

2022 PROVINCIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY GRANT REPORT (PLGR)

LIBRARY NAME

Fraser Lake Public Library Association

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.).

Located within the Bulkley-Nechako Region of Central British Columbia, Fraser Lake is an industrious community that is primarily employed by the forestry and logging industry. This past year, the town has experienced major changes to its demographics. The sawmill, the town's main economic driver, has gone down to one shift which in turn created massive layoffs and forced many families to seek work in other communities. Currently, the pipeline is working in the area which has brought many new people to the community; however, they do not live here permanently. Unfortunately, this economic instability is a constant worry within the community.

The Fraser Lake Public Library Association (FLPL) serves Electoral Area D which encompasses the Village of Fraser Lake as well as the unincorporated communities of Endako and Fort Fraser. FLPL also serves two First Nation communities which are Stelat'en and Nadleh Whut'en. Cumulatively, the FLPL serves a population of around 2,227.

For the FLPL, 2022 brought much change. Near the beginning of the year, many COVID-19 guidelines were still in place that restricted some service and program offerings; however, throughout the year these regulations lessened, and we were able to offer more. With

renewed energy, our Summer Reading Club was a success with 43 programs held which is more than ever before! After calculating the attendance at each program, we had a total of 708 kids and 76 adults.

This year, the FLPL has worked to reach out to the community whenever possible. Attendance at Fraser Lake’s Farmer’s Markets, festivals, and other events have helped remind the community about our services and programs. Paired with our staff continuously working to provide exceptional services, we are pleased to see more community members back in the 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
Introduce a robust schedule of children’s programs.
Provide a brief description. Please include details such as any partnerships or resources leveraged to accomplish this project/program.
<p>In the past, children’s programming has only been offered during the summer months; however, this year we were able to offer more summer programming than ever before and programs from September to December.</p> <p>Programs that are regularly hosted include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Craft Club – This open-ended art program provides children with a medium (e.g., watercolour) and lets them explore, get creative, and practice forms of self-expression. • Evil Genius Club – This program strives to foster children’s love of science, technology, engineering, and math through various activities and experiments. • Imagination Library Story Time – This program aims to educate parents and caregivers about how to foster early literacy skills with their children. It allows younger children a chance to socialize, play, and learn how to interact with books. • Lego Club – This program encourages creativity, problem-solving, and ingenuity as children work through different Lego themed challenges. It also promotes socializing, sharing, and teamwork. • Movie Club / Saturday Movie Matinee – This program provides a space for children to gather, socialize, and relax while watching a movie. • Summer Reading Club / Cozy Readers Club – This program is designed to encourage children to keep reading and developing literacy skills while taking part in thematically related crafts, activities, and games. <p>One-time programs: Witch and Wizard Training Day, Gardening Fun, Mad Hatter Tea Party, Mary Lambert Concert, Fun with Origami, Pokémon Training Day, Minecraft Madness,</p>

Superhero Training Day, Halloween Haunts, Dinovember, Grinch Day, and Noon Years Eve Party.

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

These programs support the library's first strategic goal which involves reaching out the community through hosting a variety of programs directed towards children.

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 project supports advancing citizen engagement because it allows children the chance to participate in programs that foster discovery, creativity, innovation, literacy, and life-long-learning. Since these programs are offered for free it allows children in the community the opportunity to experience these durable benefits despite their socio-economic background.

What are the key outcomes of this project/program?

Outcomes of these programs include:

- Children attend programs and feel that the library is an exciting place where they are welcome.
- Parents and caregivers feel that the library is a safe space for their children to explore, learn, and have fun.
- Children are exposed to new experiences and learn new skills and ideas.
- Children utilize the library more frequently.

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

Yes, the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery grant as well as literacy grants have allowed these programs to be held since they have enabled us to hire a summer student despite not getting full funding from Canada Summer Jobs. Also, we were able to temporarily fund for a Children’s Program Coordinator which enabled us to offer programs during the school year.

