

## 2022 PROVINCIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY GRANT REPORT (PLGR)

### LIBRARY NAME

Midway 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](#)
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- [4. COVID-19 RELIEF & RECOVERY – 2022 PROGRESS REPORT](#)
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### 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 Midway Public Library is located in the heart of the Village of Midway, population of approximately 650 people. The Village of Midway is located in the Kettle Valley surrounded by mountains, river and farmlands. The Canada-USA border is 2 kilometers from town with the closest larger cities being Grand Forks east (55 kilometers) and Osoyoos west (70 kilometers). The Midway Public Library acts as a hub within the rural community serving the residents in Midway and the surrounding Area "E" of the local Regional District of Kootenay Boundary including Beaverdell, Westbridge, Bridesville, Rock Creek and Midway. This area is home to multiple farms and wood mills. Many community members are self-employed in trade, farm or craft/art-based businesses. There are also multiple families who have one or more family members who works out of town in industries such as oil, gas and construction. There is a large population of retired and elderly people within the communities and many households are multi generational. Midway and area is particularly challenged by the rural location, access to services and poverty. Many patrons access the library when they come into the Village of Midway to get groceries, get gas, go to the post office, or pharmacy. The Village of Midway also houses the regional high school, skating arena, police department as well as restaurants and businesses. For further services, community members have to travel to communities such as Kelowna, Grand Forks or Castlegar which is challenging as many local

people have limited income and access to transportation. Midway Public Library strives to be a friendly, welcoming environment. We are currently serving the community by providing access to computers as well as printing/copying/scanning/faxing services. Midway Public Library has undergone some technology and IT upgrades to increase the quality of services that we can offer. We act as a hub for local information sharing and for social connection for many of our patrons. Patrons are able to checkout physical library materials (books, DVD's, some puzzles/games) from the collection as well as access multiple online resources through their library membership. As things opened up after the pandemic, we started offering in person events and had a wonderful Summer Reading Club program to kick off our in person programming. We still offer remote programs as our patrons really appreciated being able to participate without having to drive long distances to come. We continue to work on building our connections with the community and doing our best to meet the needs of the people who live here.

## 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
Programming
<b>Provide a brief description. Please include details such as any partnerships or resources leveraged to accomplish this project/program.</b>
Midway Public Library has continued with online programming and started in person programming during the summer. We continued our online Creator's Club which is still well loved by a solid group of patrons. To the community's delight, we opened up in person programming with our Summer Reading Club and we couldn't have asked for a better turnout or Canada Summer Jobs student to run the program. With help from the Kootenay Library Federation and the Regional District of the Kootenay Boundary, we were able to run a very immersive and tailored program for two age groups. We also ran Adult Summer Reading Club for the second year which we are hoping will be a new mainstay program.
<b>How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals?</b>

Our goal is to create sustainable programming that meets the communities needs and interests while staying within our budget. It is important that there is a place for adults and children alike to foster connections, grow and learn with each other while promoting literacy and community.

**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

By offering continued virtual programming, we are making it possible for people to access library services when coming to the library isn't possible for them. This could be because they need to stay home or live quite far away and can't make it to the library during program hours. Running our programs in the way that we do has added a lot more community engagement, especially around book recommendations and what patrons feel are relevant to our current sociopolitical climate.

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

Having virtual programming continuing to run, it gave patrons and the surrounding community opportunities to connect with us and others at their own pace in a way that worked out best for their lifestyle. By continuing to offer programming in this way, it has led to increased literacy, confidence and self esteem boosts among attendees. They are able to feel a sense of belonging and excitement over what they are reading or working on. We have noticed an increase of attendance this last year as people are coming in more to expand their reading interests. We plan on still offering these services as long as we are able because we have noticed that our relationships with the community has been improving and people are coming from even farther out as they have heard about the services that we offer.

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

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### 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)	We shifted from our COVID-19 plan to our Communicable Diseases Plan without much issue. As restrictions lifted, we noticed an increase in how often people were visiting the library which was a lovely thing.
Emergency response (e.g., fires, floods, extreme weather)	Thankfully, this past year wasn't as stressful emergency wise as it was the year before. We were prepared as the freshet was updated and through the fire season, taking what we learned the previous summer and applying it this year and moving forward. We are working on getting a fire proof safe for our important documents in case of another severe fire season.
Financial pressure (e.g., rising costs, reduced revenues)	With the new policies in place for Midway Public Library involving safety for the staff, our operating budget has been pushed past its limit again this past year. The last few years, Midway has not been able to run its regular fundraisers which in the past has helped with operating costs. We are still experiencing reduced revenues with no sign of them increasing. The Village of Midway has also decreased our funding which has put us in a bit of a bind. Without proper fundraising, increased grant funding or revenue we are still needing to do more with less which is a huge challenge and ask of a small rural library. We can't offer the same kind of book selection, programming or services that a larger library can even though our community has a need for it. We are at an even larger risk of closing than last year due to lack of funds as we can't sustain a deficit budget

