



" Sechelt Library Did more for
Reading this summer than
my kids experienced in their
entire school year in Ontario!
Thank you! "

Director's Report
Sechelt Public Library
May 29, 2022 – August 31, 2022
By Leianne Emery

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1. Cover Photo

Summer Reading Club 2022 Award Presentation! Note the amazing comments from one parent.
More details later on...

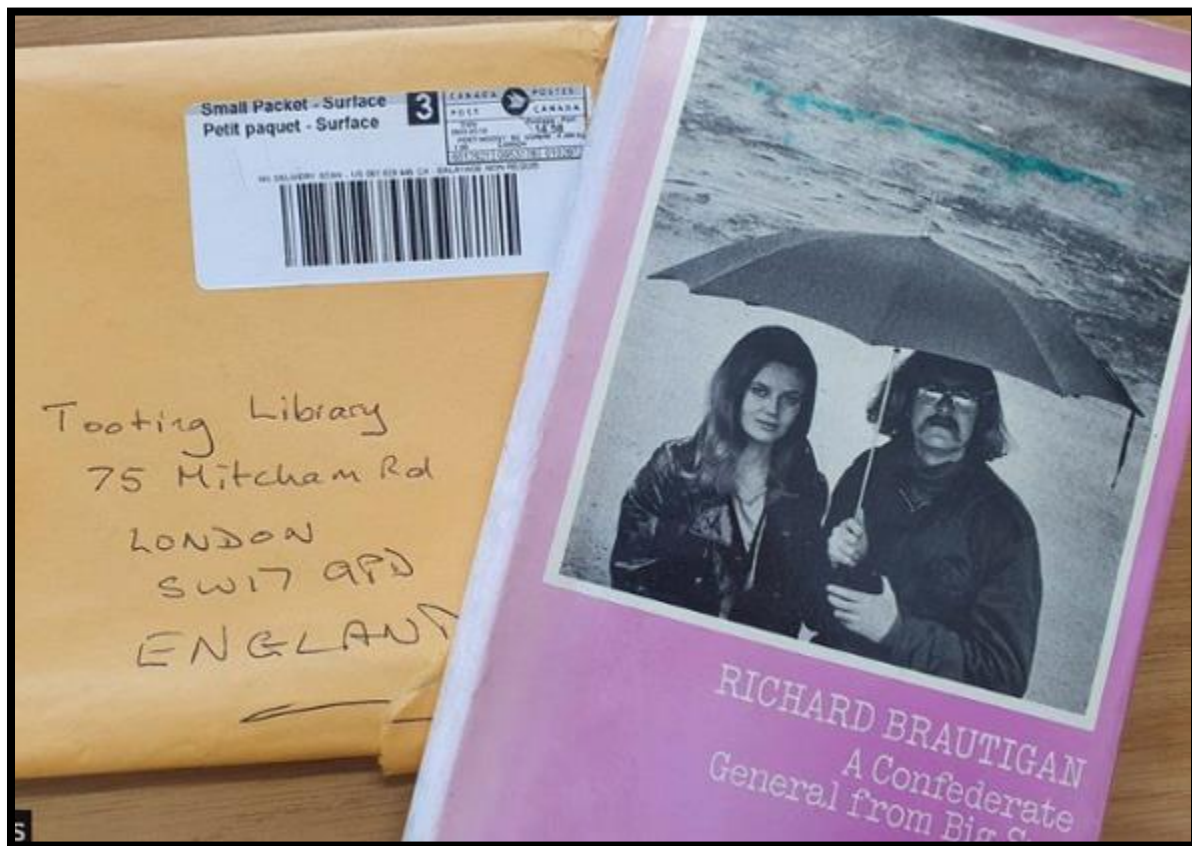
2. Special Book Display

On August 12, 2022, the day author Salman Rushdie was stabbed multiple times, we created this special book display (with a selection of his books) at the front of the library with a sign that read: In Support of author Salman Rushdie. Of course, “Satanic Verses”, the book he is most famous for writing, went “missing” from our collection a while ago... There are some that pay a steep price for protecting and fighting for freedom of speech.

Claire putting the Salmon Rushdie book display together.



3. A Great Story – 48 Years in the Making



A library that received an overdue book in the post from Canada 48 years after lending it out has agreed to waive the overdue fine of £6,170.85.

Tony Spence, of Port Moody, British Columbia, borrowed *A Confederate General from Big Sur* from Tooting Library, south London, in early 1974.

Luckily the library, which has no record of the loan, caps fees at £8.50.

"I decided to return it as I am a great believer in, and supporter of, libraries," the retired judge said. "And also thought staff might get a chuckle," the 72-year-old added. "It seems they did."