Project/Program Name

National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration

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

The FLPL participated in the National Indigenous People Day Celebration this year. We partnered with a local Indigenous Program Coordinator in the community to develop culturally relevant crafts specific to our local Indigenous bands. For the younger children, a salmon craft was selected and around eleven children participated. For the youth and adults, it was decided that making paracord bracelets would be taught and around thirty people participated. In total, ninety-five people visited our booth. Furthermore, at our booth we highlighted books from our collection that have been written by Indigenous authors.

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

These programs support the library’s first strategic goal which involves reaching out the community since this is an important outreach event that helps aid in reconciliation.

How does this project/program support the B.C.'s strategic goal(s) for public library service from the strategic plan, which include:

5. Improving Access
6. Building Capacity
7. Advancing Citizen Engagement
8. Enhancing Governance

This project supports advancing citizen engagement through supporting reconciliation. The FLPL is continuously working to be an inclusive space that celebrates diverse resources while also cultivating culturally relevant programs.

What are the key outcomes of this project/program?

Outcomes of attending this event include:

- People learn more about the Stelat'en and Nadleh Whut'en First Nations.
- People become more aware of the library's diverse collection.
- People feel that the library is a welcoming space for everyone.

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

Yes, our provincial funding enabled us to pay staff to attend this event. As well, it aided in purchasing crafting supplies to engage in culturally relevant programming.

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)	At the beginning of 2022, COVID-19 regulations were shifting which made it difficult for staff who had to continuously adapt. However, this year we did not have any closures which brought more stability to both staff and patrons. Part way through 2022, regulations began lifting which allowed us to offer more services and programs to our community which has been well received.
Emergency response (e.g., fires, floods, extreme weather)	Extreme weather has been a challenge in our region. During the winter, temperatures dropped between -30°C to -40°C. Our library remained open, acting as a warming station. In the past, our library has shut down for two weeks in December; however, it was decided that the library would remain open as much as possible to provide a safe and comfortable space for community members. We were also able to offer programs to provide a recreational outlet during the cold weather. Thankfully, we were able to do this because of the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery grant as well as the literacy grant.
Financial pressure (e.g., rising costs, reduced revenues)	The inflation rate in British Columbia was 6.9% in 2022 which is the highest it's been in forty years. Our library has felt the pressure of this which has made maintaining collections and equipment challenging. Furthermore, this year our library has begun offering more programs which have been well attended which does create a significant cost. Our library strives to continuously add new programs and services to better meet the needs of the community, but it is a challenge without sustained funding. Particularly losing partial funding for the summer student grant was a major setback that ended up being supplemented by the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery grant; however, this is not a long-term solution. Our library's funding comes from provincial, municipal, and regional partners as well as the Village of Fraser Lake which we are grateful for; however, this funding is not able to fully combat the rise in inflation as we work to implement new services and programs.

<p>Staffing (e.g., recruitment and retention, mental health, and wellness)</p>	<p>Thankfully we have dedicated staff that have been with us for many years and we have been successful in succession planning. However, as mentioned earlier, losing partial funding for the summer student grant is difficult as we will not be able to hire for as long as we would like to or offer competitive wages which will make hiring more difficult in the future when grants can't be relied upon.</p>
<p>Disappearing services in the community (e.g., government, banking, health)</p>	<p>In Northern British Columbia there has been a major shortage in medical and mental health services. As Fraser Lake does not have any permanent doctors within the community, it creates inconsistencies and long wait times to receive health services. Fraser Lake has one credit union which is only open for limited hours and has no banks which means patrons often require help with online banking. As well, as there is no Service BC or Service Canada offices in town, people frequently come to the library to complete government forms. Our four patron computers are the only public access computers available in the community.</p>
<p>Connectivity (e.g., low bandwidth, lack of home internet in the community)</p>	<p>Connectivity has been extremely slow within the library; however, the Village of Fraser Lake has partnered with City West which promises faster internet with fiberoptics. Part way through the year, we were hooked up and noticed an immediate difference in our internet speed. A few months later we began experiencing connectivity issues which in turn meant many calls were made to City West and a lot of our own problem solving. After two weeks in which we experienced much time without internet, our systems were finally sorted, and things worked well after. There are still many families within the town that do not have internet or do not have a home printer and so we continue to offer these services to the community.</p>
<p>Aging/damaged facilities (e.g., need for repairs, renovations, upgrades/expansions)</p>	<p>Over the last few years, we have had renovations on the exterior of the building which has given the building a fresh look and has made it more energy efficient. Inside has not seen any major renovations since 2011. Upgrades or expansions to become more accessible are necessary. Furthermore, more space to accommodate large programs is desired.</p>
<p>Community access to the library (e.g., geographic isolation, lack of local public transit, building accessibility)</p>	<p>Our library is located near our only local mall, making it a desirable and very central location. However, there is a lack of public transportation within the community, people must rely on the community bus which has limited availability. As mentioned earlier, upgrades are needed to make our building more accessible. Our main floor is accessible, but our reference section, book sale area, and programming area are not wheelchair accessible.</p>

