access, quality and reliability in emergency situations 24/7 The library is providing First Aid training for the entire staff.
Rationale	
Area of Need	Emergency Planning & Preparedness
Action/Output/Deliverable	Improving access, quality and reliability for community members and residents in surrounding areas.
Outcome/Impact	Offers reliable source of internet connection the community and surround areas can depend upon.
Metrics	Entire community and surrounding areas
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	N/A
Expenditure	0
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	The expenditures show the amount spent by December 31, 2022. We still have a deferred revenue in this category. Quotes for both, WiFi buster system and staff training are secured. We plan to spend the funding by the given deadline.
Comments (optional)	

5. BOARD APPROVAL

Electronic signatures are acceptable where physical signatures are not feasible.

Library Director Signature: 

Date: Feb. 22, 2023

Board Chair Signature: 

Date: Feb 22, 2023