4. Library Stats to Date

If you are a numbers person, you will like this. **As at July 31, 2022** here are some of our Library stats:

3,240	Computer users
9,042	Wifi users
592	Transit tickets sold
26,263	Website visits
40,606	Patrons in the door
19,427	Interactions
548	New memberships
215	Books couriered to Pender Harbour Reading Centre – for free

5. Grants

Canada Healthy Communities Grant

30 different Playaway Launchpads (Brain Games) are now in cataloguing (which is very backed up) at the Sechelt Library!



6. Funding Payments

The Funding Agreement indicates the following dates for payment to the Sechelt Library:

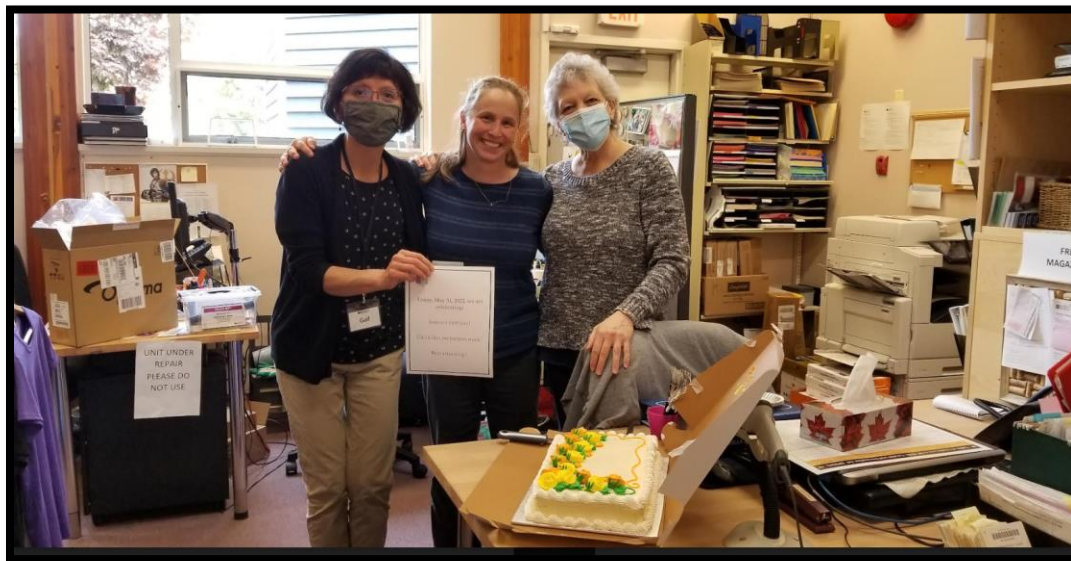
	Beginning of Q1	Beginning of Q2	Beginning of Q3	Beginning of Q4
DOS	30%	30%	20%	20%
SCRD	25%	25%	25%	25%
SIGD	50% January 5	50% May 31	0%	0%

Funding received to date:

	Q1 pmt	Q2 pmt	Q3 pmt	Q4 pmt
DOS	Received	Received	Received	
SCRD	Received	Received	Received	
SIGD	Received	Received	NA	NA

7. Staffing

We are very pleased to have Charlotte Gray join our library team as the Children's Service Coordinator. Charlotte will be with us for at least a year as she is taking over for Sam, who is currently on maternity leave. Summer is a very busy time for the Children's Services Coordinator as, in addition to regular programming, all the Summer Reading Club activities are in full swing!



Picture above:

Celebrating Beth return to work after almost a year of being away, Jessica's birthday and Gail's first day as a "permanent" staff member after being a "casual" for two years!

8. Union Negotiations

Three days of CUPE 391 Union negotiations took place over July 25, July 26 and August 23. The union will aim to ratify the agreement on September 1, 2022. I will aim for the Library Board to ratify after September 1st but hopefully before September 8, 2022. Details of the agreement will be shared with the Board at that time.

9. Volunteers

Another grateful acknowledgement to all the work our incredible volunteers do for us and ultimately the community! We have three long time volunteers who work with Rose in processing library items – repairing, book covering and processing. Claire has been working hard to selectively recruit, train, schedule and work with our shelving volunteers – most of them new in the past year and a half. We have 17 shelving volunteers in total now.

