2022 PROVINCIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY GRANT REPORT (PLGR)

LIBRARY NAME

Vanderhoof 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.).

Introduction:

Vanderhoof is the geographical centre of BC and has a population of 4,700, but the Vanderhoof Public Library provides services for nearly 10,000 people, including the nearby First Nation community of Saik'uz.

Vanderhoof relies heavily on the forestry and farming industries, and in the last years, has faced challenges in the local economy.

The Vanderhoof Public Library strives to provide a safe, welcoming space for people of all backgrounds, ages, and interests. The library has become a community hub that has so much more than books to offer.

As a vital part of our mission, the library seeks to reach our community in relative ways by offering stimulating programs and services that have been identified by seeking input from the community.

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
New Technology and Upgrades to Enhance Patron and Staff Experience.
Provide a brief description. Please include details such as any partnerships or resources leveraged to accomplish this project/program.
With a one-time COVID Relief grant, we were able to bring new and upgraded technology into the library. We purchased 5 new computers, 5 computer upgrades, a loanable iPad, and a self-check-out system. The computers are for in-house use, for both staff and public convenience. The iPad is pre-loaded with learning opportunities and does not require an internet connection to use these applications, it is for patrons to take home to use at their leisure. The self-check-out system is new-to-us technology allowing patron's convenience and privacy.
How does this project/program support the library's strategic goals?
Goal: Inspire Literacy and Learning   With this new technology, we are better able to accommodate the digital needs of our patrons and other members of the community. This helps to create a space that enhances literacy, learning and connection.   **Goal: Connect with the community in relevant ways.**   We continually strive to meet community interests and needs that were addressed in a community survey and by listening to the voiced needs of those in the community. Technology was a source of frustration for many members and by making the necessary changes, we have helped create a more productive and enjoyable experience for all.
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

This project supports B.C.s strategic goals for public library services in the following ways.

1. **Improving Access** for British Columbians through connectivity, digital collections and shared services.
2. **Advancing Citizen Engagement** by having more ways in which people of the community can access the information they require.
3. **Building Capacity:** The new computers are equipped with cameras and works well for Zoom meetings and training workshops.
4. **Enhancing Governance:** By providing better internets speeds and newer technology, we are enhancing governance by providing a reliable means of conferencing.

What are the key outcomes of this project/program?
Did provincial grants enable this project/program? If so, how?

Upgraded computers.
The new computers and upgrades have been very much appreciated by staff and patrons. This has enabled individuals to come into the library and feel confident that they will be able to fully access the information they are looking for without wasting time. It has given staff the ability to better serve the public.

Meescan:
The self check-out option gives people a private check-out option and offers them a convenient alternative if there is a lineup. It is easy to use and has been trouble free for our staff.

This new technology was purchased using a provincial one-time grant.

Project/Program Name
Games for check-out

Provide a brief description. Please include details such as any partnerships or resources leveraged to accomplish this project/program.
Our library collaborated with Nechako Literacy Task Force and brought in 800.00 worth of table games into the library for in-house use as well as giving the public the ability to check them out to take home for several weeks at a time.

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

Striving to Meet Community Interests and Needs: In a community survey we had done a few years back, there was an expressed desire to see more than just books and movies being for loan at the library. Having board games available was expressed on numerous occasions. This is one more way we are addressing specific needs.

Inspiring Literacy and Learning: By having board games available to the public, this is a fun way to foster literacy within the comfort of one's own home.

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

Improving Access: With rising costs of living, many individuals are not able to afford to purchase things such as games. These games are available for any patron at no cost to them.

Advancing Citizen Engagement. Fostering community sharing of games makes them affordable to all. These games will be used multiple times a year by multiple people.

What are the key outcomes of this project/program?
Did provincial grants enable this project/program? If so, how?
Community access to free trending games has given individuals the opportunity to bring home fun ways to learn and connect with friends and family. This is not a financial burden to them. We received a 500.00 grant from Nechako Literacy Task Force and were able to use 300.00 from our government literacy grant.
Project/Program Name
Cookbook Club
Provide a brief description. Please include details such as any partnerships or resources leveraged to accomplish this project/program.

