

## 2022 PROVINCIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY GRANT REPORT (PLGR)

### LIBRARY NAME

Salmo Valley 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](#)
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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.).

For the Salmo Valley Public Library, 2022 was a turning point for recovery from the last few years. From January to December, we saw big changes in how we operated. By the time September rolled around we were returning to something similar to our pre-Covid operations, but with a newer version of regular. By the end of the year were back to hosting regular events and seeing a steady increase in our month statistics. The year started with the library providing online services, Youtube story times, and take away craft bags for senior and kids alike, but by May we were back to in person programs and hosting community events.

The direct funding, we receive from the province is very much appreciated and manage well. These funds make up 15% of our yearly budget, and they help us be stable and secure in our operations. For 2022, the majority of these funds (aside from the CRRG) were used for operations – staffing, administration, and occupancy.

The Village of Salmo and Area G continue to see an increase of new families moving to the community. For the combined population SVPL provides services to 2790, according to the 2021 census. Many of the residents in the area are home owners and have a long term vested interest in the community and its services – such as the library. In 2022 SVPL was successful in

our application of an Alternative Approval Process (AAP) for the Electoral Area G and the Village of Salmo fund to the Salmo Valley Public Library. The new Bylaw was adopted and it expanded the service area to include all of Electoral Area G and now requires that service participants, the Village of Salmo and Electoral Area G, are requisitioned at the same rate per thousand of assessed value of land and improvements. This AAP went through without a single community member against it, which highlights the support the library has in our area. We are encouraged by the community who continue to reach out to the library for the variety of services we offer. As we adapt and play a positive roll within our community during these challenging times, we also find we have reached capacity for our staff time and we have had to work to find a healthy balance for staff.

As for many, 2022 has seen some financial burdens on our community. With the increased interest to move to Salmo for its lower cost of living, and first-time homeownership opportunities, we have seen an increase in home values, which in turn has impacted the cost of living for many lower income and seniors in the area. We continue to see an increase in people accessing our little library as the community grows and the demographic shifts. SVPL is able to meet the growing and changing needs of the residents of RDCK Area G, and the Village of Salmo because our staff and volunteers are part of the community as well, and have vested interest to learn and growing together with our community and its goals. As a small library of 3 part time staff, 10 volunteers, 11 board members, and an active Friends of the Library group, we sure do accomplish a lot.

## 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.

<b>Project/Program Name</b>
Completion of The Phyllis Tatum Reading Garden
<b>Provide a brief description. Please include details such as any partnerships or resources leveraged to accomplish this project/program.</b>
<p>This project ran over 2021 and 2022. We did report on this last year as well, but feel it was such a significant project, and its completion such a success, that we would like to share the success of its completion in 2022 and the impact it had on the community.</p> <p>SVPL developed an accessible outside space at the Salmo Library. This space is for programs and gathering. During 2022 we hosted: Indigenous Storywalks, community meetings, a theater production, Summer Reading Club, as well as many family, adult, youth, and junior programming. Creating this space, we didn't just provide an outdoor space for programs we also addressed the need to provide an outdoor space for community members to relax and connect, access free internet, and offer an extension of all the library services in a safe and welcoming space.</p>

This project started because of a gift that was left to the library in a bequest by a community member and avid library supporter, who loved the library for its books, but she also loved the community found in libraries. She understood that libraries play a fundamental role in society, that a library of any size opens doors to everyone for resources and services, creates opportunities for learning, supports literacy and education, and helps shape new ideas and perspectives. She also loved art, and she loved gardens. The Library Board came to the decision that the best way to honour Phyllis's generous bequest was to create a space that for many years to come would shine light and life on some of the things she loved. Reading, art, and gardens.

To start the process the Library Board presented the idea to the non-profit Square Society Board, this is the group who manage the building and yard that the Library, Museum, and Chamber are housed. With the library taking on the responsibility to fix up the space behind our portion of the building we double the outdoor usable space around our building for the community.

We hired local contractors, landscapers, and artist for the project, providing local employment.

The library helps new moms connect at baby story-times; elderly people, often facing difficult life transitions, attend events and find that they make new friends; teenagers meet up after school, and readers discuss current events. These are just some of the benefits provided by the space our library has created, and these will happen more with an outdoor space. Inside and outside libraries, community-building connections are happening all the time.

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

GOAL AREA 2: Increase community awareness

DESIRED OUTCOME: The diverse and engaged SVPL membership values and utilizes the space, programs and services provided.