As at July 31, our volunteers have worked:

451 hours – shelving

281 hours – processing

Reasons why some of our volunteers want to work with us:

- students volunteer for work experience and thus can better their university applications
- persons with a disability volunteer because they are respected, have work that builds confidence, makes them feel empowered and appreciated
- people that are retired just want to give back to the community (we even have an iceberg specialist and a federal bog bilingual researcher working with us!)
- youth want to have volunteer work experience on their resume to help them obtain other jobs in the workforce

10. Gift of Hand Made Book Marks

Special thank-you to Jeanette Morgan from Halfmoon Bay for making us many beautiful hand-made quilted books marks from fabric pieces. We have given them to staff, book clubs, Friend of the Library, the Union negotiating team and many others. Much appreciated!



11. Drag Queen Storytime

As per my email to the Board of Directors on June 22, 2022:

Further to our initial Drag Queen Storytime conversation, it has been an eventful week to say the least. We have received much hate mail - but also support. I thought it best to give you a current update.

Sechelt Library events:

Drag Queen Storytime Thursday June 23 at 3:30 - 4:30

Drag Queen Storytime Saturday June 25 at 1:00 - 2:00

Issue:

Although this is certainly not our first Drag Queen Storytime, these two upcoming events have received and continue to receive an extraordinary amount of very hateful messages (email, social media, phone calls, anonymous written messages) from a wide range of community members - and others. Although there have not yet been any direct threats to our lives or those of others, it is widely expected there will be some very disruptive protesters and loud bull horns. Unfortunately, Marc Emery, a loud activist very well known to police and media (not related to me) is also one of them. On the flip side, there may also be some supporters showing up in counter protests as well. It should be noted that there has been, in other Canadian and US libraries, some very toxic and dangerous situations at other Drag Queen Storytimes as of late.

Here is what is going to happen for our library events:

1. Our Drag Queen Storytimes will indeed proceed in all their glam, glitter and wonderful story reading.
2. The events will both take place indoors (for safety) in our community meeting room for registered children and their parents and to others who, in a controlled way, we would be comfortable letting into the community room on the day of the event.
3. We have extra staff working that day to assist if necessary
4. The Drag Queen performers are informed
4. The District of Sechelt has also been informed
5. We will have two RCMP officers attending who are trained in protest control. More are on alert if necessary.

Note: the RCMP are also scheduled to be on the Library lawn at 1:00pm Thursday June 23 for a lifetime achievement award being presented to Annie Aculiak, the Inuit artist. Hopefully this is not affected.

Summary:

Both Drag Queen Storytime events went extraordinarily well and were well beyond our hopes and expectations! It did take much effort on the part of many people – including myself, Sam, our Children’s Programmer, our staff, the RCMP and many DOS staff. The outpouring of support from the community **was incredible** – both in event attendance and via email afterwards.



Here is the thankyou letter we sent to DOS staff and the RCMP:



June 29, 2022

To:
Sechelt Detachment of the RCMP
District of Sechelt staff and support team

On behalf of the Sechelt Public Library staff and our Board of Directors, thank-you for your unwavering support and crucial role in making the Drag Queen Story Time events the joyous and memorable events they were. We couldn't have done it without you!

With gratitude,

Leianne Emery
Director, Sechelt Public Library



Here is an article I wrote which the Coast Reporter published on July 1, 2022:

Sechelt Library – Love, Controversy and Cupcakes

June 27, 2022

It isn't often that an event for children at the Sechelt Library requires police presence, undercover operatives, a Library and District of Sechelt security team – as well as cupcakes, a bubble machine and children's books from our library collection. But that, and an entire library staff in supporting roles, is exactly what it took to put on two Drag Queen Storytime events this past week. Despite the haters, the misinformed and the abuse myself and our staff took for the last two weeks, the level of support shown by our community was inspiring, overwhelming and full of gratitude for a library that didn't bow down to hate. Attendance at the events was over the top and the crowds of supporters outside came from every walk of life and background.

Controversy is not new to Sechelt Library or any library for that matter. We have many items on our shelves that can, and sometimes do, offend someone. This is the beauty of free choice. As our staff say, "we are like a buffet; come in, take what you want, leave the rest."

Library staff do not judge you on the basis of your age, race, religion, political position, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status. Respect is shown equally to all. Even some of the Drag Queen Storytime "haters" have library cards and use our library for themselves and their families. We are happy about that! There are thousands of items in our library for choices to be made and, ultimately, there is always something for everyone.

As a library staff, we work hard every day to bring joy, intrigue, information and assistance to all members of our community. We celebrate who we are as a community – painters, poets, knitters, writers, athletes, indigenous peoples, refugees, gardeners, crafters, LGBTQ+, volunteers, grandparents, friends, astronomers, boaters, builders, babies, newcomers, foreign language speakers – and of course – readers!

We support many local Sechelt businesses and we work with many community partners to bring the best possible experiences to our community. Our summer is full of activities, exercise and thought-provoking classes for adults but especially full of activities for children. Our ongoing children's programs are also topped up with the Summer Reading Program and all its exciting activities! Again, not everything will be for you but I bet something will be!