	<p>again. Increased provincial and municipal funding is incredibly important, especially to a rural library like us where we are one of the only essential services in the area. We are incredibly thankful and reliant on the services that the Kootenay Library Federation puts out and offers to us.</p>
Staffing (e.g., recruitment and retention, mental health, and wellness)	<p>This year Midway Public Library has again experienced a lot of staffing changes and a struggle to find part time staff. We can only offer limited part time hours at a wage significantly lower than larger libraries it is harder to find employees. The cost of living has risen greatly and our wages can't keep up with it at all.</p>
Disappearing services in the community (e.g., government, banking, health)	<p>Midway and the surrounding area continues to lose services at a fast rate. We are one of the last remaining services that is easily accessible here. Patrons come to us for far more than they used to because they don't have access to services anymore. This has increased our workload and has required us to learn a lot more about what services BC offers and how we can help our patrons access them.</p>
Connectivity (e.g., low bandwidth, lack of home internet in the community)	<p>Midway and Area E is still struggling with having access to consistent and affordable internet. This makes it harder for low income households to have internet for day to day use. We offer 24/7 Wi-Fi which gets used frequently as well as computer access during open hours which is important to those people who don't have internet at home. There are an increasing number of people who need digital access for many different reasons and a vast majority of these people also need help setting things up. This requires extra staff assistance to understand how to set things up and use the computer.</p>
Aging/damaged facilities (e.g., need for repairs, renovations, upgrades/expansions)	<p>Midway Public Library had an accessibility assessment done this year to determine what needs to be updated and there were a few pressing issues that need to be addressed. Our front doors are heavy and aren't suited for staff and patrons with mobility issues. We also don't have an elevator which makes accessing the basement harder.</p>
Community access to the library (e.g., geographic isolation, lack of local public transit, building accessibility)	<p>Midway Public Library serves a very large area and people come from 90 km or more away to access the library and its services. For those who don't have cars of access to one, it is a challenge to visit since there isn't any public transit available. Also, as mentioned above, it is really important that we are able to make our doors more accessible.</p>
Vulnerable communities (e.g., people experiencing homelessness, addiction, mental health crisis)	<p>It is still a huge challenge to find lower cost housing for people below the poverty line or even housing at all. We are experiencing a huge housing crisis and a house that might have been affordable two years ago, it is completely out of range now.</p>

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

With this funding Midway Public Library is expanding our programming in a way that suits our community the best and where we see a need. We are updating the diversity in our library to reach current standards through programming and our collection. We also got an assessment done in anticipation of the Accessibility Act. A fire proof filing is also being sourced as part of our Emergency Preparedness Plan. We are reallocating 1315.50 from the Emergency Planning & Preparedness Grant into our programming projects.

	Grant budget	Reallocated budget
<b>COVID-19 Relief &amp; Recovery Grant Amount</b>	18, 946.49	n.a
<b>Emergency Planning &amp; Preparedness Grant Amount</b>	6,315.50	1315.50
<b>Total Grant Amount</b>	25,261.99	

## 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>	<b>Accessibility Assessment</b>
<b>Rationale</b>	Making sure that Midway Public Library continues to be following Accessibility Standards.
<b>Area of Need</b>	Building Accessibility
<b>Action/Output/Deliverable</b>	Receive and review the Accessibility Report, decide which pieces are the most urgent and bring the report to the Village of Midway Council to develop a timeline on implementing action items on the report.
<b>Outcome/Impact</b>	Knowing that we are an older building without any existing accessibility modifications, we want to ensure we are compliant with the legislation.
<b>Metrics</b>	Funding received from the Village will be based on which deliverable action items on the report are feasible.
<b>Collaborative Links (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>	\$300
<b>Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).</b>	An assessment was completed and a review of the report was done and compiled and ready to go to the Village when applicable.
<b>Comments (optional)</b>	

