

2022 PROVINCIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY GRANT REPORT (PLGR)

LIBRARY NAME

Kimberley 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.).



The community of Kimberley and the surrounding library service areas continue to thrive with Canadians from other provinces choosing to make our mountain town their new place of residence. Census information from 2021 cite the Kimberley population as being 8,115. Informal estimates for 2022 suggest the population may have risen to approximately 8,394 by mid summer.

Numerous new library account holders have relocated from Alberta, other prairie provinces, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec. We also welcomed new patrons from Ukraine, refugees of the ongoing war with Russia. There were a total of 535 new library accounts opened in 2022.

Kimberley was awarded the title of "[The Best Small Town in British Columbia](#)" by thousands of CBC readers/listeners this year and we can attest to the excellent quality of life in this beautiful mountain community. We are a hub for outdoor adventurers with much to offer including skiing, golfing, hiking and kayaking to name a few. Our vibrant town centre with its brick streets and Platzl area, which is home to unique shops, restaurants, meeting/performing spaces, and a variety of services including the Kimberley Public Library (KPL).

KPL experienced a year of immense change in 2022 with unanticipated shifts in staffing and management in late 2021 and early 2022. A skeleton crew of longstanding, dedicated library assistants safeguarded the continuity of customer service, delivery of core programs, outreach and access to library resources, ensuring no closures or reductions in hours affected patrons.

The staffing situation was partially rectified in March, and in August 2022 additional changes were undertaken: Covid controls/restrictions were no longer required, an Interim Director was appointed, Staff was encouraged to collaborate and grow professionally assuming greater responsibility in developing, organizing and presenting an enhanced roster of programs, services and in the updating of various library collections and resources.

As KPL's 2022 Provincial Libraries Grant funds were deferred until late in the year, funding of library operations, new programs and services was supported by other grants received from local community stakeholders. Partial funds from the BC Provincial CRRG were also used for staffing costs, with some planned projects delayed until PLG funds were received.

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

Kimberley Public Library offered the following literacy programs in 2022:

- **Spring Programs** - Storytime and activities with "Books in the Park"
- **Summer Reading Club** Storytime and literacy activities both indoors and outdoors
- **Fall Programs** included:
 - Storytime 0-2 years, Storytime 3-5 years
 - Guest presenters at Storytime (WildSightBC, WildSafeBC)
 - Lego Club – two separate fall sessions were offered for different age groups
 - Play and Learn – Providing STEAM based learning to children through play, activities and access to educational technology i.e. coding with Ozobots
 - Adult Technology Talks about online library resources, navigating the internet, using apps and various technologies
 - "Coffee and Chat" mornings with local guest speakers
 - Scrabble evenings
 - Book Club Sets available for local book clubs to borrow.
- **Focussed, single sessions/presentations:** Truth & Reconciliation Day showcasing a newly expanded collection of Indigenous Books, Love Your Library Day, Christmas Card making, STEAM awareness day

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

Literacy programs contribute to fulfilling KPL's goals which are part of its mission and vision:

Mission:

Support the intellectual, recreational, personal, and cultural enrichment of our patrons by offering diverse resources to the community with an emphasis on literacy, while providing a neutral space for enhanced social connection.

Vision:

To inspire the love of reading and the pursuit of knowledge by offering resources, both physical and electronic, as well as relevant programming and services to our citizens throughout their lifespan.

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 – KPL’s programs enhance patron access to free Wi-Fi, online resources, online courses, in-house technology and equipment that they may not have access to at home, or, may not be able to afford. Young patrons can use iPads for research or gaming, play with Ozobots to learn basic coding skills, and adults can choose from a number of business, technology and personal interest courses from Gale. Patrons learn how to navigate online resources and the internet in our tech programs when they explore the library’s databases, eBooks, audiobooks and more.

2. Building Capacity – Programs have given our staff opportunities to build public speaking skills, learn new technologies both online and in house, as well as developing the presentation skills needed to teach patrons about library resources and services. The Interim Director incorporated these skills into staff meetings, presenting online resources to the staff such as “Cantook Station” and Kermode

3. Advancing Citizen Engagement – Library technology programs help patrons learn to use online resources and to navigate internet sites thereby increasing their comfort levels when, for example, accessing government sites, should they need to apply for EI, renew passports, or print off health records.

Our Truth and Reconciliation Day display provided numerous new FNMI books and information helping to meet the BC government’s goal to: *“Bring the library community together to foster knowledge-sharing, collaboration and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.”*

4. Enhancing Governance – Information and statistics gathered in relation to our literacy programs will make up part of the library’s Annual Survey 2022 as well as being used in the Director’s monthly key performance indicators (KPI’s) reports. This information can be used for planning, staffing, and referred to when the board is developing new strategic goals for the library.

What are the key outcomes of this project/program?

Immediate: Patrons participating in library programming learn different literacies and skills (Reading, Information, Technological, etc.) in fun, sociable and engaging ways. Caregivers report children having greater interest in books and STEAM activities, growing their literacy levels and learning abilities as well as personal confidence.

