

2022 PROVINCIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY GRANT REPORT (PLGR)

LIBRARY NAME

McBride & District 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 McBride & District Public Library serves 1650 people in the Robson Valley, a region nestled between the Rocky and Cariboo mountain ranges in North-Central British Columbia. Most residents are involved in forestry, farming, public service, and the service industry. Outdoor recreation opportunities are abundant and developing, and our arts community is vibrant.

In 2022 we continued to face a number of challenges common for rural areas, including:

- a small population and the resulting impact on business, school class size, and volunteer services;
- distance from essential services coupled with a lack of public transportation
- lack of seniors' long-term care and affordable housing;
- challenges for rural education based on the current funding model; and
- lack of reliable, affordable internet access.

Despite our challenges, new residents continue to settle in the Valley because of its affordable housing and the rural lifestyle. A number of young families, some returning to the place where they were raised and some without previous connections, are moving to McBride with energy and enthusiasm. Micro-specialty businesses are appearing, and agriculture is growing. Local government is working with community partners to consider important issues like seniors' housing and fibre optic internet.

Funding from the BC Government is used across library expenditure, from staff salaries, to programming expenses, to collection development.

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
Library Accessible Garden Project
Provide a brief description. Please include details such as any partnerships or resources leveraged to accomplish this project/program.
In 2022, thanks to a series of grants from the Northern Development Initiative Trust, Health Communities Canada and the BC Government, we were able to turn the empty lots next to the library into an accessible small-scale public park, with trees, benches and tables and a covered meeting room extension that offers year-round programming and events possibilities. A fenced children's play area creates a safe space for families to meet, enjoy a book and play.
How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals?
This project supports the following strategic goal: "To be a community hub for diverse ages and interests and respond to changing needs in the community". With the COVID-19 pandemic, we were encouraged to look to safer spaces for community gatherings; building a covered, accessible outdoor meeting-room extension meant we had a safer place we could learn, discuss, create and imagine. Since creating the outdoor garden space, we have seen community members visit the garden on a daily basis; to sit on benches, eat lunch, meet friends, play, and even remember loved ones (we invited community members to sponsor newly planted trees).
How does this project/program support the B.C.'s strategic goal(s) for public library service from the strategic plan, which include:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Improving Access 2 Building Capacity 3 Advancing Citizen Engagement 4 Enhancing Governance

It supports 'Improving Access": the empty lots were uneven and muddy. We added accessible concrete pathways and pads, so the space can be enjoyed by all.

What are the key outcomes of this project/program?

The creation of an accessible, attractive outdoor space ensured the elimination of existing safety and accessibility barriers to accessing the facility, ultimately leading to increased numbers of patrons visiting the library. The library - and community - now have a usable outdoor space for meetings, learning, play and events.

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

Yes, in that the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery grant was used to pay for part of the improvements to the outdoor space.

Project/Program Name

Family and Friends Trivia Night

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

Monthly Trivia Nights at the library: teams of up to 6 register and compete for prizes. Trivia questions are themed, according to the time of year. We have had 6 teams competing at each event.

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

It supports the strategic goal 'to be the heart of community connections', as well as supporting life-long learning and literacy.

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

It supports the aim of putting libraries at the heart of communities: on Friday evenings, when this program runs, this is the only free entertainment for members of our community.

What are the key outcomes of this project/program?

Entertainment, learning and team building for the community. Fostering friendship and community connections.

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

No.

Project/Program Name

Sourdough Bake Along

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

Offered at the start of 2022, this was part of a series of cooking tutorials offered to community members by community members, delivered via Zoom and organised/facilitated by the library. In this program, 15 participants took a 2-day sourdough baking course. Ingredients were provided by the library ahead of time, and participants met online at each stage in the bread-making process for instruction.

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

This is another program that supports life-long learning and the places the library at the heart of community connections. Through this program, people of all ages met and baked "together".

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

- 9 Improving Access
- 10 Building Capacity
- 11 Advancing Citizen Engagement
- 12 Enhancing Governance

This program supports 'Improving Access', in that the library loaned ipads to any participant who did not have a suitable device. We offered tuition in using iPads and Zoom, ensuring all could participate fully in the experience. As all ingredients were provided free of charge, it meant a greater number of people could join in.

What are the key outcomes of this project/program?
Teaching new skills to community members (I.T. technology skills, as well as baking). Bringing community members together at a time when COVID-19 health restrictions limited in-person gatherings and connectivity.
Did provincial grants enable this project/program? If so, how?
No.

