2022 PROVINCIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY GRANT REPORT (PLGR)

LIBRARY NAME

Powell River 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

Powell River is located on the Upper Sunshine Coast, between the mountains and the Salish Sea. The Powell River Public Library serves the City of Powell River, the qathet Regional District and the Tla'amin Nation-- approximately twenty thousand people. Powell River is statistically an older community, the average age is over 50. Powell River is located in the Traditional Territory of the Tla'amin Nation, this area of the coast has been the home of the ʔayʔajuθəm speaking peoples since time immemorial. The City of Powell River was established in the early 1900s around the pulp mill and logging industry. With the shift away from jobs in industry, Powell River and the region have been focused on economic revitalization. Encouraging tourism and new industries in the community is a local priority.

Community and Organizational Shifts
2022 was a year of growth for library services following two years of limited capacity, both pandemic and flood related.

After months of reduced hours, the library added back full evening and weekend hours in February 2021. This positive return to normal was followed by a large scale flood in March which resulted in a partial closure for nearly four months. The library reopened in late July 2021. Circulation and foot traffic increased through 2022.

The economic and social landscape of Powell River experienced a shift late in 2021 with the indefinite curtailment of Catalyst Paper tiskʷat mill. This has since resulted in a significant reduction of employment opportunities in the community and a level of uncertainty around local government tax revenue.

Strategic Plan

PRPL Board of Trustees approved a new strategic plan in the first quarter of 2020. The new plan was an opportunity to use our experience in the new library to look forward. Both the Board and staff came together for a facilitated, full day session. The new plan has five strategic priorities:

- Organizational Strength
- Collaboration and Partnerships
- Communication and Marketing
- Stable Funding
- Emerging Technology

Provincial Funding

Provincial funding is budgeted as core funding annually. It is used for critical operations which support our ongoing services like programs and resource delivery. Special projects and new initiatives are budgeted annually though not directly linked to Provincial grants. Core

2. FEATURED PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

Project/Program Name
Writer in Residence

Provide a brief description. Please include details such as any partnerships or resources leveraged to accomplish this project/program.
With the aim of inspiring emerging writers, specifically youth, the Powell River Public Library launched the inaugural Writer in Residence (WIR) program September 6th through November 4th, 2022. The intention of the Writer in Residence program is to provide access to an expert in the field through one-on-one consultations and writing-focused workshops. Workshops which included: Screenwriting foundations, Editing & Publishing, How to Write Children's Picture Books, and an exploration of the Young Adult genre. The WIR also discussed their work, challenging writers to participate in November Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo), as well as interacting with the library's current writing groups and local schools. A portion of the time allocated to the WIR is dedicated to their individual work as a writer. The WIR program at PRPL focused specifically on youth and engaging with younger audiences and the adults who serve them.   • By working with SD47 and local schools, the WIR was able to deliver a variety of workshops directly to students in classrooms.   • Texada Library provided space and advertising for an event in their service area.   During the course of the term of the program the WIR presented in 35 separate programs and met with 33 local writers to provide one-on-one support.

How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals?
Collaboration and Partnerships - Through this promotion of engaging literacy activities for youth and adults, the Library strengthened its partnerships with the schools and Texada Library.

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

What are the key outcomes of this project/program?

The Writer in Residence program was designed with youth in mind. Working with an author who could work well with youth as well as adults was a priority in selection process. Connecting with reluctant writers was a powerful outcome.

Following a workshop in a local elementary school, one teacher noted that a reluctant writer had continued to engage with the content from the WIR workshop weeks after. They also were proud to show their family their work from that event.

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

Provincial grants fund the general operations of the library.

Project/Program Name
Makerspace Furnishings

Provide a brief description. Please include details such as any partnerships or resources leveraged to accomplish this project/program.
Furnishing for the makerspace room was not finalized when the new library was opened in 2017. Folding tables and other impermanent features were used and were limiting the services possible in the space. The furnishings, hardware and technology needs were assessed from 2021 through 2022 with programming for small groups in mind.

How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals?
Emerging Technology – Makerspace planning was important in the strategic plan, the space was noted as a gap at the end of 2019. Programming development and enhancement of the space were completed strategically to support one another.

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
Improving Access – Technology centered programming for youth helps them to build their understanding and skills in digital environments.

What are the key outcomes of this project/program?

