

2022 PROVINCIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY GRANT REPORT (PLGR)

LIBRARY NAME

Gibsons & District 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.).

“A library in the middle of a community is a cross between an emergency exit, a life-raft and a festival. They are cathedrals of the mind; hospitals of the soul; theme parks of the imagination. On a cold rainy island, they are the only sheltered public spaces where you are not a consumer, but a citizen instead” Caitlin Moran

2022 was a year of regeneration, challenge and growth at our library. As we returned to in person library visits and programming, we again became a busy place of dynamic interactions and learning. Our collection has evolved to include exciting new STEAM kits, Wonder audio picture books, and innovative databases such as LOTE4Kids that offers storytelling in over 41 languages.

Our programming has again become robust with regular and special events offered that meet the diverse needs and interests of our growing community. We continued to be a place of respite and comfort for people from inclement weather and inadequate housing. Serving a population of ~14,750 people in Gibsons, Elphinstone, West Howe Sound and (half of) Roberts Creek, GDPL is one of the most highly used libraries *per capita* in B.C. Fully 59% of our service population—some 7549 residents—are active library members. Last year alone, we saw more than 87,000 in-person visits from people seeking a range of services. Another 47,512 connections were made online. In short, demand for our services continues to grow.

We strive to keep up with our patron’s needs, and aspire to expand our space and services in the future. One of the major achievements of the past year was the implementation of a remote locker at the Gibsons & Area Community Centre with financial contribution from our library foundation. People can now pick up and return their items in Upper Gibsons resulting in greater accessibility.

Our board, staff and patrons worked together to develop our new 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. Moving forward we will continue to do everything we can to make our library the very best it can be and will focus us on five primary goals:

- Deliver Outstanding Service
- Engage and Welcome Everyone
- Inspire and Empower Thinking and Learning
- Celebrate the Unique Value of our Library
- Expand our Space and Capacity

Eighty percent of our operational funding is provided by the Sunshine Coast Regional District. The provincial funding we receive is used to support our staffing and material costs which have increased significantly in the past years.

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
Provide a brief description. Please include details such as any partnerships or resources leveraged to accomplish this project/program.
<p>In 2022, GDPL implemented a remote library locker within the Gibsons & Area Community Centre. The objective of proposed project is to address the geographical barrier that many of our patrons experience between lower and upper Gibsons. Based on information from surveys and patron feedback, we identified the need to expand library services. With our growing and changing population, and our desire to increase accessibility to resources; the implementation of this remote locker addressed many of our strategic objectives. Patrons are now able to return library items, and pick up their library holds at this Upper Gibsons location and it is well used.</p> <p>There were various partnerships and contributing resources to this project. An agreement was developed between our Gibsons & District Library Foundation and the library to secure funding for the project by the Foundation. A partnership agreement was developed between the library (GDPL) and the Sunshine Coast Regional District as the managing body for the Gibsons & Area Community Centre. The locker is located centrally by the Community Centre’s front desk and additional space was provided to the library for service promotion. The SCRD contributes the Wi-Fi and electrical connection required and the library is responsible for the maintenance of the locker.</p>

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

In various capacities, the remote locker supports four of the library's five strategic goals:

Deliver Outstanding Service: This project contributes to outstanding service by increasing the visibility and accessibility of the library.

Engage and Welcome Everyone: Responding to the geographical barriers to our location- the locker brings library services to people who may not be able to use our Lower Gibsons location. Its presence at the Community Centre attracts new users and helps to promote the library with youth.

Inspire and Empower Thinking and Learning: The locker ensures people in Upper Gibsons can get the library resources that inspire their thinking and learning.

Expand our Space and Capacity: Our library has a tremendous active membership with 59% of our service population being active members. The locker has expanded our ability to bring library resources to people with transportation barriers and has increased our capacity to meet the needs of our growing population.

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

1. **Improving Access:** This locker project clearly improves access for people to library services. Since it's installment in September of 2022, it has been highly used particularly by people living with disabilities or lack of access to transportation.
2. **Building Capacity:** The locker project builds community capacity as it has cemented a mutually supportive partnership between the library and local recreation services whereby we cross promote each other's services and add value to each other's offerings.

What are the key outcomes of this project/program?

The key outcome of this project is greater accessibility of library resources to people with mobility and transportation barriers. People who previously could not physically visit our Lower Gibsons location are now able to access the books, magazines, dvds, cds and other library materials they need and want. Another outcome of the project is a strengthened community partnership with our local Community Centre. Now that the library has a physical presence in their facility and our promotional materials are posted there- we have improved capacity to work together on shared objectives. Lastly, a positive outcome of this project is the promotion of the library to non-users. Many visitors to the Gibsons and Area Community Centre who have not been library users in the past are inspired to use the library having seen the locker.