Not every day is full of love and magic but last week we saw the best of the best. It was extraordinary. On behalf of Sam Iversen, our Children's Services Coordinator, our Library Board, our staff and myself, we are grateful for the support we have been shown by our local politicians, the District of Sechelt, the Sechelt detachment of the RCMP and the incredible community we live in.

Prior to the Drag Queen Storytime events, we taped up many 11 x 17 posters up on our library windows that say, 'Love Always Wins'. Last week it certainly did.

12. Kudos to “Repair Café” Team

Once a month on a Saturday, Gillian, as part of the adult programming, organizes the Gibsons Repair Café team to visit Sechelt Library. The team sets up shop in the community room to help people in our community with repairs on almost anything you can imagine.

Here is an example of what happened last Saturday:

24 people were assisted with their repairs – **FOR FREE!**

Some items this week - apart from the many lamps, kitchen and AV electronics:

Manual typewriter with ribbons

Electric guitar

Brass Nautical sextant

Ukulele stand

Wheel

Pepper shakers

Eyeglass hinge

Lots of garden devices are brought in on a regular basis too. When they can't be fixed, people are happy to recycle without feeling guilty.



13. Program Guides – July 2022 and August 2022 + September 2022


SECHELT LIBRARY
Space to think

REGISTRATION

All programs are **FREE!**
Call (604) 885-3260 or register in person at the Library.
***Masks are Optional**

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday:	10-5
Tuesday:	10-5
Wednesday:	10-6
Thursday:	10-5
Friday:	10-5 July 1st CLOSED
Saturday:	10-3
Sunday:	Closed

CONTACT

☎ (604) 885-3260
✉ info@sechelt.library.ca

SOCIAL MEDIA

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📷 @secheltlibrary
📺 @secheltlibrary

Canada Home
By
Juliana Horatia Ewing
Published 1879

Some Homes are where flowers for ever blow,
The sun shining hotly the whole year round;
But our Home glistens with six months of snow,
Where frost without wind heightens every sound,
And Home is Home wherever it is,
When we're all together and nothing amiss.

Yet Willy is old enough to recall
A Home forgotten by Eily and me;
He says that we left it five years since last Fall,
And came sailing, sailing, right over the sea,
But Home is Home wherever it is,
When we're all together and nothing amiss.

Our other Home was for ever green,
A green, green isle in a blue, blue sea,
With sweet flowers such as we never have seen;
And Willy tells all this to Eily and me,
But Home is Home wherever it is,
When we're all together and nothing amiss.

He says, "What fine fun when we all go back!"
But Canada Home is very good fun
When Pat's little sled flies along the smooth track,
Or spills in the snowdrift that shines in the sun.
For Home is Home wherever it is,
When we're all together and nothing amiss.

Some day I should dearly love, it is true,
To sail to the old Home over the sea;
But only if Father and Mother went too,
With Willy and Patrick and Eily and me.
For Home is Home wherever it is,
When we're all together and nothing amiss.

This work is in the public domain

ONE-ON-ONE SUPPORT

Genealogy Tutoring **FREE**
Curious about your history? Want to discover your family tree?
Appointment required.

Tech Education **FREE**
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
30 minute one-on-one sessions with our local tech expert. **Appointment required.**

Repair Café **FREE**
Saturday, July 9, 10:30-2:30
Free, while you wait, repair to domestic appliances and devices by volunteers from Gibsons Repair Café.

Accessibility Services **FREE**
One on one assistance with Daisy audio players, and other accessibility programs and resources for individuals with visual impairments. **Appointment Required.**

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Book Faire
Fri, July 1 & 15 12:00 - 5:00 **Community Room**
Sat, July 2 & 16 10:00 - 5:00 **Community Room**
Sun, July 3 & 17 10:00 - 3:00 **Community Room**
Hosted by Friends of the Library.
Donations are limited to 1 box of great books, on Friday and Saturday only, during Book Faire hours. Flash Sale On Sunday.




SECHELT LIBRARY
Space to think

July

2022

Program Guide



ADULTS

Adult Card Making 
Thursday, July 14, 28, 11:00-12:00 **Zoom & In Person**
Join Ruth Moore for a free card-making class! All supplies provided. **Registration Required.**

Astronomy Group Meeting
Friday, July 8, 7:00PM-9:00PM **Via Zoom & In Person**
Presentation by Sunshine Coast Astronomy Club. **Drop-Ins Welcome.**

Chair Yoga
Monday, July 4 10:45-11:30 **Zoom & In Person**
Join Julie Morgan for this gentle form of yoga. **Registration Required.**

Technology 101
Tuesday, June 9, 15 10:30 - 12:30
Room of Requirement
Basic course on the fundamentals of modern technology with a focus on mobile devices.
Max 4 people. Registration Required.