Intermediate: Patrons continue to use library programming and services throughout their lifespans. Children starting with Storytime and growing into STEAM programs and book clubs, contributing to success in school. Parents meeting the literacy and developmental needs of their children, and meeting social needs of their own. Older adults and seniors learning to keep pace with new technology and becoming comfortable using online services.

Long-term: Citizens engaging more actively in their communities, accessing government services, taking an active role in learning, making social connections, supporting mental and physical health needs, and interacting in society in a positive and productive manner.

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

Provincial grants are used to enable many of these projects by paying for program supplies, staffing, collection development, purchases of modern technology, etc.

Project/Program Name

Outreach Programs and Community Partnerships

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

Kimberley Public Library **Outreach Programs** and **Community Partnerships** include:

- School/Daycare visits to the library – tour, Storytime session and Library Card sign ups
- Homebound Reader's Service – for anyone physically unable to visit the library and for seniors without transport, we deliver books and other resources to their door, or coach them in navigating our e-library and downloading eBooks, audiobooks and magazines
- Warming and Cooling Center – was open to the community providing a cool place with water to recover during the heat waves, and somewhere to warm up when temperatures are frigid in the winter months
- Volunteers in the Library – training and working with 6 -10 community volunteers
- East Kootenay Network of People Who Use Drugs (EKNPUD) – received free staff training & Naloxone Kits in case of a drug overdose emergency
- Alternate School – Student Work Study Program at the KPL Library
- "Food for Fines" program with payments for (existing) fines going to support the Kimberley Food Bank

- “Love Your Library” open house in October with a draw for book bundle prizes and a book-mark creation station for children
- New Social Media campaign with regularly scheduled posts sharing the Library's current programs, services, events and new resources.
- Literacy and Community partnerships:
 - Books for Babies in partnership with CBAL (Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy)
 - The “Gruffalo” StorySki in partnership with the Kimberley Nordic Centre. Planning and production for this project began in 2022, with the official opening in 2023: <https://youtu.be/EcDpbpfIOPw?t=1163>
 - “First Saturdays” and “Kaleidoscope” community events with Centre 64 - KPL hosting literacy Imagination stations with books and activities for children
 - CBAL/KPL Annual “Books for Kids” Christmas Fundraiser
 - Friends of KPL 2022 Grant funded the purchase of the STEAM Activity Kits in the Children’s area – magnetic building material kits, puzzles, literacy toys, new furniture and more

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

All of our outreach programs and community partnerships are designed to focus on building literacy, providing learning opportunities and social interaction for the community, thereby enriching the lives and skills of library patrons and others living in and around the Kimberley area.

KPL provides many opportunities for community members to grow and contribute, meet others, and socialize. Literacy is always the goal at the library, however we strive to also take the focus of literacy and learning out into the community. Sharing learning opportunities at various local events, where they can be accessed in fun and fresh avenues for citizens of all ages and in a variety of places also meets our 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

1. Improving Access – The BC Government strategy, “Improving Access for British Columbians seeks to ensure that libraries help citizens get greater access to the internet and digital technologies.” Not only does KPL’s programs, services and outreach efforts support this government strategy, it goes beyond this specific (tech oriented) definition of “access.” We provide access to books for the senior who is recovering from hip surgery and only reads physical books. Our library provides a safe place for those suffering from heat exhaustion or extreme cold. We provide access to new parents who need connection and want social interaction with other parents and children. Our library provides many types of “access”, all critical to the mental and physical well-being of our patrons and community members.

2. Building Capacity – all outreach programs and services provide opportunities for staff to learn and gain new skills using and teaching various technologies to patrons, our Student Work Study Program helps to build capacity in young adults who use a variety of new technologies and library software in their work at the library. Students often use their existing technology skills and experience to assist patrons and staff in building capacity.

3. Advancing Citizen Engagement – Going to local events we are able to reach community members that may not make it into the Library. We are able to encourage citizens to sign up for a library card outlining all the benefits they can enjoy free of charge at the library.

4. Enhancing Governance – Data from KPL programs will be included in the Annual survey helping the BC government to better understand which programs are needed in libraries to address and support current, complex social needs and challenges in our communities.

What are the key outcomes of this project/program?

Immediate: More community members and library patrons using services and programs, both inside and outside of the library.

Intermediate: The intermediate outcome is the support patrons receive through programs and services, instilling in them an intrinsic understanding of libraries as safe, welcoming, helpful places for **ALL**. They know that can use the library to access resources, learning/literacy programs, social opportunities, access to online resources and the technology needed to do so.

Long-term: Citizens engaged in their communities, able to learn and grow, access government services when appropriate, meet their social and health needs, and interact with society in a positive and productive manner. These programs and services support the provincial strategic goal of improving access for British Columbians to technological resources, and citizens being comfortable in using them.

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

Provincial grants are used to enable projects by paying for program supplies, staffing, purchases of modern technology, and presentation equipment, etc.