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

The provincial grant enhances our staffing budget line item so it enabled the staffing required to make this project a reality. Staffing responsibilities for the project include the care and repair of the locker, picking up returned items, processing and delivering library materials to the locker in a timely way, and promoting the project with the public.

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)	
Emergency response (e.g., fires, floods, extreme weather)	In our service area, our library is one of the only free public spaces where people can seek shelter and safety during extreme weather. The intense heat dome in the summer of 2022 created a lot of stress on our community and many sought shelter in the library. The colder temperatures of winter brought on by climate change resulted in cracked and frozen pipes during the winter of 2022 that led to the library needing to close its doors for a week while repairs were done.
Financial pressure (e.g., rising costs, reduced revenues)	Financial challenges are the main issue for GDPL. Our primary funder is the Sunshine Coast Regional District and they are under increasing financial pressure. Stable, ongoing increased provincial funding is what we need for libraries to stabilize and provide optimal service. We need to pay our trained and educated staff a living wage, particularly as demand for service and the stresses of library work increase.
Staffing (e.g., recruitment and retention, mental health, and wellness)	GDPL enjoys excellent staff retention. We have set up a wellness fund for staff to support their mental, physical and psychological health.
Disappearing services in the community (e.g., government, banking, health)	The library offers many services that we are not funded to provide including functioning as a day shelter, helping people fill out and print government forms, income tax preparation support, tech support for navigating government online services. Etc.
Connectivity (e.g., low bandwidth, lack of home internet in the community)	
Aging/damaged facilities (e.g., need for repairs, renovations, upgrades/expansions)	<p>Although GDPL is the 30th largest public library in BC, it ranks tenth in terms of circulation per capita. Library membership currently stands at more than 58% of the Sunshine Coast population we serve: membership growth continued throughout the pandemic.</p> <p>Our ability to grow library services is undermined by an acute lack of physical space within the library. Lack of space has been an issue at GDPL for over a decade. In that time, the library has undergone several renovations to maximize programming and shelf space. Administrative and staff work spaces have shrunk and we (still) have only one meeting room.</p> <p>Among other challenges space constraints mean that we must constantly cull the collection to make way for new books, limit the programs we offer as our meeting room is usually fully booked, and decline new information technologies that require space. Programming and materials to serve youth are</p>

	<p>especially affected. Staff are also shoe-horned into a small administrative area that is cramped and inefficient.</p> <p>GDPL is small when compared to other libraries serving similar populations. To serve a community our size, the library should be 800 to 950 square metres—or 150 to 300 square meters larger than the existing building (646 square metres). In short, we need at least one-third more space to be within recommended space guidelines for public libraries in BC.</p> <p>Space constraints are likely to increase as the local population increases and more people – especially young families – look to the GDPL for support.</p>
Community access to the library (e.g., geographic isolation, lack of local public transit, building accessibility)	Our library has the geographical challenge of being located at the base of a steep hill with public transit also having its stop down a hill from us.
Vulnerable communities (e.g., people experiencing homelessness, addiction, mental health crisis)	In 2022, due to various factors including the housing crisis on the Sunshine Coast, many unhoused people used the library for shelter. Related to mental health issues, there was a dramatic increase in incidents of challenging and problematic patron behaviour that staff had to manage.
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.

During the pandemic it became clear that our staff workspace was inadequate and unsafe. Physical distancing was not possible in the densified work area, and staff’s mental and physical health is not supported by current configuration. We reconfigured the space to allow for appropriate distancing, and to provide staff with adequate workspace and technology. New desks, dividers and seating were installed. We increased our technology capacity in response to the increase of exam proctoring, and the increase in people working from the library.

As our library had already invested in some emergency preparedness such as an Earthquake kit, we decreased that budget slightly. We plan to invest further in this safety kit to include water, food rations and sleeping materials for staff and patrons for a designated duration of time. We are working with the Sunshine Coast Regional District Emergency Preparedness Team to offer community planning workshops. We are currently a cooling center during heat waves and want to expand on this role of being a safe sanctuary year round.

Summary and Overview

Our reconfigured staff work area allows for appropriate distancing and staff now have a healthier work environment that has benefited their physical, psychological and mental health. Workflow has improved and we are more able to accommodate our summer student and volunteers.

	Grant budget	Reallocated budget
COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Grant Amount	\$28,703.55	\$31,703.55
Emergency Planning & Preparedness Grant Amount	\$9,567.85	\$6,567.85
Total Grant Amount	\$38,271.40	\$38,271.40

5. BOARD APPROVAL

Electronic signatures are acceptable where physical signatures are not feasible.

Library Director Signature: _____ Date: _____

Board Chair Signature: _____ Date: _____

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March 1 / 2023

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