Vulnerable communities (e.g., people experiencing homelessness, addiction, mental health crisis)	Likely due to our small size, we fortunately do not face some of the issues that other libraries face and as a result we have had very few incident reports this year. Not having many mental health or addiction services within the community is challenging, but we strive to be a place that is welcoming to everyone and to be a place where people come to seek support.
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
<p>The FLPL has utilized the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Grant to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase a plexiglass divider to keep both staff and patrons safe. • Purchase masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and additional cleaning products for staff. • Create signage to convey provincial regulations and current library services. • Book a meeting space in the Small Events Center since social distancing could not be achieved in the library's meeting space. • Make services more accessible through community outreach at the Farmer's Market, festivals, and other events. • Enhance community programming through hiring a summer student for longer. • Amplify community programming through hiring a Children's Program Coordinator to develop services and programs. • Stay open throughout December to act as a warming station during extreme temperatures. This will be continued in the future.

	Grant budget	Reallocated budget
COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Grant Amount	\$22,543.62	\$21,365.17
Emergency Planning & Preparedness Grant Amount	\$7,514.54	\$2,016.00
Total Grant Amount	\$30,058.16	\$23,381.17

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	Community Outreach
Rationale	Changing guidelines have left community members confused about what services and programs the library is allowed to offer. Reaching out to the community to convey accurate information is needed to ensure that people are able to utilize the library. Furthermore, it allows the library to offer services in a more open environment, which is important for those concerned with social distancing.
Area of Need	COVID-19 Recovery
Action/Output/Deliverable	Attend the Farmer's Market each week during the summer and participate in community events and festivals throughout the year.
Outcome/Impact	The community becomes more knowledgeable about the library's services and programs which in turn will help foster positive perceptions of the library, people feel that the library is for them, and will work to increase library use.
Metrics	# of community events attended, # of people engaged with at community events, # of questions asked about services/programs, # of people participating in programs, # of people that report positively about the library.
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	Collaborative links were formed with two First Nation communities, Stellat'en and Nadleh Whut'en, when we attended the National Indigenous Peoples Day celebration. Collaborative links were also formed with local businesses as we attended the small business fair and local artisans at the Farmers Market.
Expenditure	\$5,090.00 for staff time, table fees, and programming materials.
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	The FLPL participated in twenty-five community outreach events in 2022. Cumulatively, at these events, around 1,419 people visited our library booth and over 177 people participated in programs. This project has been completed for the year, but it is something that will be done every year from now on since it garnered such compelling results.