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)	Covid protocols were still a consideration early in the year and may have affected the number of patrons using our services. Spring Storytime sessions were held in the outdoors during this time.
Emergency response (e.g., fires, floods, extreme weather)	KPL has an existing basic Emergency response plan. In 2022 the plan was reviewed, and more comprehensive updates were added. Before the Interim Director left in December they ensured information on "Shakeout BC earthquake preparedness" was added to the update materials.
Financial pressure (e.g., rising costs, reduced revenues)	Financial considerations for the KPL this year included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ratifying of a new Union contract with wage increases ensuring staff wages were consistent with the range of other public library employees in the region • Inflation affecting the cost of many library resources, materials needed for processing resources, and for operational needs (paper, office supplies, cleaning products) • Loss of income from going "Fines-Free" was also considered
Staffing (e.g., recruitment and retention, mental health, and wellness)	<p>← All of these staffing issues were, and continue to present challenges for KPL in 2022 and into 2023, as recruitment for a qualified Director is ongoing.</p> <p>Mental health and wellness was a critical issue at KPL in 2022, one that the Interim Director helped address through monthly staff meetings, a more collaborative management strategy, more open communications with staff and arranging for all employees, even part time and casual staff to have full access to Blue Cross wellness</p>

	benefits: Employee and Family Assistance Program. This change to our wellness benefits was funded by the CRRG grant.
Disappearing services in the community (e.g., government, banking, health)	There are no easily accessible indoor public places that residents or tourists in can go to in Kimberley without spending money to purchase products or services, aside from the library when the weather becomes extreme. The library offers the community this service as a warming or cooling centre at a minimal cost (bottled water, bathroom facilities).
Connectivity (e.g., low bandwidth, lack of home internet in the community)	
Aging/damaged facilities (e.g., need for repairs, renovations, upgrades/expansions)	The KPL library is located in a City of Kimberley owned facility of an advancing age (43 years) with limited space. The board, management and staff realize that to offer our patrons and the community a needed range of quality tech programs and a functional "Tech Lab/MakerSpace" area, a major renovation or move to another location is required. Access to electrical outlets for patrons who bring in laptops for individual work or group collaboration is another issue as the current number of them is limited. A project late in 2022 to address this issue purchased a number of charge bar tables. Their "Pop-up" power capability has three outlets, two USB ports, and a surge protector built into the furniture which will be plugged into the limited number of outlets currently available. This project was funded by the Friends of KPL 2022 grant.
Community access to the library (e.g., geographic isolation, lack of local public transit, building accessibility)	Accessibility is good in our current building with Handicap enabled doors, washroom facilities and a lift to the second floor.
Vulnerable communities (e.g., people experiencing homelessness, addiction, mental health crisis)	Issues of this type are not often experienced at the KPL, however staff has expressed an interest in receiving training on how to respond to and best support individuals experiencing mental health issues. The library proactively arranged for Naloxone training for staff and management in October 2022.
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.

With our regular provincial funding deferred in 2022, some of the CRRG funds were temporarily used for staffing costs and the purchase of library resources. With receipt of the deferred funding at the end of 2022, the remainder of the CRRG proposed projects can now be completed.

CRRG work that was accomplished in 2022 included:

- Improvements made to existing IT systems and technology supports
- Staffing hours focused on Outreach Services
- Cross training of staff started in 2022, with a formalized plan scheduled early in 2023.
- Modifications to the layout and replacement of self-check out computer equipment in the library was investigated in 2022, with changes completed in early 2023
- Mental health and wellness supports – EFAP benefits for all staff implemented in 2022.
- Many informal coaching tech sessions occurred, and two formal “Adult Tech Talks” sessions were held in fall 2022 educating patrons on how to access e-resources, the downloading of apps needed to use these resources, and in managing their library accounts and resources online.
- Physical work supports – an ergonomic assessment was done by a local Occupational Therapist with recommendations implemented by purchasing specified furniture and technology supports.
- The KPL Emergency Preparedness documentation was reviewed, modified, and a plan to continue updates by a new director to include a section on “Earthquake” preparedness.
- “Quickstep” hand-outs/guides were provided by the Kootenay Library Federation in 2022. Versions of these “Quickstep” guides were customized for distribution to KPL patrons needing guides to assist when they were accessing online resources such as “Libby”, E-Library resources, “LinkedIn Learning”, ILL's and more.

	Grant budget	Reallocated budget
COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Grant Amount	\$ 26926.96	TDB
Emergency Planning & Preparedness Grant Amount	\$ 8975.65	TDB
Total Grant Amount	\$ 35902.61	

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	
Rationale	
Area of Need	
Action/Output/Deliverable	
Outcome/Impact	
Metrics	
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	
Expenditure	
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	
Comments (optional)	

5. BOARD APPROVAL

Electronic signatures are acceptable where physical signatures are not feasible.

Signature: 
 Sharon Seward, Library Assistant 3, Acting Director

Date: March 1, 2023

Signature: 
 Greg Bradley, Board Chair

Date: March 1, 2023