Purchasing and installation was completed by December 2022 and included the installation of a counter with room for four computers, a rolling cabinet for lendable and program specific technology, new technology to support youth programming and several display features to enhance the visibility of programming and the work done by patrons in the space.

The purchases supported the development of a series of afterschool programs providing youth-led, technology-centered learning—Code Space and Tinker Trunk. The purchases also expanded our lendable Tech Boxes.

The expanded after school programming has coincided with an increase in foot traffic during those hours.

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

Provincial grants fund the general operations of the library.

Project/Program Name
qathet ART in the Library

Provide a brief description. Please include details such as any partnerships or resources leveraged to accomplish this project/program.
Establish the library space as an exhibition space for juried local artists to be featured. Working with the help of our local art centre, the pilot exhibition of qathet ART in the Library was installed in July 2022.

How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals?
Partnership - The library provided wall space, promotions, facilitated a program and letters of support for grant applications which provided the hardware. The qathet ART Centre provided their expertise and staff time to coordinate, jury, install and maintain the artworks.

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

What are the key outcomes of this project/program?

Nearly 20 pieces by a local artist have been displayed in the library. The artist provided an artist talk to inspire community and introduce patrons to the art. The library space is enhanced and as a result, is a more welcoming and inviting place for the public. The local nature of the art enhances the library as a local space designed for our community specifically.

The art has been enjoyed by many who were unaware of the ART Centre previously. Exposure to visual arts in the library provides access to patrons who may not access the arts in other spaces.

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

Provincial grants fund the general operations of the library.

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)	Extreme heat – library promoted space as cooling center. Primary public space in community with air conditioning. Upgraded water fountain to water bottle filling station.
Financial pressure (e.g., rising costs, reduced revenues)	
Staffing (e.g., recruitment and retention, mental health, and wellness)	
Disappearing services in the community (e.g., government, banking, health)	
Connectivity (e.g., low bandwidth, lack of home internet in the community)	
Aging/damaged facilities (e.g., need for repairs, renovations, upgrades/expansions)	HVAC does not provide consistent heating and cooling in some spaces. The library invested in ultraviolet glazing on some key windows to reduce solar gain and heat.
Community access to the library (e.g., geographic isolation, lack of local public transit, building accessibility)	
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

Summary and Overview

Considerations for grant spending included supporting local strategic goals, community emergency preparedness and costs of implementing requirements of accessibility legislation. The focus has been on capital and one-time improvements to services and facilities.

Local strategic goals include strengthening our organizational ability to respond to societal issues such as homelessness, extreme weather events and a need for increased access to Indigenous stories and voices in the collection. Spending related to accessibility and connectivity will create more resilience in emergencies and improve services as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. We are also responding to an increased need for health supports for staff and their families.

- Facility upgrades – back-up power for critical infrastructure, water bottle filling station, assessment of accessibility gaps and device charging stations.
- Service improvements – Creation of the Indigenous and Metis collection
- Staff support – Enhanced employee and family assistance program pilot

	Grant budget	Reallocated budget
COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Grant Amount	$31,805.88	
Emergency Planning & Preparedness Grant Amount	$10,601.96	
Total Grant Amount	$42,407.84	

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	Water bottle filling station
Rationale	Emergency Planning & Preparedness
Area of Need	One accessible, bottle filling station in the library.
Action/Output/Deliverable	Low barrier access to clean drinking water. Valuable asset during a community-wide extreme weather response. Vulnerable populations supported include those who are not housed, rural patrons who travel to the library, families with children and Seniors.
Outcome/Impact	Replace water fountain with combined fountain and filling station.
Metrics	Reduced requests for water at café inside library.
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	Enhanced extreme weather response, library is already a named cooling station in the region. Municipality directs the public to the Library during extreme heat and smoke events.
Expenditure	Fall 2022
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	$3,712 for hardware plus labour
Comments (optional)	Addressing societal issues – such as homelessness, need for emergency preparedness