The library hosts a once-a-month cookbook club that is open to anyone in the community. We all take home a copy of the same cookbook title and when we meet, we each bring one menu item from the cookbook. This can range from simple to more complex, depending on what the individual is wishing to do. We than all share a meal together and enjoy each others company. There are no rules to this event.

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

Connect with the Community. This program has been a fantastic way to have newcomers and those living alone or those that are newly retired find new connections in the community. I have been told a number of times that this event is the highlight of the month and being able to make new friendships is invaluable.

Inspire Literacy and Learning: This open club fosters the love of all things cooking., Sharing tips and best practices as well as cookbooks has been an inspiration to many to try new things and venture deeper into the world of healthy food on a budget.

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

Advancing Citizen Engagement: By creating special interest groups, there is something for everyone at the library. This group consists mostly of women that are home alone during the day and are happy to have interactions with people outside of the home. It gives them a place to go on a regular basis and has been a wonderful way to form outside connections.

What are the key outcomes of this project/program?
Did provincial grants enable this project/program? If so, how?

This program has brought joy and friendship to many. We always have a wonderful time together and it gives lonely community members a meaningful place to gather.
We were able to purchase the needed table settings from our literacy grant and we have purchased more cookbooks with the government operating grant.

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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)	COVID-19 is still an ongoing issue and ensuring we are meeting the needs of the community, balanced with the safety of the community. We are incorporating new wipeable furniture that was purchased from our COVID-19 recovery grant.
Emergency response (e.g., fires, floods, extreme weather)	The smoke from summer fires can be thick in our valley. It is common for us to have poor air quality during the winter as well. We have many people that have breathing issues and having a space with clean, breathable air has been a challenge. Getting the Hepa filters we ordered has also been a challenge as we are not on the top of the priority list. It looks as though this may happen this spring. This purchase is coming out of the Emergency Preparedness grant.
Financial pressure (e.g., rising costs, reduced revenues)	Costs of everything has risen exponentially and as our grant amounts have stayed the same for many years, municipal financial help has been reduced, it has been a challenge meeting the ever-growing needs of the community. We are ordering less books and cannot accomplish all we would love to do for our community but we remain committed to the best possible library experience for all.
Staffing (e.g., recruitment and retention, mental health, and wellness)	Due to the fact that library staff are notoriously under-paid, it is no surprise when we find and hire wonderful staff that end up finding a job with better pay. Keeping good workers has been a challenge for us.

	We have more recently been finding it challenging to have adequate interest in applying for job openings at the library. This looks to be a universal problem at the time and not just library specific.
Disappearing services in the community (e.g., government, banking, health)	As funding and such is being reduced in many sectors of the working world, we find ourselves being asked to help in areas we as a library feel inadequate in. We make every effort to help in any way that we can and point them in another direction if we can find the help they so desperately need. We are always looking for training in relevant areas as to serve the needs better.
Connectivity (e.g., low bandwidth, lack of home internet in the community)	There are many people in Vanderhoof and surrounding areas that simply cannot get internet or simply cannot afford it. As more and more things need to be done online, this puts many people in a very frightening place of being forced to ask for help for very basic help and .
Aging/damaged facilities (e.g., need for repairs, renovations, upgrades/expansions)	Our library has become too small for the needs of the community. As we add more programming and services, we find ourselves struggling to find the space to host these events. Carpets are getting old and stained and will eventually need to be replaced. We had 4 new windows installed in the library. We had no opening windows, and the stale air was a concern. We used the Emergency Preparedness grant for this upgrade.
Community access to the library (e.g., geographic isolation, lack of local public transit, building accessibility)	We have a local transit bus that makes stops in town and does come to the library, however, it is still difficult for some to make the connections and times. This bus does not go out to rural areas.
Vulnerable communities (e.g., people experiencing homelessness, addiction, mental health crisis)	Vanderhoof is facing a rising number of people experiencing homelessness. The lack of homeless shelters has resulted in people living on the library's outside entryways at times throughout the year. We have a very caring, compassionate staff but dealing with this has taken its toll. COVID and the continual rise in cost of living has contributed the overall mental health of the community. The overload of work responsibilities due to COVID along with many other changes that are being asked of staff has created strained mental health throughout.
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
We were extremely grateful to receive the COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Grant in 2022. It was with this grant that we were able to do the following upgrades in our library. 1. Hepa Filters. 2. Self-check out station 3. New Computers and larger screens 4. Upgrades to 4 computers 5. Deep freeze for the computers 6. Wipeable seating 7. Shelf ends for book displays.