Dungeons & Dragons 
Tuesdays, 5:30-8:30 **Sechelt Library**
Come and delve into the fantastic stories of Dungeons and Dragons. Join our group for exciting adventures in imagination every Tuesday. Call or email the library to register.
Registration Required.
Currently seeking Dungeon Masters.

General Fiction Book Club 
Tuesday, June 12, 1:00-2:30 **Community Room**
Read *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens in preparation for the next book club meeting on the 2nd Tuesday in July. **Registration Required.**

Mystery Book Club
Tuesday, July 19, 1:00-2:30 **Community Room**
Read *The Lady's Guide to Mischief and Murder* by Dianne Freeman in preparation for the next book club meeting on the 3rd Tuesday in July. **Registration Required.**

Men's Book Club
Tuesday, July 26, 1:00-2:30 **Community Room**
Men's Book Club. The club will meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month.
Registration Required.

Stitchin' 
Mondays, 11:30-1:00 **Community Room or Outside**
Bring your knitting/crochet/stitching project and enjoy a friendly 'stitchin'' session with other crafters.
Drop-Ins Welcome.

Ukulele
Thursdays, 1:30-3:00 **Community Room or Outside**
Fun ukulele jam for all levels. **Drop In - Limited Seating.**

Writers Group 
On Hold For the Summer
Come join your fellow writers in reading and critiquing each others work in a friendly and constructive manner. Limited to 8 seats.
Registration Required.

Teddy Bear Picnic
Mr. T. Ruxpin would like to announce that the annual Teddy Bear Picnic has been postponed due to weather. People entering the woods on July 10 will not require a disguise. Mr. T. Ruxpin will announce the new date in the usual manner.

CHILDREN & TEENS

Babytime
Friday, July 15, 22, 29, 10:30 - 11:00 **Children's Area or outside**
Recommended for families with children under 2. Join us on Fridays for a relaxed drop-in Babytime with books, songs, and play.
Drop-Ins Welcome.

StoryTime 
Saturday, July 2, 16, 23, 30, 10:30 - 11:00
Children's Area or outside.
Recommended for families with children 5 and under. Join us on Saturday for a drop-in Family Storytime for books, songs, and play. **Drop-Ins Welcome. No StoryTime July 9.**

Kids Card Making 
Saturday, July 23, 1:00 - 2:00 **Community Room**
Ruth Moore will be leading this free workshop on card making and design. All Supplies provided. **Registration Required.**
Ages 4-8.

Youth Book Club 
Thursday, July 20, 3:30-4:30 **Teen Area**
Read *Lumberjanes* by Shannon Watters, and discuss it with us. Snacks provided! Ages 9-12.
Registration Required.

Teen Book Club 
Thursday, July 14, 3:30-4:30 **Teen Area**
Read *Speak: The Graphic Novel* by Laurie Halse Anderson, and discuss it with us. Snacks provided! Ages 12-19. **Registration Required.**

Dungeons & Dragons
Tuesdays, 5:30-8:30 **Sechelt Library**
Adventure begins at the library! Come and delve into the fantastic stories of Dungeons and Dragons. Join our group for exciting adventures in imagination every Tuesday. Call or email the library to register. **Registration Required.**
Currently seeking Dungeon Masters.

StoryWalk®
Wednesday, July 27 - Tuesday August 2
Rockwood Center (5511 Shorncliffe Ave)
Enjoy reading a book while taking a walk through nature! No Registration Required!

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.

The book, *Here We Are* by Oliver Jeffers, has been provided by the Sunshine Coast Literacy Coalition, of which Sechelt Public Library is a member.

Teen Advisory Group & Teen Book Reviews 
Have a say in what Teen programs we offer, review books and earn volunteer hours. Ages 13-19. Email sam.iversen@secheltlibrary.ca to join our Discord Server.

Summer Reading Club
Please see the Summer Reading Club Brochure for more exciting programs!





REGISTRATION

All programs are **FREE!**

Call (604) 885-3260 or register in person at the Library.