Project/Program/Activity	Indigenous and Métis Collection
Rationale	Recovery
Area of Need	Physical collection which highlights Indigenous authors and works which support public education on Truth and Reconciliation. This collection will highlight works by Indigenous authors and those which support Truth and Reconciliation. Special focus on works linked to Indigenous Coast Salish Communities. The collection criteria have been developed in collaboration with staff from the Tla'amin Nation. Supports development of an inclusive and welcoming collection and space. ʔayʔaǰuθəm language posters for facility and lending added to the collection purchase.
Action/Output/Deliverable	Purchased 403 titles for the core collection and ʔayʔaǰuθəm posters for display and circulation
Outcome/Impact	Increased awareness of Indigenous authors Increased knowledge of specific concepts Increases visibility and access to ʔayʔaǰuθəm, the language of the Tla'amin people
Metrics	Increased circulation of titles in collection – by January 2023, circulation of this collection was 235 Increased holds on items
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	Acquisition map created in collaboration with staff from the Tla'amin Nation.
Expenditure	Budgeted - $10,000 Acquisitions to date - $8,468
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	Project complete,
Comments (optional)	Addressing societal issues – Truth and Reconciliation Subsequent acquisitions are planned to come from operating budget.

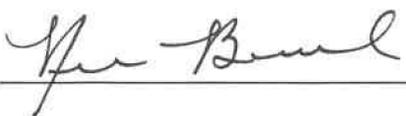| Project/Program/Activity	Employee Family Assistance Program (EFAP)
Rationale	Recovery
Area of Need	Staff health and wellness support.
Action/Output/Deliverable	Creation of additional EFAP for all staff to access for three years. Improved access to extended health benefits such as counselling, massage, family or caregiver support, nutrition advice and conflict resolution.
Outcome/Impact	Contract services with local provider
Metrics	Use of EFAP, improved wellness reported by staff Use has been limited at approximately 25% of staff, feedback has been positive in regards to service quality.
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	
Expenditure	Launched Summer 2022, funding covers three years of EFAP
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	In progress as planned, half-way through year one of a three-year project. Budgeted $12,000 ($4,000/year for three years) Project launched Summer 2022, use is significantly lower than budgeted at $350.
Comments (optional)	
	Data of usage will inform future EFAP structure. Library has two EFAP providers, first is used infrequently. This pilot will provide information to guide a possible provider change to improve access to health benefits for staff.

Project/Program/Activity	RFID Inventory Device
Rationale	
Area of Need	Recovery
Action/Output/Deliverable	Items lost within the collection will be found more efficiently.
Outcome/Impact	Purchase hardware and train staff on software procedure.
Metrics	Lost and missing materials lists.
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	
Expenditure	n/a
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	This initiative is no longer being pursued. Access better supported through other means.
Comments (optional)	

Project/Program/Activity	Accessibility Assessment
Rationale	Supports activities which will reduce barriers to library services faced by people with disabilities. Works to support compliance with the legislated requirements of the BC Accessibility Act.
Area of Need	Recovery and Emergency Preparedness
Action/Output/Deliverable	Assessment of accessibility successes and gaps to be completed in April 2023.
Outcome/Impact	Assessment will provide detailed information about a variety of facility and signage features that can be improved to reduce barriers face by people with disabilities. Report will provide critical information for the Accessibility Committee to review. Assessment will help to prioritize the future capital improvements made in the space.
Metrics	Whether report is used to reduce barriers faced by people with disabilities.
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	City of Powell River, building owner
Expenditure	May 2023
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	Budgeted $7,000 In progress, anticipated costs $8,500
Comments (optional)	

Project/Program/Activity	Connectivity Support
Rationale	Improve public access to the Internet with hardware upgrades
Area of Need	Recovery and Emergency Preparedness
Action/Output/Deliverable	Purchase and install two device charging stations, projector and screen for meeting room to enable additional and more diverse spaces for connected meetings, back up power for critical systems added.
Outcome/Impact	Improve patron ability to connect to Internet, library and Provincial services.
Metrics	Fewer devices left at outlets on the floor throughout the library. Station dedicated to youth is highly used.
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	
Expenditure	December, 2022
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	Budgeted up to $5,000 Spending to date is $4,934
Comments (optional)	Addressing societal issues – supporting patrons who are unhoused and youth.
	Focus of spending is on reducing barriers to most basic needs around accessing the internet and digital resources. Access to electrical charging, WiFi and physical space.

5. BOARD APPROVAL

Electronic signatures are acceptable where physical signatures are not feasible.

Library Director Signature: _____ Date: 2023-02-15

Board Chair Signature: _____ Date: 2023-02-15