GOAL AREA 3: Adapt and evolve library programming to meet community needs

DESIRED OUTCOME: Library programming continues to be responsive and adaptable to community needs.

**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:** Access to outdoor meeting spaces for changing times with communicable diseases such as COVID-19. Wi-Fi signal and power available 24/7

**Building Capacity:** It also provides a space for the library staff, board members and volunteers to meet in an outdoor setting. Provides meaningful work for library volunteer group.

**Advancing Citizen Engagement:** Fostering community knowledge-sharing, and opportunities to support reconciliation

**Enhancing Governance:** Historically there hasn't been a very productive relationship about management of the building space. With this project we have see a positive and active change in the governance of this building and the relationship between the library and the non-profit who own the building.

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

- With the library taking on the responsibility to fix up the space behind our portion of the building we double the outdoor usable space around our building for the community.
- We employed local contractors for 6 months during a time of little work in our area.
- Provided space to host outdoor events. We had over 50 people attend 3 of the larger events.
- Internet services for community members who cannot attend the library during open hours.
- Meeting space for community groups who did not feel comfortable meeting inside
- School groups meeting

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

The provincial grant did not but the CRRG grant helped us finish it and provide extra seating, lighting and safety features.

[Copy and insert additional tables below for each additional project/program as needed]

**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.

<b>Challenge</b>	<b>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).</b>
COVID-19 (e.g., safety protocols, proof of vaccination)	Without our volunteer base during covid our lack of staff was exposed. Without the financial support for our operating budget, we can not afford more staff or to pay staff adequately. We have brought some of our volunteers back as of 2022.
Emergency response (e.g., fires, floods, extreme weather)	Working towards AC for our building has been a challenge but things are finally rolling along. We had an energy audit and now have another \$20,000 from Columbia Basin Trust to help with the allocated \$10,000 from the CRRG. We hope to have the new heat pumps installed before the summer of 2023.
Financial pressure (e.g., rising costs, reduced revenues)	Insurance is up, as are many other operation costs. Without an increase from the province or our municipal funders we are struggling. With the successful AAP from 2022 for our area, we hope to see an increase in funding from our regional district and village.
Staffing (e.g., recruitment and retention, mental health, and wellness)	Succession is a real concern for our little library. We currently have 3 parttime staff who are underpaid. Two of these staff members may look to retiring in the next 3-5 years. Our janitor is a contract worker. They are a senior and have been way under charging the library for years. The Board is working to bring wages and budgets up to a place that will be able to recruit new staff when these folks do retire in the near future.
Disappearing services in the community (e.g., government, banking, health)	As a small rural community, we do not have government offices here, but we also do not have regular bus services to the communities that do. In 2022 staff helped community members who could not get into the larger community for government services with everything from applying for welfare to getting a passport to registering for their old age pension. Most often this is supporting someone with little to no digital literacy.
Connectivity (e.g., low bandwidth, lack of home internet in the community)	This continues to be a struggle as we do not have fiber optics, but with the support from the Connectivity Grant the Province of BC provided to the BC Libraries Coop we were able to add 3 WIFI repeaters and a stronger firewall, which have increased our internet speeds and security.
Aging/damaged facilities (e.g., need for repairs, renovations, upgrades/expansions)	No A/C in our building. This is finally being addressed in part thanks to the CRRG grant. The heat pumps that are being installed will also address the ageing heating system that has had issue working continuously over the last year.

Community access to the library (e.g., geographic isolation, lack of local public transit, building accessibility)	Local public transit is an issue for our rural community. As mentioned above, this means we help people with services such as government, banking, and other digital services that they otherwise would be accessing directly in the larger communities in our area.
Vulnerable communities (e.g., people experiencing homelessness, addiction, mental health crisis)	<p>During the cold weather we see more people coming in to keep warm. There is no shelter in our community.</p> <p>In collaboration with our local food bank, we have been providing snack bags and food at our front desk. Every week all these items are gone and appreciated.</p> <p>Over the past few years, we've had more instances of mental health crisis with some of our patrons. All instance were managed well, thanks to training and support for our staff through collaboration with the Kootenay Library Federation and ABCPLD.</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

When we looked at the impact of Covid and being prepared for emergencies, the most imported needs were for the building and assets in the building itself. Aside from that, it is supporting staff and increasing our operative funds, but the CRRG funds did not meet that need.

