

## 2022 PROVINCIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY GRANT REPORT (PLGR)

### LIBRARY NAME

INVERMERE PUBLI 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 Invermere Public Library is situated on the traditional unceded territory of the Ktunaxa and Secwepemc Peoples and the chosen land of the Métis. The library is located within the municipal boundary of the District of Invermere of the Columbia Valley in the East Kootenays. Bordering Lake Windermere, the population of just over 4000 increases significantly when vacationers and recreational property owners from neighbouring provinces spend the summer months in the area. The Invermere Public Library (IPL) serves the large geographical area of the Regional District of the East Kootenays, from Spillimacheen in the north to Canal Flats in the south. This area encompasses the District of Invermere (DOI), the Village of Radium Hot Springs, the Village of Canal Flats, and Areas F and G of the RDEK. The library's total service area population is roughly 9000. The DOI is the commercial centre of the Columbia Valley and is where most residents come to access medical services, retail shopping and groceries. Elementary students attend school in their own communities, but the regional high school, located in Invermere, provides the only public schooling for students in grades 8-12.

The year 2022 started with pandemic restrictions in place and limitations on programs and services at the Invermere Library. Fortunately, through partnerships with the member libraries

of the Kootenay Library Federation (KLF), the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL), and programming adapted for platforms such as Zoom, the library was able to connect patrons, share and promote author visits, and offer a variety of literacy experiences. The IPL adapted programs such as the Writers Group and Story Time for virtual delivery. The use of social media and video conferencing platforms continued until March. On March 11, the mask mandate in BC ended and by April, the library was able to offer limited in-person programming.

The library modified program delivery cautiously, mindful of the hesitancy people felt returning to groups. Patron traffic through the library slowly increased, seating was returned, and capacity in common spaces was also adjusted to allow for more patrons to work and read in the library. Programs such as Senior’s Tea was not brought back until the fall when patrons indicated that they felt safe to gather in the library again.

Children’s story time, STEAM, crafts, the Writers Group, and Family Free Play returned to the regular schedule in April. School visits could not be accommodated in the library, so the outreach library assistant went to classrooms where she facilitated activities, book exchanges, and library card registration. Keeping patrons safe was always top of mind and efforts were made to adapt programming to accommodate groups outdoors and online.

The Strategic Plan for the library was reviewed and updated for 2022-2026. Key objectives for the next five-year period are:

- Increase the physical space of the library
- Secure additional funding
- Advocacy
- Expand community outreach

## 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.

<b>Project/Program Name</b>
Home School Meet Up
<b>Provide a brief description. Please include details such as any partnerships or resources leveraged to accomplish this project/program.</b>

The Home School Meet Up program was developed in response to the growing number of families who chose to educate their children at home when the pandemic forced the closure of schools. While many families sent their children back to the classroom, those who did not chose home schooling and became regular users of the library. Library staff supported parents when they sought resources to enrich the curriculum and learning experiences for their children.

The programming and outreach library assistant engaged home school parents to determine various ways the library could offer additional support. Home schooling can be a solitary pursuit at times and not all parents are comfortable covering all areas of curriculum. With the STEAM technology available in the library, as well as well developed resources in the areas of writing, children’s literature, and art, the library determined that a weekly time slot for home schooling families to meet would support learning in these subject areas.

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

Home School Meet Up supports the Key Objective 4: To expand community outreach and specifically, Goal 4.2: To increase the accessibility of library services for communities of the Columbia Valley and Goal 4.3: Engage all age groups to use library programs and services. The library determined a need to support families home schooling their children and implemented programming to provide learning opportunities, and resources that were accessible, relevant, and engaging.

**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:** The Home School Meet Up program is a free program offered to a families in the community who are home schooling their children and are seeking enrichment and diverse learning experiences in areas such as STEAM (access to robot programming and coding using library technology), reading and writing activities using materials from the children’s collection, and art activities connected to literature.
- 2. Building Capacity:** The Home School Meet Up program supports the goal of building capacity by challenging staff to offer innovative experiences and strive for patron engagement on a weekly basis. Staff respond to feedback from parents so as to offer relevant learning opportunities to their children.
- 3. Advancing Citizen Engagement:** This program offers frequent opportunities to home schooling parents and children to access the information and resources they need to thrive and for children to become engaged lifelong learners.

**4. Enhancing Governance:** The Board of Trustees of the Invermere Public Library will oversee and review on a regular basis the direction of the library to ensure that it is meeting its community obligations.

**What are the key outcomes of this project/program?**

Please see the Logic Model in Appendix 1

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

The Provincial Equity Grant for Literacy supported this program. These funds from the provincial government are used to support literacy in our community, promote life-long learning, and expand the library collection to meet the needs of patrons.