***Masks are Optional**

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday: 10-5 Aug 1st CLOSED
Tuesday: 10-5
Wednesday: 10-6
Thursday: 10-5
Friday: 10-5
Saturday: 10-3
Sunday: Closed

CONTACT

☎ (604) 885-3260

✉ info@sechelt.bclibrary.ca

SOCIAL MEDIA

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📺 @secheltlibrary

Calm is The Fragrant Air

By
William Wordsworth
Published 1807

Calm is the fragrant air, and loth to lose
Day's grateful warmth, tho' moist with falling
dews.
Look for the stars, you'll say that there are
none;
Look up a second time, and, one by one,
You mark them twinkling out with silvery light.
And wonder how they could elude the sight!
The birds, of late so noisy in their bowers,
Warbled a while with faint and fainter powers.
But now are silent as the dim-seen flowers:
Nor does the village Church-clock's iron tone
The time's and season's influence disown;
Nine beats distinctly to each other bound
In drowsy sequence, how unlike the sound
That, in rough winter, oft inflicts a fear
On fireside listeners, doubting what they hear!
The shepherd, bent on rising with the sun,
Had closed his door before the day was done,
And now with thankful heart to bed doth creep,
And joins his little children in their sleep.
The bat, lured forth where trees the lane
o'er shade,
Flits and reflits along the close arcade;
The busy dor-hawk chases the white moth
With burring note, which industry and sloth
Might both be pleased with, for it suits them
both.
A stream is heard, I see it not, but know
By its soft music whence the waters flow:
Wheels and the tread of hoofs are heard no
more;
One boat there was, but it will touch the shore
With the next dipping of its slackened oar;
Faint sound, that, for the gayest of the gay,
Might give to serious thought a moment's sway,
As a last token of man's toilsome day!

This work is in the public domain

ONE-ON-ONE SUPPORT

Genealogy Tutoring **FREE**

Curious about your history? Want to discover your family tree?
Appointment required.

Tech Education **FREE**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
30 minute one-on-one sessions with our local tech expert. **Appointment required.**

Repair Café **FREE**

Saturday, August 20, 10:30-2:30
Free, while you wait, repair to domestic appliances and devices by volunteers from Gibsons Repair Café.

Accessibility Services **FREE**

One on one assistance with Daisy audio players, and other accessibility programs and resources for individuals with visual impairments. **Appointment Required.**

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Book Faire

Fri, Aug 12 & 26 12:00 - 5:00 **Community Room**
Sat, Aug 13 & 27 10:00 - 5:00 **Community Room**
Sun, Aug 14 & 28 10:00 - 3:00 **Community Room**
Hosted by Friends of the Library.
Donations are limited to 1 box of great books, on Friday and Saturday only, during Book Faire hours. Flash Sale On Sunday.



ADULTS

Adult Card Making

Thursday, Aug 11, 25, 11:00-12:00

Zoom & In Person

Join Ruth Moore for a free card-making class! All supplies provided. **Registration Required.**

Chair Yoga

Mondays, Aug 8, 22, 29, 10:45-11:30

Zoom & In Person

Join Julie Morgan for this gentle form of yoga. **Registration Required.**

Technology 101

Tuesday August 9, 23 10:30 - 12:30

Room of Requirement

Basic course on the fundamentals of modern technology with a focus on mobile devices. **Max 4 people. Registration Required.**

Dungeons & Dragons

Tuesdays, 5:30-8:30 **Sechelt Library**
Come and delve into the fantastic stories of Dungeons and Dragons. Join our group for exciting adventures in imagination every Tuesday. Call or email the library to register. **Registration Required.**

Currently seeking Dungeon Masters.

Stitchin'

Mondays, 11:30-1:00

Community Room or Outside

Bring your knitting/crochet/stitching project and enjoy a friendly stitchin' session with other crafters.

Drop-Ins Welcome.

No Class August 1st.

General Fiction Book Club

Tuesday Aug 9, 1:00-2:30 **Community Room or Outside**
Read *Remembrance* by Alistair MacLeod in preparation for the next book club meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. **Registration Required.**

Mystery Book Club

Tuesday Aug 16, 1:00-2:30 **Community Room or Outside**
Read *The Bat* by Jo Nesbo in preparation for the next book club meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. **Registration Required.**

Men's Book Club

Tuesday Aug 23, 1:00-2:30 **Community Room or Outside**
Men's Book Club. The club will meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month. **Registration Required.**

Ukulele Lessons

Mondays & Fridays, Aug, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29, Sept 2, 1:00-3:00

Outside - Weather Permitting

Free Ukulele Lesson with Susan Telfer. **Registration Required.**

Ukulele Jam

Thursdays, 1:30-3:00 **Outside - Weather Permitting**
Fun ukulele jam for all levels. **Drop In. Other Instruments Welcome.**

Writers Group

On Hold For the Summer.

Come join your fellow writers in reading and critiquing each others work in a friendly and constructive manner. Limited to 8 seats. **Sign up now for September. Registration Required.**

On Vacation

Our regular humour writer is on Vacation, please check next month for a new joke.

