

2022 PROVINCIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY GRANT REPORT (PLGR)

LIBRARY NAME

Lillooet Area 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.).

The Lillooet Area Library Association (LALA) provides public library services to residents of the District of Lillooet, Squamish Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) Areas A and B, and the six Northern St'át'imc communities: T'it'q'et, Ts'al'áh, Se'kelwas, Xwisten, Xaxli'p and Ts'k'way'laxw. We operate three branches in Lillooet, Gold Bridge and Shalalth (Ts'al'áh) at the Bridge River Town Site. We provide outreach services to communities without a branch. Our service area extends through a large rugged territory with a population of approximately 4250 people. LALA operates on unceded St'át'imc Territory. The St'át'imc people living on reserve compose approximately 30 % of the population. The Lillooet Tribal Council, St'át'imc Government Services and the Band Councils of the six Northern St'át'imc communities are important local government bodies. LALA works with diverse St'át'imc organizations to offer relevant programming.

2021 Census data shows a 5% increase in population for the areas LALA serves since 2016. Much of this growth has occurred within the District of Lillooet (1.2%) and the average is skewed by a 38.7% increase in residents in the Squamish Lillooet Regional District A. This area includes the communities of Bralorne and Gold Bridge. Talisker Resources has expanded operations at the Bralorne Gold Mine. The Hurley forest service road offers three season access to Pemberton and the Sea to Sky with a 2.5-hour drive, rather than the 4.5 hours required to take the "main road" through Lillooet. Growth in Area A is partially being affected by the affordability crisis on the lower mainland, the little derelict bungalows of the old mining town are being fixed up and occupied. The Gold Bridge Public Library has not seen a significant increase in card holders or circulation statistics, showing us we have outreach work to do in this remote community.

LALA's most important supporters are the tax payers of Lillooet and SLRD areas A and B who provide 73% of our core funding. We appreciate the generous and ongoing patronage of the citizens we serve. There are two streams of funding from the Government of B.C. that support LALA's work.

Through Decoda and the Ministry of Advanced Education Community Adult Literacy Program we are able to provide basic literacy outreach programs and English as an Additional Language tutoring. These funds represent 10.8% of our 2022 operating budget. Libraries Branch funding for LALA represents 9.4% of our core funding in 2022, with an additional 6.4% for the Covid Relief funding. As these yearly funds have been frozen for over a decade we rely upon them to provide for fixed expenses. Without this funding we would have to economize painfully on programs, purchases, and technology support.

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
B.C. Summer Reading Club
Provide a brief description. Please include details such as any partnerships or resources leveraged to accomplish this project/program.
The BC Summer Reading Club (SRC) is a free summer literacy program designed to connect school-aged children, ages 5-12, with libraries, self guided learning and reading. The primary goal of the SRC is to help children maintain and improve their reading skills over the summer months. The theme for 2022 was “All Together Now”. This was a perfect focus for young people in the Lillooet area. In 2021 this community experienced the revealing of unmarked graves in Kamloops, which is the residential school attended by most St’át’imc people, catastrophic heat, fires, floods, avalanche and the pandemic. With so many unexpected and unprecedented events, local families need support and access to reliable, safe programs. Bringing attention to things that connect communities and people together had the added value of helping address the stress and trauma of the past two years. There was record enrollment, with over 277 children participating over the summer. Funding for staff is provided by Federal programs; the Young Canada Works- Heritage, and the Canada Summer Jobs.
How does this project/program support the library’s strategic goals?
The SRC addresses aspects of all four strategic goals in the LALA Strategic Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Practicing and sharing good governance</i>—By bringing youth onto staff this program gives the rest of staff the opportunity to engage youth and learn valuable lessons about how to be effective with young patrons. It gives excellent leadership experience to the student staff who go on to be Public Library supporters in their developing careers. • <i>Responsive Service</i>—In 2022 the Lillooet SRC expanded to offer more sessions by popular demand. The summer staff also developed an evening program to engage older youth aged 12 and up for whom there is very little free programming in the community. At the Bridge River Branch, the SRC took the form of take home kits in order to accommodate the wishes of parents in that community. • <i>Action on Reconciliation- St’át’imc community day camps</i> attend the SRC weekly, ensuring that St’át’imc children have access to the library and feel empowered to use the facility and resources. • <i>Providing community space-</i> The SRC helps LALA welcome kids into the Library at the beginning of their lives, creating lasting relationships for a life of learning.
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

2. This program builds capacity in our communities in a number of ways:
- kids and families learn about all the many resources and programs available to them through the Public Library
 - Summer student staff have an outstanding job experience and learn a wide range of transferable skills
 - LALA staff learn new technology skills, perspectives and innovative ideas from summer staff

What are the key outcomes of this project/program?

- The immediate outcomes for the SRC program are:
- children maintain their reading level over the summer
 - increase local families’ knowledge and use of Library services
 - children have fun

Longer term outcomes include:

- outreach and inclusion for outlying St’át’imc communities
- significant learning and development for the summer student staff
- organizational memory so that future SRC staff learn from the experience of the 2022 SRC team.