<b>Project/Program/Activity</b>	100 Books Before Kindergarten
<b>Rationale</b>	Encourage young families to visit the library and encourage literacy within their family.
<b>Area of Need</b>	Our library needs a dedicated take home early literacy program.
<b>Action/Output/Deliverable</b>	Produce a list of the most suitable books to help develop early literacy. Purchase and catalogue books. Create a take home program. Put together a grab bag of books for parents on the go. Schedule Story Time within the program and advertise the program.
<b>Outcome/Impact</b>	Hope to see more young families in the library. Higher rate of literacy in our community schools. Confidence in reading skills for young children. Encourage an early appreciation for literature and reading.
<b>Metrics</b>	Create a short survey for families to fill out as they finish the program to see what they have found helpful.
<b>Collaborative Links (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>	\$2262 projected
<b>Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).</b>	This project is still in progress, books have been purchased and are in the process of being catalogued. Program is still being developed.
<b>Comments (optional)</b>	



<b>Project/Program/Activity</b>	Indigenous Outreach Program
<b>Rationale</b>	To promote and encourage reconciliation
<b>Area of Need</b>	Creating a collaborative program between Midway Public Library and West Boundary Elementary School to improve access to Indigenous voices.
<b>Action/Output/Deliverable</b>	Meet with the school Indigenous Advocate to help develop and facilitate programs. Purchase books specifically for the programs. Create a take home educational kit for homeschool families in the area. A list of hopeful actions from the Advocate. A list of expected outcomes from the Advocate.
<b>Outcome/Impact</b>	Indigenous awareness and reconciliation.
<b>Metrics</b>	Keep track of how often books are being used and how many attend the in-school programs.
<b>Collaborative Links (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>	Projected \$10,00 over 3 years
<b>Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).</b>	This is still in progress, meetings with the Advocate are ongoing and book lists are still being made and purchased.
<b>Comments (optional)</b>	

<b>Project/Program/Activity</b>	Programming Budget
<b>Rationale</b>	To increase the number of programs we are able to run
<b>Area of Need</b>	Our programming budget has been insufficient and we would like to supplement and add more programs to meet patron demand.
<b>Action/Output/Deliverable</b>	Obtain feedback on which programs patrons would like to see. Create a more diverse programming schedule both in person and online. Produce a budget for each potential program. Produce an execution plan for each program.
<b>Outcome/Impact</b>	More outreach to the community. Another opportunity for social engagement. Continue to encourage literacy.
<b>Metrics</b>	Number of programs offered. Number of people enrolled. Total number of programs attended. Total number of attendees.
<b>Collaborative Links (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>	Projected \$3,500
<b>Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).</b>	This project has been deferred for the time being as we do not have the staff or staff hours currently to run this as we would like.
<b>Comments (optional)</b>	

<b>Project/Program/Activity</b>	Fire Proof Filing Cabinet
<b>Rationale</b>	We live in a high-risk area of wildfires and would like to make sure that our important documents are safe during an evacuation.
<b>Area of Need</b>	To ensure staff and board members to safely evacuate themselves, a fire proof filing cabinet is necessary to make sure the irreplaceable library documents will make it through a fire.
<b>Action/Output/Deliverable</b>	Purchase a filing cabinet. Receive a quote and produce an order for the filing cabinet.
<b>Outcome/Impact</b>	Staff and board members can focus on packing themselves and their families up instead of worrying about the library.
<b>Metrics</b>	N/A
<b>Collaborative Links (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>	\$5,000 estimated
<b>Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).</b>	In progress, quotes are still being looked at.
<b>Comments (optional)</b>	

<b>Project/Program/Activity</b>	Diversity Catalogue
<b>Rationale</b>	To update our collection to be more diverse and promote a more inclusive environment.
<b>Area of Need</b>	An updated collection with more diverse topics and authors including Own Voices, LGBTQIA2+ and BIPOC authors and subjects.
<b>Action/Output/Deliverable</b>	<p>Keep track of highly requested items that are not currently in our collection.</p> <p>Try to stay ahead of the curve and order newer releases that will be of interest to our patrons.</p> <p>Produce a list of potential high request upcoming titles for the upcoming year.</p> <p>Purchase and catalogue the books.</p> <p>Advertise that they are now in the collection and ready to be checked out.</p>
<b>Outcome/Impact</b>	Our patrons have been looking for more current releases pertaining to current events and sociopolitical topics. Patrons will also have faster access to the materials.
<b>Metrics</b>	Collect feedback from patrons on how they find our updated collections.
<b>Collaborative Links (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>	Projected \$3,500
<b>Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).</b>	In progress, book lists are being compiled through patron requests and research. Books are being purchased and catalogued as they arrive.
<b>Comments (optional)</b>	

#### 5. BOARD APPROVAL

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

Library Director Signature: CBScott

Date: April 12, 2023

Board Chair Signature: Jm Kohlhausen

Date: April 12 2023.