Introduction:

The Fraser Lake Public Library is the hub of our Community for a number of reasons:

- Fraser Lake and our surrounding area include two First Nations and 2 smaller communities.
- We do not have any Government Agencies in town; the only public access to Government programmes or websites via computer is through us. IE. Employment Insurance, Job Boards etc.
- We continue to provide access to educational material for teachers and students.
- We provide free space to user groups to hold meetings and offer their own niche such as supervised home visits, harmony sessions for seniors etc.

2018 was a rewarding and challenging year for us. Rewarding as we were still able to offer many programmes and services to our patrons and challenging due to severe wildfires. As we were on evacuation alert our library usage was up in some areas as the children could not play outside but surprisingly our Summer Reading Club (SRC) attendance was down and some programmes were cancelled due to evacuations just outside of town and surrounding areas.

Fostering Connected Communities: *advancing access to information and resources.*

Access to resources and information has always been one of our goals & priorities.

**Wi-Fi** - We offer electronic resources as well as physical resources but Wi-Fi and computer use are our most popular library resource as connectivity in our area is sometimes spotty and many citizens are still using dial-up.

Those who have their own devices regularly bring them into the Library to use our Wi-Fi and while here often borrow materials as well.

The children & youth come in everyday as some do not have any devices at all or if they do they have limited time to be on-line and dial up is slow and frustrating.

In the winter and during this summer as everyone was staying indoors our most popular collection was DVD’s. On Pro-D Days we showed a couple of movies for those who cannot afford to pay to attend Village activities.

Building Capacity: enabling inspiration and innovation by Working Together: creating lasting and sustainable partnerships.
We strive to give our citizens the opportunity for lifelong learning through our various partnerships.

**CALP** - The Fraser Lake Public Library collaborates with the College of New Caledonia (CNC) Vanderhoof Campus to offer CALP (Community Adult Literacy Programme) programming in Fraser Lake. These programmes have become vital to our community as our Adult Learning Centre and our Fraser Lake CNC campus have both been closed for some time.

**GALE Courses** – These on-line courses continue to be popular with our patrons as the available courses are both fun and educational.

**NCLF** - Through our North Central Library Federation and literacy funds from the Province we have been able to offer our community a number of programmes that we would not otherwise be able to afford.

These programmes include: Author visits, readings and workshops, collection sharing, bulk purchasing and educational seminars. Through these collaborations we can offer our patrons a variety of programmes which are well attended and leave them wanting more. We can also enroll our trustees into TOP’s (Trustee Orientation Programmes)

This past year also included an arts programme but was unfortunately cancelled due to the wildfires. We hope to have this presentation in 2019

**STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering & Math.** This year the HR Macmillan Science Centre offered a free workshop focused on problem solving, design challenges and exploration by introducing the kids to coding and robotics. They also donated a Snap Circuit Kit to the Library which our children continue to use to explore and learn.

**FLESS** - Through collaboration with the Fraser Lake Elementary Secondary School (FLESS Grades 4-12) the Library continues to be an important part of the community by judging spring Science Fair experiments as well as listening to the Grade 12 Graduation Transition plans. Our participation in these programmes allows us to get to know our local students as well as promote the Library through our presence and input.

**RCL Branch #274** - The Library participates in the annual Royal Canadian Legion Poster Contest which again gives us a community presence. We also promote Remembrance Day and knowledge by ordering materials from The Ministry of Veteran Affairs.

**Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative** – This programme was presented again as we want local citizens and children educated as to how important this programme is. The programme was presented by the Initiative staff in Vanderhoof.
**Village of Fraser Lake** - The Fraser Lake Public Library continues to collaborate with the Village of Fraser Lake Parks and Recreation department to offer a joint “Read and Recreation” programme.

We also work with the Village of Fraser Lake recreation department to offer a number of other joint programmes. Such as the Annual Bike Rodeo and Safety Literacy Programme which also includes the Police/Fire/Ambulance. Working together enhances our presence in the community teaches safety awareness; the bikes are registered with the RCMP and allows us to offer programs at a lessor cost.

**Mouse Mountain School** – Literacy and use of the Library is our main concern so the Fraser Lake Public Library collaborates with Mouse Mountain Elementary School (K-3) to participate in a number of programmes. These include: Ready, Set, Learn, Welcome to Kindergarten, Drop Everything and Read, Family Literacy Day and Librarian visits.

From these programs we always have a number of children and their parents sign up for library cards.

**Success X Six & Make Children First** - Due to our Collaboration with Success X Six and Make Children First the Library was given funds to purchase a collection of First Nations Books for infants to Grade 1, and musical instruments to offer music programmes here at the Library as well as two music outreach programmes.

**Northern Health** – We continue to distribute our Books for Babies packages through them.

**Home schooling** - We continue to have a number of home schooled families meet at least once a week at the Library. We often Inter-library Loan or Inter-Library Connect materials they require for their curriculum.

**BC Jobs Plan** - Increased connections and supports for education transformation and the BC Jobs Plan continue to be important to us as we are the only access to many resources regarding applying for employment insurance, resume writing, financial literacy training etc. The Fraser Lake Public Library also continues to give access to computers for job hunting and submitting EI or accessing other government agencies.

**Game Nights** – Once a week 10-12 young adults meet to play role playing games and because it has been so popular we started a game night for youth. 10-14 year olds.

**Yoga for Tots** – This new programme was presented during the summer months and was well attended.

**Storytimes** were presented at the Library every Friday by an Infant Development Consultant from the Nechako Valley Community Services.
These programmes help us to continue to work on a number of our goals – Reach out to the Community – Enhance Services and Strengthen Partnerships

To recap the Fraser Lake Public Library collaborates with a lot of different groups within the community to ensure we promote our Library profile and that the literacy of Fraser Lake and area continues to grow.

As we are a small library with few staff we are very proud of what is available to our citizens and visitors and really appreciate our literacy grants from the Province of British Columbia.

**Sustaining Our Success:** enhancing governance and demonstrating impact.

**Library Governance** is very important to us as what we do has a huge impact on Fraser Lake and our surrounding area. Our presence in the community is a place that offers a sense of safety and security. We are non-biased, democratic and free to all who want to use us. We do not judge as we offer social justice and equality. We offer a place for anyone to fulfill their needs whether they are looking for entertainment and fun or for educational purposes.

**Impact** - We are filling a need and demonstrating an impact on those who avail themselves of our library services because not only are they returning they also tell others. We often hear citizens as well as visitors state “I was told the Library could help me”

Funding from the Province helps us to continue to offer the best for our small. Thank you for your support.