

2022 PROVINCIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY GRANT REPORT (PLGR)

LIBRARY NAME

Sparwood 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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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.).

Sparwood is a gateway community to BC on provincial Highway 3 in southeastern British Columbia. The primary industry is coal mining with the mining giant TECK being the major employer. Established in 1974, the Sparwood Public Library has been a community hub for information and recreational reading. Funding from the Province of BC is primarily used to purchase print materials and with additional funding from the province over the years we have been able to add important online databases in the library and from home. With the Resource Sharing Grant we are able to loan and borrow material from all sorts of libraries across B.C.

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
Sparwood Public Library Sewing Club
Provide a brief description. Please include details such as any partnerships or resources leveraged to accomplish this project/program.
A new program in 2022 was the introduction of after school / no-school Friday club for young people to learn basic sewing skills. Attendance is currently limited to eight. The program has sparked interest in the community, and a patron has donated two sewing machines she can no longer use.
How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals?
This non traditional library program supports the library's goal of expanding its services and expanding capacity. The program has attracted some young people who have not generally used the library. One may think that sewing might only appeal to girls, but there is at least one young man who attends. So in a way the program is assisting to break down gender stereotypes.
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
The project is improving access to patrons who might not "read" a lot, but want to use the library for other purposes, be it, learning a new skill, or just spending leisure time in the company of others.

What are the key outcomes of this project/program?

- Teaching young people, new and practical skills
- To teach in a relaxed non-school room setting
- To expand the scope of the library to non-traditional services.

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

The provincial operating grant is generally pooled with the funds from the local municipality and Regional District which combined general cover regular programs and new ones, so yes, the provincial funds helped enable this program.

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)	In 2022 COVID-19 fortunately did not impact the library as in other years. We did many proof of vaccination cards for people. Grants from the province pooled with municipal funds paid for the cards. Some people requested their cards be laminated and we charged for lamination to cover the cost of the pouches.
Emergency response (e.g., fires, floods, extreme weather)	We did not have any specific emergencies in 2022, other than a threat of a forest fire that might cut off a neighboring community. Plans were to follow any directive from local fire department and municipality. Had there been a more serious threat we would have offered the library as a shelter to stranded motorists.
Financial pressure (e.g., rising costs, reduced revenues)	We are fortunate to have good local financial support from government but also from local donations. The only concern for the Library is that provincial government funding has not been increased since 2009 and local government is finding it hard to make up the difference

	without increasing the tax burden on the citizens of Sparwood.
Staffing (e.g., recruitment and retention, mental health, and wellness)	Staff has been generally stable with only one staff member leaving in 2022, but she was quickly replaced
Disappearing services in the community (e.g., government, banking, health)	It has been announced that one of the local banks will be closing in mid-2023 which will have an impact. Our reduced health care centre has had a negative impact over the years with many seniors moving to towns with better accessibility to health care.
Connectivity (e.g., low bandwidth, lack of home internet in the community)	The Library's connectivity is very good, but there are some pockets in the community that have poor connectivity and some who cannot afford personal internet service, so the library is still used for internet.
Aging/damaged facilities (e.g., need for repairs, renovations, upgrades/expansions)	The library building is now almost 35 years old and there are some repair needs. In 2022 we replaced a major exhaust fan. In 2023 some windows have leaks and there is water damage on walls.
Community access to the library (e.g., geographic isolation, lack of local public transit, building accessibility)	The library is in a good location, but we are finding there is growing demand for at home service by seniors. I think a future outreach program is needed if funds permit.
Vulnerable communities (e.g., people experiencing homelessness, addiction, mental health crisis)	The homeless and addiction crisis has been low-key in Sparwood, but we feel staff needs to have training in dealing with those in crisis situations.
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 and Recovery Grant funds allocation was overspent and the Emergency Planning & Preparedness has not yet been expended. Originally some of the area libraries were going to work together to work on plan and this has not yet happened. We may have to go it alone.

Some funds have been expended on a Library fire plan.

	Grant budget	Reallocated budget
COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Grant Amount	23,344.05	25,891.93
Emergency Planning & Preparedness Grant Amount	7,784.68	5,236.80
Total Grant Amount	31,128.73	

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	N/A at present
Rationale	
Area of Need	
Action/Output/Deliverable	
Outcome/Impact	
Metrics	
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	
Expenditure	
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	
Comments (optional)	Work in Progress

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