**Project/Program Name**

Seed Library

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

To support community members who are making it a priority to be preserve and protect the environment and encourage food sustainability, the library embarked on creating a seed library. Growing their own food is a priority for many in the community and response to the idea of a seed library was overwhelmingly positive. The library shared this initiative with the community in February and presented the concept of donating seeds, borrowing and planting, and harvesting seeds to return to the library for future lending.

The library partnered with a local non-profit, focused on food sustainability and locally grown natural produce, Groudswell Network Society, as well as a local elementary school. The library

requested seed donations and information on saving seeds, and promoted a seed saving/exchange event in the early spring. Students from the elementary school grew plants in their garden and returned harvested seeds to the library.

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

This program supports the library Key Objective 4: To expand community outreach, and Goal 4.2: To increase the accessibility of library services for communities of the Columbia Valley. As well, it supports Goal 4.3: Engage all groups to use library programs and services.

**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
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**Improving Access:** The Seed Library reduces barriers to access seeds and information for anyone wishing to learn to garden and grow food or wanting to expand the crops they already have. Resources and networks support patrons on their journey to greater understanding of the environment and issues around food sustainability.

**Building Capacity:** Staff learn about various seeds and support patrons interested in using the seed library and educate them on the resources and support networks to help them achieve their gardening goals.

**Advancing Citizen Engagement:** By making the seed library available to everyone in the community, the library increased opportunities for people to learn about growing food, organizations that support sustainable local foods, and provided the materials to help people thrive as independent gardeners.

**What are the key outcomes of this project/program?**

See Logic Model for Seed Library in Appendix 2

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

**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.

<b>Challenge</b>	<b>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).</b>
COVID-19 (e.g., safety protocols, proof of vaccination)	Library programs and services were most impacted in the first quarter of the year when provincial pandemic restrictions remained in place. The library focused on virtual programming, maintaining capacity limits in the library, and thorough cleaning protocols. All community members seeking assistance and preparation of proof of vaccine cards were helped by all staff. This was done at no charge to patrons to reduce barriers to access this provincial requirement.
Emergency response (e.g., fires, floods, extreme weather)	The library was not directly involved in extreme weather emergency response though patrons who sought a cool space were grateful for the air conditioning during the periods of high heat in the summer.
Financial pressure (e.g., rising costs, reduced revenues)	Operational funding is not keeping up with increasing costs of materials, digital and physical resources, liability and contents insurance, and increases to employee wages. The library is reliant on the fundraising efforts of its volunteers to maintain the collection.
Staffing (e.g., recruitment and retention, mental health, and wellness)	
Disappearing services in the community (e.g., government, banking, health)	Library staff were regularly asked for assistance with government forms which people are told to access online. Many whom the library assisted do not have computers, email, or the skills required to navigate government digital platforms. Staff offered support, to the best of their ability, spending greater amounts of time than ever before.
Connectivity (e.g., low bandwidth, lack of home internet in the community)	
Aging/damaged facilities (e.g., need for repairs, renovations, upgrades/expansions)	
Community access to the library (e.g., geographic isolation, lack of local public	The library is located in the town of Invermere though its service area extends to Spillimacheen in the north and Canal Flats in the south. Public transit exists but operates on a limited schedule. The ability of the library to serve the outlying communities was impacted by COVID

transit, building accessibility)	and continued to be a challenge due to a lack of volunteers who, prior to COVID, were essential to the delivery of materials.
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

The Invermere Public Library (IPL) shares a municipal building with the Columbia Valley Community Center (CVCC). Emergency response is coordinated by the District of Invermere (DOI) and communicated to IPL. The library communicates regularly with CVCC staff and will support the DOI response in the event of an extreme weather emergency. The CVCC is a five-year-old building with state-of-the-art air circulation and water filtration making it well suited as a cooling center during periods of extreme hot weather. IPL will coordinate with the KLF around emergency preparedness planning. IPL will use the reallocated EPP budget to focus on supporting the community by focusing on Occupational First Aid certification and Mental Health First Aid training. Reallocating EPP funds to the CRR portion of the budget will allow the IPL to create a larger circulation desk to house a first aid kit and ensure that staff can safely continue to serve patrons. Additional CRR funds will allow IPL to hire additional staff as the library works to return to pre-COVID service and programming levels.

	Grant budget	Reallocated budget
<b>COVID-19 Relief &amp; Recovery Grant Amount</b>	\$26,850.42	\$33,760.56
<b>Emergency Planning &amp; Preparedness Grant Amount</b>	\$8,950.14	\$3,040.00
<b>Total Grant Amount</b>	\$35,800.56	\$35,800.56

## 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)

<b>Project/Program/Activity</b>	Occupational First Aid (OFA) Training for all library staff
<b>Rationale</b>	To equip library staff to respond as effectively as possible in emergency situations
<b>Area of Need</b>	Emergency Planning and Preparedness
<b>Action/Output/Deliverable</b>	Staff expertise in emergency response/first aid training
<b>Outcome/Impact</b>	Staff will have up to date first aid skills in occupational first aid and mental health first aid training
<b>Metrics</b>	Staff were tested and certified after first aid training session
<b>Collaborative Links (if applicable)</b>	OFA training was offered through the College of the Rockies, Invermere campus. Mental Health First Aid will be provided virtually by Mental Health first Aid Canada to facilitate remote learning.
<b>Expenditure</b>	\$3,040.00
<b>Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).</b>	OFA training is complete. Mental Health First Aid Training is pending.
<b>Comments (optional)</b>	