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-19 limited some of our events/programming, particularly at the start of 2022, since we could not host larger groups for space/distancing reasons.
Emergency response (e.g., fires, floods, extreme weather)	We live in an area surrounded by forest and next to a large river. Almost every year our community experiences flooding, mudslides or some kind of natural disaster. In 2022 we created an Emergency Response Plan.
Financial pressure (e.g., rising costs, reduced revenues)	We have seen rising prices for all our office and library supplies; utilities and taxes are up. Unfortunately, it is a fact that we do not have the financial support that the BC Government used to offer.
Staffing (e.g., recruitment and retention, mental health, and wellness)	Staffing continues to be a problem, since we are unable to offer a living wage to employees. Staff tend to leave as soon as better-paying jobs come up. We actively encourage and support staff in their health and wellness, and have open discussions and check-ins, but our existing staff are often overworked and we do not have the resources to

	support them.
Disappearing services in the community (e.g., government, banking, health)	We have no social workers or mental health support in the community, so library staff now undertake a lot of social work. As the only free internet provision in McBride, people rely on us for access to government sites, banking and online health appointments.
Connectivity (e.g., low bandwidth, lack of home internet in the community)	McBride does not have high-speed internet. We struggle on with the internet we can get here. Many homes in our community do not have internet (or even phones).
Aging/damaged facilities (e.g., need for repairs, renovations, upgrades/expansions)	We do not have any significant problems with the library's building or facilities. With our limited budget, we hope this continues.
Community access to the library (e.g., geographic isolation, lack of local public transit, building accessibility)	There is no public transport here, and the nearest city is more than 2 hours away. The building is fully accessible, and we are in many ways the social hub of the town. The library is the only place people can spend a day without spending money, still. We have offered programs online, for those that have internet, dropped off lending materials with those unable to visit, extended loan periods and forgiven fines for those physically unable to come into town. People have signed up for library cards over the phone, and gained access to e-books when they were unable to come in.
Vulnerable communities (e.g., people experiencing homelessness, addiction, mental health crisis)	As mentioned already, our jobs have started to include a significant amount of social work, including supporting community members who need food, a warm place to be, or help overcoming addiction, etc. We work with the local Food Bank, collecting food and donations every February (as Fine-Free February). We also work closely with our local Health Unit and mental health professionals to support community members as best we can.
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 COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Grant was put towards improvements to our outdoor space, creating a safe and accessible meeting area/garden for community events/use and library programs. Emergency Planning & Preparedness funding was used for staff First Aid training and to purchase key emergency and medical equipment.

	Grant budget	Reallocated budget
COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Grant Amount	\$21170.93	
Emergency Planning & Preparedness Grant Amount	\$7056.98	
Total Grant Amount	\$28227.91	

Project Progress Report

Please use this section for:

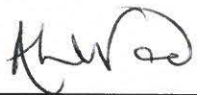
- 1 Report progress on projects included interim report **and/ or**
- 2 New projects developed since interim report (copy and paste tables as needed)

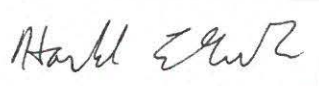
Project/Program/Activity	COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Grant
Rationale	Additional funds needed to create outdoor 'rooms'
Area of Need	Safer spaces to gather
Action/Output/Deliverable	Creation of outdoor children's area, meeting-room area and picnic/casual meeting areas.
Outcome/Impact	Successful creation of multi-use outdoor space
Metrics	Usage tracking: community members using space; library programs and events held in space.
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	
Expenditure	\$21170.93
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	Outdoor areas completed in 2022.
Comments (optional)	

Project/Program/Activity	Emergency Planning & Preparedness
Rationale	To better prepare for emergencies
Area of Need	First Aid Training/Comfort of community
Action/Output/Deliverable	Training for staff and equipment needed.
Outcome/Impact	4 staff trained in First Aid; portable defibrillator purchased, sun canopies purchased; portable air conditioners installation in progress.
Metrics	EHS metrics.
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	
Expenditure	\$7056.98
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	4 staff members attended 2-day First Aid Training, and are now certified. - Sun canopies purchased. - First Aid equipment, including defibrillator, purchased and staff trained in use. - Portable air conditioners: purchase in progress (awaiting input from qualified electrician/plumber).
Comments (optional)	

5. BOARD APPROVAL

Electronic signatures are acceptable where physical signatures are not feasible.

Library Director Signature:  Date: 28 Feb 2023

Board Chair Signature:  Date: 28 Feb 2023