Comments (optional)	
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Project/Program/Activity	Gale Courses
Rationale	Providing online education options acts as a form of community outreach. Having this service available is becoming increasingly important in this community as the sawmill, the town's economic driver, has gone down to one shift which has caused massive layoffs resulting in people needing job training more than ever. Furthermore, this service has allowed community members, particularly seniors, to take part in recreational courses for free which is important as there are limited continuing education options in town.
Area of Need	COVID-19 Recovery
Action/Output/Deliverable	Purchase and promote online database for community use.
Outcome/Impact	Community members are aware that they have access to a wide range of classes and those that choose to engage in these classes are empowered, life-long learners
Metrics	# of people that take Gale courses, # of people that report satisfaction with courses
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	N/A
Expenditure	\$541.37 to purchase subscription to the Gale platform.
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	In 2022, our library had a total of five students complete seventeen different gale courses.
Comments (optional)	People who took the courses reported that they enjoyed the platform and learned much from the courses.

Project/Program/Activity	Summer Reading Club Coordinator
Rationale	In order for our library to be able to offer the Summer Reading Club, we rely on the help of the Canada Summer Student grant. Unfortunately, this year we only received partial funding and had to supplement it in order to be able to hire someone to run these programs. Offering these programs to children and youth is important as it works to keep youth reading and learning over the summer.
Area of Need	COVID-19 Relief
Action/Output/Deliverable	Develop and run various programs for children and youth.
Outcome/Impact	Children feel that the library is a fun, engaging, and educative space where they are welcome to play, explore, and learn.
Metrics	# of programs held, # of children attending, # of children that report that they have been enjoy these programs/enjoy coming to the library.
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	The Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre came to give a presentation about their work and conservation efforts. As well, a local homesteader came to give a presentation about how to care for goats.
Expenditure	\$3,520.80 for staff wages and program supplies.
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	Over the summer, 43 programs were hosted in which 708 children cumulatively attended.
Comments (optional)	

Project/Program/Activity	Children's Programmer
Rationale	The programs that were held over the summer had high attendance rates which brought many new people into the library. To continue this success, a Children's Programmer was hired to offer a variety of free programs during the school year in order to keep encouraging people to come into the library. Doing this also offered opportunities for children of varying income levels to have the opportunity to take part in educative activities, crafts, games, and literacy moments.
Area of Need	COVID-19 Relief
Action/Output/Deliverable	Host a variety of programs throughout the school year.
Outcome/Impact	Children continue visiting the library and feeling like the library is welcoming space. Children, parents, and caregivers see the value of the library.
Metrics	# of programs held, # of children attending programs, # of children that report that they have been enjoying these programs/enjoy coming to the library.
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	N/A
Expenditure	\$12,213.00 for staff wages and program supplies.
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	Since September, 49 programs were held and cumulatively, 231 children have attended.
Comments (optional)	

Project/Program/Activity	Warming Center
Rationale	In Northern B.C. the importance of warming centers is always a pertinent issue. Our library made the decision to stay open throughout December (historically the library has always closed for two weeks) to act as a warming center for community members. This December, we ended up experiencing extreme cold weather, often between -30°C to -40°C. We offered programs throughout December and tried to make our space as comfortable and as safe as possible in order for community members to feel welcome. Remaining open during this time acts as a form of preparing for emergencies as we plan to continue striving to make the library environment accessible for those in need of shelter.
Area of Need	Emergency Planning & Preparedness
Action/Output/Deliverable	Remain open throughout December, offering services and programs in order to create a welcoming space for everyone, especially those seeking shelter.
Outcome/Impact	People feel that the library is a safe and welcoming space for them to relax and seek help when needed.
Metrics	# of people in the library, # of people attending programs.
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	N/A
Expenditure	\$2,016.00 for staff wages.
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	The library remained open throughout December with 134 people utilizing the library throughout the two weeks that the library has typically remained closed. Throughout the month of December, 24 programs were hosted in which 82 children and 19 adults attended.
Comments (optional)	We plan to continue remaining open throughout December in the future. We also plan to offer more passive programs for adults so that they feel more welcome.

5. BOARD APPROVAL

Electronic signatures are acceptable where physical signatures are not feasible.

Library Director Signature: Audrey Fennema
Audrey Fennema

Date: Feb. 28, 2023

Board Chair Signature: Evelyn Daniels
Evelyn Daniels

Date: Feb. 28, 2023