

2022 PROVINCIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY GRANT REPORT (PLGR)

LIBRARY NAME

FORT ST. JOHN PUBLIC LIBRARY (FSJPL)

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.).

FSJPL is a small library association operating out of (and supporting) the City of Fort St. John and PRRD (Peace River Regional District) Areas B & C. As COVID-19 restrictions has scaled back over the course of 2022, children's, teen and adult programming has dramatically increased, returning to rough pre-covid levels. The BC Provincial grants go directly towards library operations (Staff salaries, rent, services, etc.).

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
FSJPL Teen PRIDE Nights

Provide a brief description. Please include details such as any partnerships or resources leveraged to accomplish this project/program.
The program is a “re-incarnation” of a previous teen evening program that ran in association with the Fort St. John Literacy Society prior to 2020. This program focusses on providing a supportive environment for LGBTQA+ teens to interact, and have an evening out.
How does this project/program support the library’s strategic goals?
FSJPL’s current strategic plan place emphasis on engaging more with community groups that are under-represented, in this case both young (teens) and LGBTQA+ communities within FSJ and PRRD.
How does this project/program support the B.C.’s strategic goal(s) for public library service from the strategic plan, which include:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improving Access 2. Building Capacity 3. Advancing Citizen Engagement 4. Enhancing Governance
This program improves access for an underrepresented group to the library, after hours, where they have a safe space to play video games, talk, and hang out.
What are the key outcomes of this project/program?
The key outcome of this program are re-form the library in the minds of our local LGBTQA+ community as a place that is safe, and supportive.
Did provincial grants enable this project/program? If so, how?
Yes, indirectly. The BC grants go towards supporting operations, particularly staff salary and extended (non-open) hours for the program.

Project/Program Name
PRRD – Area B Funding Referendum
Provide a brief description. Please include details such as any partnerships or resources leveraged to accomplish this project/program.
The FSJPLA Board of Trustees, and the Library Director were approached by the Peace River Regional District Admin Team, and then-Representative Karen Goodings in early 2022, regarding a funding referendum for the then-upcoming October 2022 Election for FSJPL. After consulting with Elections BC, FSJPLA registered as a Third-Party Advertiser in-favour of the referendum option. During the election period, FSJPLA bought advertisements, interviews, etc. As of October 15 th 2022, the Referendum passed by a narrow margin, securing that funding.
How does this project/program support the library’s strategic goals?
At its core, this advertising program was about long-term library funding, and the stability of library services going further into the 2020s. If the measure had failed, then funding would either dry up or cease altogether from Area B causing significant financial issues to likely happen.
How does this project/program support the B.C.’s strategic goal(s) for public library service from the strategic plan, which include:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improving Access

2. Building Capacity
3. Advancing Citizen Engagement
4. Enhancing Governance

This project basically supports all 4 areas of the province's strategic goal(s) for public library service:

- Improving Access – Increasing and stabilizing funding for the Library, which makes new services, and hours possible.
- Building Capacity – Allowing the library administration and staff to better improve services, and training.
- Advancing Citizen Engagement – Gave Area B residents a say in library funding.
- Enhancing Governance – Gave Library admin a better idea of how Area B valued library services, and how engagement with taxpayers can be improved.

What are the key outcomes of this project/program?

The key outcomes of this is more secure library operational funding, and improved relationships with the PRRD Board, as well as patrons from Area B and C.

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

Yes, indirectly. The BC grants go towards supporting operations, particularly staff salary used to carry out the marketing campaign for the election.

Project/Program Name

FSJPLA-BCGEU Collective Agreement Negotiations (2022-2024)

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

FSJPLA assigned a negotiation committee (including the Board Chair and Library Director) to engage in negotiations with the BCGEU in January 2023. This came after delays from July 2022, when the previous agreement expired. After three days of negotiations an agreement was reached, with 41 specific items implemented.

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

The negotiations provide support and outline the responsibilities of the employer to the Union.

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

The new collective agreement included items such as a MOU on Remote Work, and Transgender Recognition which has never previously been included in such documents. There was also emphasis placed on improving access to mental health resources, and other staff-specific items.