It was decided to put 1/3 of the funding to the cooling system, 1/3 to technology and 1/3 to developing the outdoor programming space. We have completed the updates to technology and the outdoor programming space with great success. The self checkout is well used, and the new computers are fast and safe. As mention above the outdoor area has been a great success. The A/C and the funds allocated for the emergency preparedness should be completed before the summer of 2023.

	Grant budget	Reallocated budget
<b>COVID-19 Relief &amp; Recovery Grant Amount</b>	\$22,2228.39	\$19,637.85
<b>Emergency Planning &amp; Preparedness Grant Amount</b>	\$7,409.46	\$10,000
<b>Total Grant Amount</b>	\$29,637.85	\$29,637.85

## 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>	Installing A/C and upgrading the heating
<b>Rationale</b>	No public cooling station in Salmo
<b>Area of Need</b>	Emergency Preparedness
<b>Action/Output/Deliverable</b>	Allocate \$10,000 towards the \$25,000 cost of installing a heat pump system in the library building. Secured other funding to complete project
<b>Outcome/Impact</b>	By installing a heat pump, we will be developing a designated cooling centre in our community.
<b>Metrics</b>	Community is aware that the library is a cooling center for extreme events.
<b>Collaborative Links (if applicable)</b>	Columbia Basin Trust
<b>Expenditure</b>	\$10,000
<b>Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).</b>	Secured remainder of funding Had energy audit Installation to happen spring 2023
<b>Comments (optional)</b>	

<b>Project/Program/Activity</b>	Updated Technology
<b>Rationale</b>	Damaged computers due to over cleaning. Self checkout to provide less points of contact.
<b>Area of Need</b>	Covid Recovery and Relief
<b>Action/Output/Deliverable</b>	Purchased new computer, iPad and phone. Purchase and set up Meescan self serve software. Add yearly software fees to operating budget
<b>Outcome/Impact</b>	
<b>Metrics</b>	Workflow improved without time being lost to working with damaged and outdated technology. Self-checkout - Patrons and staff will feel safer when the community is experiencing a communicable disease outbreak.
<b>Collaborative Links (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>	Computer: \$1,625 iPad and case: \$520 Phone: \$100



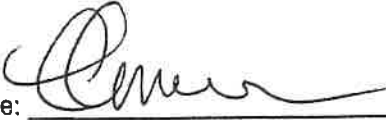
	Meescan one time set up: \$1,562 iPad for self checkout: \$500 Allocate 2 years annual licensing: \$1,300 TOTAL= \$5,607
<b>Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).</b>	Completed
<b>Comments (optional)</b>	

<b>Project/Program/Activity</b>	Digital Library Collection
<b>Rationale</b>	High level of holds for our patrons in Overdrive
<b>Area of Need</b>	Covid recovery
<b>Action/Output/Deliverable</b>	Purchased digital items that are being requested or have higher hold numbers by our local patrons.
<b>Outcome/Impact</b>	Shorter wait times for popular items and books that meet the local reading interests
<b>Metrics</b>	Increases in digital books usage; shorter wait times for popular books. We have already seen a 50% increase in usage of our digital collection between 2019 and 2022
<b>Collaborative Links (if applicable)</b>	BC Library Coop
<b>Expenditure</b>	\$4,626
<b>Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).</b>	Completed
<b>Comments (optional)</b>	

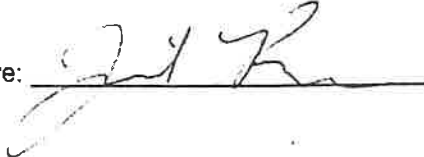
<b>Project/Program/Activity</b>	Outdoor Reading Garden
<b>Rationale</b>	Safe spaces to meet outside
<b>Area of Need</b>	Covid relief
<b>Action/Output/Deliverable</b>	Researched and purchase outdoor equipment
<b>Outcome/Impact</b>	Hosting programs for senior citizens, children, and parents with little ones, newcomers, all of who need and use places to connect and meet, while staying safe and feeling comfortable in an outdoor setting
<b>Metrics</b>	During the summer of 2022 outdoor space was able to host Summer Reading Club, Teen Bookclub, and an adult community connection programming. Beyond programming the area is already see regular usage for reading and accessing our free wi-fi.
<b>Collaborative Links (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>	\$9,000
<b>Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).</b>	Completed
<b>Comments (optional)</b>	

## 5. BOARD APPROVAL

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

Library Director Signature: 

Date: March 1, 2023

Board Chair Signature: 

Date: March 1, 2023