CHILDREN & TEENS

Babytime

Friday, Aug 5, 12, 19, 26, 10:30 - 11:00

Children's Area or outside weather permitting.

Recommended for families with children under 2. Join us on Fridays for a relaxed drop-in Babytime with books, songs, and play. **Drop-Ins Welcome.**

Summer Family StoryTime

Saturday, Aug 6, 13, 20, 27, 10:30 - 11:00

Children's Area or outside.

Recommended for families with children 5 and under. Join us on Saturday for a drop-in Family Storytime for books, songs, and play. **Drop-Ins Welcome.**

Kids Card Making

Saturday, Aug 20, 1:00 - 2:00 **Community Room**

Ruth Moore will be leading this free workshop on card making and design. All Supplies provided. **Registration Required.**

Ages 4-8.

Youth Book Club

Thursday, Aug 17, 3:30-4:30 **Teen Area**

Read *Witch Boy* by Molly Ostertag, and discuss it with us. Snacks provided! Ages 9-12. **Registration Required.**

Teen Book Club

Thursday, Aug 11, 3:30-4:30 **Teen Area**

Read *We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart, and discuss it with us. Snacks provided! Ages 12-19. **Registration Required.**



August 2022 Program Guide



Sidewalk Chalk With Bubbles

Saturday, Aug 6, 10:00 - 3:00 **Outside**

Join us for Saturday Art and Play! We'll have a table setup with chalk and bubbles! **Drop Ins Welcome.**

Dungeons & Dragons

Tuesdays, 5:30-8:30 **Sechelt Library**

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Teen Advisory Group & Teen Book Reviews

Have a say in what Teen programs we offer, review books and earn volunteer hours. Ages 13-19. Email charlottegray@secheltlibrary.ca to join our Discord Server.

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Free, while you wait, repair to domestic appliances and devices by volunteers from Gibsons Repair Café.

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REGISTRATION


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***Masks are Optional**

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday: 10-5 Sept 5th CLOSED
Tuesday: 10-5
Wednesday: 10-6
Thursday: 10-5
Friday: 10-5 Sept 30th CLOSED
Saturday: 10-3
Sunday: Closed




September 2022 Program Guide



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Book Faire
Due to renovations there is no book faire in September

Fri, October 14, 12:00 - 5:00 Community Room
Sat, October 15, 10:00 - 5:00 Community Room
Sun, October 16, 10:00 - 3:00 Community Room
Hosted by Friends of the Library. Donations are limited to 1 box of great books on Friday and Saturday only, during Book Faire hours.



CONTACT


(604) 885-3260
info@sechelt.bclibrary.ca

SOCIAL MEDIA

For more exciting information and photos, follow us on social media.

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ADULTS


Adult Card Making 
Thursday, Sept 22, 11:00-12:00
Zoom & In Person
Join Ruth Moore for a free card-making class! All supplies provided. **Registration Required.**

Astronomy Group Meeting
Friday September 9, 7:00PM-9:00PM
Via Zoom & In Person
Presentation by Sunshine Coast Astronomy Club. **Registration Required.**

Dungeons & Dragons 
Tuesdays, 5:30-8:30 Sechelt Library
Come and delve into the fantastic stories of Dungeons and Dragons. Join our group for exciting adventures in imagination every Tuesday. Call or email the library to register. **Registration Required.**
Currently seeking Dungeon Masters.

Stitchin' 
Mondays, 11:30-1:00 Community Room or Outside
Bring your knitting/crochet/stitching project and enjoy a friendly stitchin' session with other crafters. **Drop-Ins Welcome.**
No Session September 5th.

Writers Group
Tuesday, Sept 6, 20, 10:00 - 12:30 Rockwood
Come join your fellow writers in reading and critiquing each other's work in a friendly and constructive manner. Limited to 8 seats. **Registration Required.**

General Fiction Book Club 
Tuesday Sept 13, 1:00-2:30
Community Room or Outside
Read *The Break* by Katherine Vermette in preparation for the next book club meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. **Registration Required.**

Chair Yoga

Mondays, Sept 12, 26, 10:45-11:30 Zoom & In Person
Join Bobbie Seale-Cobiskey for this gentle form of yoga. **Registration Required.**

Mystery Book Club
Tuesday Sept 20, 1:00-2:30 Community Room or Outside
Read *In the Woods* by Tana French in preparation for the next book club meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. **Registration Required.**

Men's Book Club
Tuesday Sept 27, 1:00-2:30 Community Room or Outside
Read *Plutocrats* by Chrystia Freeland in preparation for the next book club meeting on the 4th Tuesday of the month. **Registration Required.**