<b>Project/Program/Activity</b>	Expanding library circulation desk and storage capacity
<b>Rationale</b>	To enable safe distancing for staff and patrons
<b>Area of Need</b>	COVID recovery
<b>Action/Output/Deliverable</b>	Expanding the circulation desk will continue to keep a safe distance between patrons and staff. It will provide much needed additional work and storage space.
<b>Outcome/Impact</b>	Patrons will experience continued service excellence in a welcoming environment in which safety remains a priority.
<b>Metrics</b>	New desk pieces and storage cabinet will be in place.
<b>Collaborative Links (if applicable)</b>	Orders were placed through the company that was originally used to furnish the library so as to maintain a common look and feel in the space.
<b>Expenditure</b>	\$12,000.00
<b>Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g.,</b>	Three modules have been purchased and delivered. Additional modules will be ordered.

<b>complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).</b>	
<b>Comments (optional)</b>	

<b>Project/Program/Activity</b>	IPL flags for library and community use
<b>Rationale</b>	To increase awareness of visibility of library programs and services in the community.
<b>Area of Need</b>	COVID recovery
<b>Action/Output/Deliverable</b>	Increase visibility of IPL in the community
<b>Outcome/Impact</b>	Increase awareness of library programming when it is offered in public spaces outside of the library
<b>Metrics</b>	The library assessed that the flags make a positive impact on awareness and attendance at community events
<b>Collaborative Links (if applicable)</b>	The library worked with the company that produced the original flags for the library.
<b>Expenditure</b>	\$812.00
<b>Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).</b>	Order complete.
<b>Comments (optional)</b>	

<b>Project/Program/Activity</b>	Hire a part-time library assistant
<b>Rationale</b>	To assist the library in providing programs and services as it emerges from pandemic restrictions.
<b>Area of Need</b>	COVID recovery
<b>Action/Output/Deliverable</b>	The library will be able to temporarily increase staffing and opening hours.
<b>Outcome/Impact</b>	IPL will provide more service and longer operational hours
<b>Metrics</b>	Increased patron traffic in the library and positive survey feedback reflecting increased satisfaction with service delivery
<b>Collaborative Links (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>	\$19,948.00
<b>Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).</b>	The hiring of a part time library assistant was briefly deferred. This decision was made to allow the library to focus on the transition to increased in-person programming, community outreach, and immediate staffing changes.
<b>Comments (optional)</b>	

## 5. BOARD APPROVAL

*Electronic signatures are acceptable where physical signatures are not feasible.*

Library Director Signature: Anne Rogers

Date: March 1, 2023

Board Chair Signature: Renee McAffar

Date: March 1, 2023

**Problem Statement:** Home Schooling families lack resources and technology to teach all areas of curriculum to their children who are being educated at home.

**Goal:** Provide barrier free access and support to resources and technology that enrich and extend learning and literacy experiences of home-schooled patrons.

**Resources and Activities**

Technology – hardware, software, and STEAM devices  
Financial resources  
Human resources  
Development of programming  
Building capacity so that staff can teach patrons and enrich learning opportunities for children

**Outputs**

Variety and diversity of experiences offered through the program  
Increase in the number of families and children that use the program

**Short-term Outcomes**

Families and their children gain new knowledge and skills through barrier free access to a wide variety of literacy resources and current technology

**Intermediate Outcomes**

Families and children increase their literacy skills, understanding of literacy resources, and various devices to build their knowledge and critical thinking skills

**Long-term Outcomes**

Improve access for British Columbians improves well-being, patrons feel empowered, and they learn skills that improve their education

**Problem Statement:** People want to learn to grow their own food but don't have the seeds or know how to get started.

**Goal:** Provide barrier free access to seeds and resources and that enable and encourage people to grow their own food.

**Resources and Activities**

**Seed donations**  
Financial resources  
Human resources  
Development of see library  
Building capacity so that staff can teach patrons about what seeds are available and how to harvest

**Outputs**

Variety and diversity of seeds available to grow  
Increase in the number of families, groups, and individuals that use the seed library

**Short-term Outcomes**

Families, groups, and individuals gain new knowledge and skills through barrier free access to a wide variety of seeds and resources to help them be successful

**Intermediate Outcomes**

Families, groups and individuals increase their gardening skills, understanding of seeds and plants, and various are encouraged to persevere growing their own food

**Long-term Outcomes**

Improve access for British Columbians improves well-being, patrons feel empowered, and they learn skills that enhance their well-being and promote food sustainability