INTRODUCTION

The Village of Pouce Coupe (pronunciation: puːsˈkuːpi French for "cut thumb") is a small town in northeastern British Columbia and a member municipality of the Peace River Regional District. It was originally named 'Pouskapie's Prairie', after the name of the local native band chief and is home to just over 790 residents.

Pouce Coupe’s main industry today continues to be petroleum, oil and gas, agriculture and tourism. Popular recreational activities in the area includes; downhill and cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, hiking, fishing, quading and even geo-cashing.

Our library acts as the “Hub” of our community. Providing a safe and inviting atmosphere, bringing people, information and ideas together to enrich lives and help build a community. Adults and children are often found at our library working on home work, utilizing the computers, attending one of our many free programs for patrons of all ages or just visiting with friends. Our library is also one of the few in BC that shares the facility with the Elementary School and Community Centre

The Pouce Coupe Library strives to create connections, assures open access to information, empowering people to learn, imagine and succeed. We involve the library in our community needs and solutions, working with the public and our patrons. As well as unite and work with other libraries and federations for a consistent quality of service.
LIBRARY BRANCH PRIORITY 1 – FOSTERING CONNECTED COMMUNITIES: Advancing Access to information and resources

LIBRARY GOAL: Enhance and strengthen technology. Be a resource as well as a go-to place, to encourage and support the use of innovative technology.

Libraries have a key role to play in providing an environment which is safe for people to experiment with a range of new technologies and develop their skills and confidence. As the pace of technological advance increase, our library has developed support, for those in danger of being left behind, while enabling children and young people to maximize their potential in a digital world.

The benefits of understanding a community and applying leanings to improve library offerings are many. Community members may gain a greater awareness of and appreciation for the work libraries do; more people may make use of library resources and libraries themselves can build new partnerships and continue to grow with their communities to deliver greater services.

We have demonstrated this by helping our patrons to create resumes, print out important government papers and apply for jobs in our community, offering our patrons high speed internet service and four up-to date computers. Providing space to study, business and academic research, whilst helping people to access the information they need to make decisions about their everyday lives and encourage them to take their first steps into the digital world. As well as working with our small group of families that home school. We will regularly bring in books and materials for the students.

Our libraries ELS - Early Learning Station is also an example of how we are meeting the needs of our patrons. The ELS is used every day by children in our library between ages 3 to 12 teaching reading, numeracy and cognitive skills through stories and on-line games.
Fostering a sense of ownership, involvement and participation in our community, while developing the library as a genuine community “Hub” is essential to the Pouce Coupe Library. When people are included and participate in their community, good things happen. That’s why we believe in creating more opportunities for people to get involved with local initiatives by helping people feel a sense of belonging to their local community. We are open to all, and provide essential services to help people and neighborhoods thrive. From free internet access and homework help, to story times and other library programs, offering vital resources to address the community needs, and a place where the community gathers.

In building and supporting the passion to read and learn the Pouce Coupe Library continues to offer our Doodle Bug story time that is designed for children ages five and under as well their parents and/or caregivers. Our story time is designed to promote family literacy in an environment that encourages a love of reading and lifelong learning. The program encourages the development of early literacy through 4 simple practices: reading, writing, talking, and play. This program is free and offered on a drop-in basis, and children must be accompanied by an adult. Outcomes of this program are that children become more engaged in reading, imagination and play.

One of our highly anticipated programs throughout the year is our Summer Reading Club. Kids and teens of all ages that attend the summer reading program become lifelong readers. Reading over the summer has proven to help children keep their reading skills up. Outcomes from this are that we entice reluctant readers in to participate in games and prizes. They regularly discover books they may not have otherwise have notices before and create a love for reading. This also generates interest in other programs in the library that we offer, such as our weekly drop in Lego Club. Lego promotes imagination and creativity for kids and adults of all ages. We have had groups of kids build entire communities with Lego, some of the things they come up with are really quite amazing.

As well we also promote NNELS - National Network for Equitable Library Service. Several of our patrons benefit from this site, particularly a student in our Elementary School who is blind and a few of our adult patrons who are dyslexic.
LIBRARY BRANCH PRIORITY 3 – WORKING TOGETHER: Creating Lasting and Sustainable Partnership

LIBRARY GOAL: Cultivating collaborative partnership and promoting community engagement.

Libraries are shaped with local people and partners to reflect local need, support sustainability and enrich communities. They foster a sense of ownership, involvement and participation in local communities and develop the library as a genuine community hub.

To help us stay on budget we are always looking to attract additional people and part of it is being open to possibility. Pouce Coupe Library collaborates with nonprofits and individuals in our community who were willing to provide services and classes for free such as our local Fire Department who volunteer as waiters for our Annual Wine for Books Fundraiser Dinner and Silent Auction as well as our local museums annual garage sale. We help collect items and volunteer our time each year for this event. To make sure our offerings in the library are on target, twice a year the library surveys its patrons to find out what kind of programming they want, in addition to staple programs such as children's story hours. Outcomes from this is it in turn creates a cross-pollination effect, people who come for the programs check out books, and the people who come for materials stay for programming.

As well our library is in the same facility as the elementary school and in the summer of 2018 the elementary school found themselves in a difficult position in that they wouldn’t have enough space in the fall for all the students at the beginning 2018 school year in September. We approached them and explaining that we would be willing to give up 1/3 of the library space for a two year time span giving them time worked out a plan to expand the school.

The Outcome from this was tremendous and the gratitude from families in our community was wonderful. It was a huge decision for us but we looked at that the end result of how we can work together and benefit the families who would have had siblings split between two or three different school and the community as a whole. In the end the move allowed the school to create a new classroom for the kindergartens and as well as strengthened the bond between the elementary school, library board & staff and our local municipality.
Our board and staff recognize the changing role of our public libraries and the importance of social, culture and well-being of communities. One of our goals as a public library is to be a healthy, creative, culturally rich and socially connected part of the community. Having a strong social connection is key to the strengths and foundation of a resilience and healthy lifestyle.

To meet these needs of our community we utilize many tools such as the Inter Library loans system within our federation, SITKA and Interlink. We offer an Outreach service, ensuring that vulnerable and isolated customers who are unable to visit the local library in person are still able to access library services. We have reviewed our current outreach services making sure it is current and up to date, making greater use of developing technologies and home delivery solutions. Other programs that we support are Library2go, Ancestry, TumbleBooks, Ebsco, Law matters, Novelist.

Outcomes from working with others in our community such as our local fire department, community church and municipal office for many events throughout the year such as the Christmas Light-up, Halloween and Canada Day continually help strengthen the relationship and partnership allowing us to provide quality programming.