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

The provincial summer reading club materials are invaluable in helping to guide summer staff to produce a professional, engaging program.

Project/Program Name

Virtual Author Talk with Dr. Paulette Steeves

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

Dr. Steeves is an Indigenous archeologist, with a long career in research and teaching. She is a graduate of Lillooet Secondary School and has many local friends and admirers. Her book titled “The Indigenous Paleolithic of the Western Hemisphere” was published by the University of Nebraska Press in July of 2021. In June of 2022 LALA partnered with the Public Libraries of Gibson’s, Pemberton, Sechelt, Squamish, and Whistler, to offer a virtual author talk with Dr. Steeves. The event was hybrid in some communities, others offered it only as a virtual event. There were 70 attendees on-line, with an additional eight coming in person to the Lillooet Branch. There were people from all over Canada

who joined the live event. Dr. Steeves graciously allowed us to keep the recording up on our YouTube channel. People keep watching it, with 544 views to date. This project was an opportunity for the “Sea to Sky” Libraries to work together in a new way and scale. Without the partnership it would not have been possible for any one of the libraries to afford this speaker, but by pooling resources her fee was within budget

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

Dr. Steeves scholarship shows how racist bias in archeology has disenfranchised Indigenous people from their own history. She is an engaging speaker who brings dedicated scholarship, passion and plain language to the complex archeology of North America. Bringing this kind of high level presentation to people in multiple formats fulfills every key pillar of our strategic plan.

- *Practicing and sharing good governance*—learning about history helps build a better future.
- *Responsive Service*— finding innovative ways to offer an event that met the interest of many community members
- *Action on Reconciliation* – honouring indigenous scholarship and making time and space for important new understandings of history
- *Providing community space*- during the pandemic LALA only did a few virtual events for adults, this talk was one of the best attended, and most appreciated.

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 event supports all of these goals

- Improving access to high quality programming to six B.C. communities and beyond
- Building capacity for library staff to work together and develop new program models
- Advancing citizen engagement by bringing scholarship that matters to people who care
- Enhancing governance by developing knowledge of history

What are the key outcomes of this project/program?

The immediate outcomes for this event were:

- Over 70 people had the opportunity to hear Dr. Steeves speak and answer direct questions
- The important information in the book “*The Indigenous Paleolithic of the Western Hemisphere*” reached a wide, diverse audience

Longer term outcomes:

- Indigenous organizers feel welcome bringing program and event ideas to partner with LALA
- Future program development for InterLINK libraries to cooperate on high ticket speakers

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

Provincial support for the ongoing networking between InterLINK libraries helped make this innovation natural and easy.

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)	2022 was blessedly low on immediate catastrophe. Staff engaged in Emergency Planning reviews and updates to the LALA Emergency Plan with funding from the Covid Recovery Grant.
Financial pressure (e.g., rising costs, reduced revenues)	LALA is well supported by the communities we serve. The cost of living crisis coupled with labour shortages requires LALA to increase compensation in order to attract and retain qualified staff.

Staffing (e.g., recruitment and retention, mental health, and wellness)	There has been a leadership position open for over a year. Attempts at recruitment have provided no suitable candidates. Other positions also had turn over in 2022. The focus on human resource issues took time away from other Library Director duties. Staff and Board have shown a lot of resilience over the past year, part of the secret to this has been a commitment to focus on the basics, and spending time on reflection, debriefing and recovery.
Disappearing services in the community (e.g., government, banking, health)	
Connectivity (e.g., low bandwidth, lack of home internet in the community)	Lillooet received a fiber optic internet upgrade in the autumn of 2022. It has not affected the people who rely on the Library for connectivity. We have chosen not to upgrade at this time as the current service is working and the new rates are exorbitant.
Aging/damaged facilities (e.g., need for repairs, renovations, upgrades/expansions)	In both the winter of 2021/22 and 2022/23 Lillooet experienced significant cold snaps. The Lillooet REC Centre is unable to keep adequately warm when the temperature falls below -20°C. There were several days when some of our rooms were only 5°C. This resulted in two days of unplanned closure.
Community access to the library (e.g., geographic isolation, lack of local public transit, building accessibility)	There is very limited public transportation in the areas we serve. Most people either walk or drive to our facilities.
Vulnerable communities (e.g., people experiencing homelessness, addiction, mental health crisis)	There are more people using the Lillooet Public Library for their only connectivity, access to washrooms and heating/ cooling needs. Limited help for people who are in mental health crisis is an ongoing challenge for all service providers. Folks get bounced from the Library, to the shelter, to the hospital, to cells. These situations can be very stressful on Library staff, who do not want to be social workers or addictions counselors.
Other (please specify) Colonialism	The ongoing legacy of racism and residential schools is lived experience. LALA strives to take action on reconciliation within our own organization and in the services we provide. These systemic issues will not be changed by Public Libraries alone, we must build relationships, learn and create new systems based on equality, inclusion and access.