What are the key outcomes of this project/program?

Ensure that the Library continues to function, and unionized employees are properly supported in their roles.

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

Yes, indirectly. The BC grants go towards supporting operations, particularly staff salary used to carry out the negotiations.

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)	FSJPL continued (and continues) to provide mask, sanitization stations, and other PPE for staff and patrons alike. No major objections to our policies since BC has moved away from mandated mask requirements.
Emergency response (e.g., fires, floods, extreme weather)	FSJPL was not directly impacted, but our sister Library Hudson's Hope Public Library was briefly evacuated in Summer 2022, due to ongoing forest fires. We supported their patrons during the evacuation.
Financial pressure (e.g., rising costs, reduced revenues)	FSJPL funding has slowly started to increase due to support from the City of FSJ, and PRRD Areas B & C.
Staffing (e.g., recruitment and retention, mental health, and wellness)	Staffing was quite stable in 2022, with relatively little turn-over compared to previous years.
Disappearing services in the community (e.g., government, banking, health)	Services in FSJ and PRRD have remained stable in 2022, with the exception of the NEAT (Northern Environmental Action Team) closing down in Fall 2022.

Connectivity (e.g., low bandwidth, lack of home internet in the community)	2022 saw a grant and improvement to our Telus Wi-Fi and Wired networks. Connectivity has been stable since.
Aging/damaged facilities (e.g., need for repairs, renovations, upgrades/expansions)	FSJPL continues to reside within the North Peace Cultural Centre in Downtown FSJ. 2022 saw improvements to the library space and building. 2023 will see several updates to the external of the building with a possible project proposed for major renovations going forward.
Community access to the library (e.g., geographic isolation, lack of local public transit, building accessibility)	FSJPL location remains the same, so no noticeable difference over 2022, other than the Summer re-construction of 100 street which runs alongside the Library.
Vulnerable communities (e.g., people experiencing homelessness, addiction, mental health crisis)	FSJPL operates in downtown Fort St. John, and experiences a lot of the homelessness, drug, mental health and alcohol challenges that the city is currently working through. Staff training has reflected this, with emphasis placed on de-escalating patron interactions, and naloxone injection training.
Other (please specify)	N/A

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The COVID-Relief Grant & Recovery Grants were used to cover incurred staff costs over 2020 and 2021 due to our COVID closures, as well as updating the Public Computer Systems in the Library.

	Grant budget	Reallocated budget
COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Grant Amount	\$ 36,546.53	N/A
Emergency Planning & Preparedness Grant Amount	\$ 12,182.18	N/A
Total Grant Amount	\$ 48,728.71	N/A

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	FSJPL Public Computer Upgrade Project
Rationale	Improvement to computer equipment, and access to help our general underprivileged populations.
Area of Need	Technology – Internet Services
Action/Output/Deliverable	Replace Outdated Computer Monitors, Useful Network Boxes (for virtual desktops), Full Network-separate Desktop computer, and cover IT vendor labour costs in update.
Outcome/Impact	Ensure current Library computer systems are up-to-date, and are meeting patron needs.
Metrics	Monitoring Useful usage stats, and Ricoh printing stats.
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	N/A
Expenditure	\$4100.00
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	Completed.
Comments (optional)	N/A

Project/Program/Activity	Staff COVID-Pay Makeup Funding
Rationale	Make up for costs incurred keeping staff on during the COVID-19 Pandemic
Area of Need	Staffing
Action/Output/Deliverable	Supporting payroll costs, and other staff-related costs.
Outcome/Impact	Help alleviate current Budgetary issues, and stabilize staffing costs, as part of efforts going into 2023.
Metrics	N/A, possibly staff retention.
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	N/A
Expenditure	\$ 44,628.71
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	Completed.
Comments (optional)	N/A

5. BOARD APPROVAL

Electronic signatures are acceptable where physical signatures are not feasible.

Library Director Signature: Matthew Rankin

Date: 2023/02/24

Board Chair Signature: [Signature]

Date: 2023/02/24