	Grant budget	Reallocated budget
COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Grant Amount	25218.17	
Emergency Planning & Preparedness Grant Amount	8406.06	
Total Grant Amount	33624.23	

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	Self-Check-Out Station
Rationale	Private/Less exposure/convenient
Area of Need	COVID-19
Action/Output/Deliverable	The option of a self-check-out station will ensure patrons are able to have privacy and safety while checking out items of their choice at the library.
Outcome/Impact	Privacy and the ability to maintain social distancing thus creating a safety factor.
Metrics	All patrons and staff
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	N/A
Expenditure	3000.00
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	The new Meescan station is set up and running with a 3-year license.
Comments (optional)	It is a wonderful option for those concerned with privacy.

Project/Program/Activity	New and Updated Technology
Rationale	We have been functioning on old technology for awhile now and this has made a big difference in the daily running of the library as well as the satisfaction of patrons.
Area of Need	COVID-19 Recovery
Action/Output/Deliverable	We will be replacing the old computers with new ones that will be able to run necessary programs faster and more efficiently as well as having a good security feature installed on all public stations.
Outcome/Impact	1. Safer public access use. 2. Ability to run better programming. 3. Provide better internet speed. 4. Enhance governance with better capabilities of conferencing.
Metrics	All patrons and staff
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	N/A
Expenditure	8641.30

Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	All the new technology has been installed and is running and serving the community well. It has made a significant difference in the day to day operating of the library.
Comments (optional)	Many happy patrons

Project/Program/Activity	Opening windows
Rationale	To circulate air in the building and maintain healthy airflow.
Area of Need	Emergency Preparedness/COVID-19 Recovery
Action/Output/Deliverable	Install 4 new windows in key locations to create a cross flow of fresh air.
Outcome/Impact	1. To have ventilation in the building with the opening of a few windows in key locations. 2. To keep the air from becoming stale. 3. To help lower risk of airborne illnesses.
Metrics	All staff and patrons
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	N/A
Expenditure	5053.36
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	The 4 windows are installed and being enjoyed
Comments (optional)	Staff and patrons are very happy with the ability to have fresh air in the building.

Project/Program/Activity	2 Lifebreath, Hepa Air Cleaners
Rationale	To clean the air of smoke and other things that make breathing hard for some.
Area of Need	Emergency Preparedness
Action/Output/Deliverable	Clean, safe air in the library.
Outcome/Impact	1. Creating a safe place for the community if air quality is poor outdoors. 2. Keeping bacteria and viruses at a minimal for staff and patrons.
Metrics	All staff and patrons
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	N/A
Expenditure	5178.41

Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	The filters were backordered and have now just become available. The installers will come as soon as they get to our work order.
Comments (optional)	After many months of waiting, the cost has gone up by 800.00 from the original quote.

Project/Program/Activity	New Furniture and shelf end book displays.
Rationale	Wipeable furniture to ensure the comfort and safety of everyone in the library.
Area of Need	COVID-19 Recovery
Action/Output/Deliverable	The purchase of new furniture will ensure the comfort and safety of all in the library.
Outcome/Impact	1. To replace old fabric seating with wipeable seating. 2. Addition on tangible assets 3. Improved aesthetics 4. Enhanced experience for patrons.
Metrics	All patrons
Collaborative Links (if applicable)	N/A
Expenditure	We have 11,751.16 to spend on this project.
Detailed status update since the interim report (e.g., complete, in progress, pending, deferred, etc.).	Some of the furniture has been ordered, nothing has yet arrived and we will be ordering more as we find the most suitable items. Project should be done by the summer of 2023
Comments (optional)	

5. BOARD APPROVAL

Electronic signatures are acceptable where physical signatures are not feasible.

Library Director Signature: _____   Date: 2023/02/23

Board Chair Signature: _____   Date: 2023/02/23