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

Some projects outlined in the interim report have been completed, others are still in process. LALA shifted most of the funding to the Emergency Preparedness stream.


	Grant budget	Reallocated budget
COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Grant Amount	24,374.41	6,192.00
Emergency Planning & Preparedness Grant Amount	8,124.80	26,307.21
Total Grant Amount	32,499.21	32,499.21

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	Outdoor programming
Rationale	
Area of Need	Covid Recovery
Action/Output/Deliverable	Purchase pop up with library logo and values
Outcome/Impact	Flexibility to offer a wider range of events outside
Metrics	Used for 5 events in 2022
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	Shared use with other community groups
Expenditure	\$2072

<p>Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).</p>	<p>complete</p> 
<p>Comments (optional)</p>	<p>Library Director, Toby Mueller and Trustee, Betty Weaver pose with the new pop-up at an outreach event for Climate Action Week.</p>

<p>Project/Program/Activity</p>	<p>Increasing access to Canadian news</p>
<p>Rationale</p>	<p>Reliable sources with good information is good for everyone</p>
<p>Area of Need</p>	<p>Covid recovery</p>
<p>Action/Output/Deliverable</p>	<p>Purchase lendable tablets, patron and staff training, new digital subscriptions</p>
<p>Outcome/Impact</p>	<p>Community members have access to wider range of trusted news sources</p>
<p>Metrics</p>	<p>All staff confident to promote tablets and digital newspaper collection.</p>
<p>Collaborative Links (if applicable)</p>	<p>B.C. Libraries Cooperative</p>
<p>Expenditure</p>	<p>3,000</p>
<p>Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).</p>	<p>On hold due to staff shortage. Some work started. We're learning best practice for administering these items from other Libraries before going ahead.</p>
<p>Comments (optional)</p>	

Project/Program/Activity	Staff Retreat
Rationale	Staff deserve time to learn and plan in a relaxed place
Area of Need	Covid recovery/ Emergency preparedness
Action/Output/Deliverable	Two day staff retreat to debrief, plan and provide training
Outcome/Impact	Staff developed closer working relationships, emergency plan completed, 2023 operation planning begun, EBSCO training provided.
Metrics	
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	Accommodation space provided gratis by B.C. Hydro at the Bridge River Town site.
Expenditure	\$825 expenses. Staff time not included.
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	This was a very successful project. We will use remaining funds to bring staff to Beyond Hope Library Conference in Prince George in May 2023
Comments (optional)	

Project/Program/Activity	Clean air in our facilities
Rationale	Air quality affects human health.
Area of Need	Emergency Preparedness
Action/Output/Deliverable	Purchase air purifiers
Outcome/Impact	LALA spaces will be able to have clean air during disease outbreaks and wild fires.
Metrics	Test air quality during use.
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	Grateful for the help of staff at Kamloops Office Systems.
Expenditure	\$17,813.05
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	Completed. Each unit has air quality testing equipment included. Purchase included replacement filters which should last three years.
Comments (optional)	

Project/Program/Activity	LALA Staff training in Emergency Support Services
Rationale	In the event of emergency LALA staff have capacity to support Emergency Operations Centre (EOC).
Area of Need	Emergency Preparedness
Action/Output/Deliverable	Staff training, LALA staff participate in EOC, provide ad hoc support as needed
Outcome/Impact	Citizens receive timely support and information in emergencies
Metrics	In development
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	District of Lillooet
Expenditure	In development
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	Discussion amongst LALA and municipal staff have changed the focus of this project. Red Cross services are very limited in scope, and the District is looking to provide emergency services with a different process. LALA will continue to work with the District to develop a Letter of Understanding for the deployment of LALA staff and spaces when needed. LALA staff have

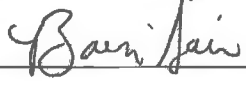
Expenditure	In development
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	Discussion amongst LALA and municipal staff have changed the focus of this project. Red Cross services are very limited in scope, and the District is looking to provide emergency services with a different process. LALA will continue to work with the District to develop a Letter of Understanding for the deployment of LALA staff and spaces when needed. LALA staff have ascertained we can be best deployed on an ad hoc basis, stepping in to fill gaps as they emerge.
Comments (optional)	

Project/Program/Activity	Making LALA Libraries more comfortable and versatile
Rationale	Our spaces have a lot of old, uncomfortable furniture
Area of Need	Emergency Preparedness
Action/Output/Deliverable	Purchase new lounge furniture, moveable shelving and other items to improve library spaces
Outcome/Impact	LALA spaces will be able to accommodate a wider range of uses, offer more comfortable and relaxing space for patrons, and keep physical distancing measures during flu season
Metrics	Patron and staff feedback
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	
Expenditure	In development
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	Due to staff shortages it has been challenging to coordinate this much purchasing for three branches. Work is in process and should be completed by the summer of 2023
Comments (optional)	

5. BOARD APPROVAL

Electronic signatures are acceptable where physical signatures are not feasible.

Library Director Signature:  Date: Mar 2/23

Board Chair Signature:  Date: Mar 2/23