Sechelt Family History Group
Monday, Sept 26, 6:30 - 8:30 Community Room
Interested in your family history? Come and join this group of dedicated ancestor hunters. **Registration Required.**

Ukulele Jam
Thursdays, 1:30-3:00 Outside or Community Room
Fun ukulele jam for all levels. **Drop In. Other Instruments Welcome.**

Writer's Studio Writing Consults
Saturday, Sept 10, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00
Room of Requirement
Free 45 min consultation with Jocelyne Gregory MFA, on seven pages of your poetry or prose. Please provide the sample of your work 1-2 weeks prior to your appointment. **Registration Required.**

Non-Fiction Book Club
Tuesday Oct 4, 1:00 - 2:00 Community Room
Organization meeting for the new book club.

Coming Soon
Monthly Philosophers Café with Mark Battersby. Watch for more new programs in October.

CHILDREN & TEENS

Fall Family StoryTime
Saturday, Sept 3, 10, 17, 24, 10:30 - 11:00
Children's Area or outside.
Recommended for families with children 5 and under. Join us on Saturday for a drop-in Family Storytime for books, songs, and play. **Drop-Ins Welcome.**

Teen Anime Club
Friday, Sept 9, 23, 3:00-5:00 Community Room
Join us to watch anime and discuss manga. Snacks provided. Ages 9-18. The content is rated PG13 or TV14A. **Registration Required.**

Youth Book Club
Thursday, Sept 15, 3:30-4:30 Teen Area
Read *Rescue at Lake Wild* by Terry Lynn Johnson, and discuss it with us. Snacks provided! Ages 9-12. **Registration Required.**

Teen Book Club
Thursday, Sept 8, 3:30-4:30 Teen Area
Read *The Inheritance Games* by Jennifer Lynn Barnes, and discuss it with us. Snacks provided! Ages 12-19. **Registration Required.**

Just Dance Tournament
Saturday, Sept 24, 1:00 - 2:30 Community Room
Go head-to-head with your friends in this Nintendo Switch dance video game! Snacks Provided. Recommended for ages 8+. **Registration Required**

PJ Storytime & Stuffed Sleepover
Wednesday Sept 21 3:30 - 4:15 Children's Area
Come join us for a Pajama Storytime and bring your stuffed friend! The stuffies get to stay overnight for a library sleepover! Recommended for ages 3-7. **Registration Required**

Slideshow & Stuffed Pick Up
Thursday Sept 22 4:14 - 4:45 Community Room
Pickup your stuffed friend and watch the slideshow of their library adventures! **Registration Required**

Director's Report

May 29, 2022 – August 31, 2022

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14. Summer Reading Club

Sechelt Library just completed a very successful 2022 Summer Reading Club! Thankyou to Sam, who set up the program prior to leaving for maternity leave and did school visits (with Claire), our newest library team member and Children's Services Coordinator, Charlotte, for taking on the challenge of overseeing this huge program, and to our staff helpers, Messy Science Assistant – Jason, Awards Ceremony Assistant Claire and Ice cream Making Assistant, Leianne!

Besides all the interesting activities, we of course promote reading with the official reading logs and prizes each week for completion. In case you missed it on the front cover, I think these comments from different Summer Reading Club parents say everything:

A parent commented at the Summer Reading Club program that they were thankful and happy that the library was putting on free programs for kids.

♥ AUG 26/22 SUMMER READING CLUB MEDAL CEREMONY ♥

PARENT COMMENT ... " SECHelt LIBRARY DID MORE FOR
READING THIS SUMMER THAN
MY KIDS EXPERIENCED IN THEIR
ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR IN ONTARIO!
THANK YOU! "

"THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE MEDALS
(MY CHILD) LOVES HIS AND IT
MADE HIS SUMMER READING
MEAN SO MUCH MORE! "

" THANK YOU LIBRARIAN !! I LOVED THE PARTY! "
SMALL CHILD AS THEY WERE LEAVING 😊

Messy Science: Intermediate

Ages 9-12
Every other Wednesday
Outside the library on the lawn
10:30-11:30. Registration required

July 13th	Film Canister Rockets Use the power of chemistry to make rockets fly!
July 27th	Build a Boat Challenge Can you build a strong paper boat to keep marbles afloat?
Aug 10th	Bubble Tower Make a lava lamp with colorful bubbles!
Aug 24th	Homemade Ice Cream: Learn the science behind ice cream!



Summer Reading Challenge: Teens

July 4-Sept 2	Scratch Tickets Check out a book and get a Scratch Ticket for a prize! See website for more details.
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Reading Logs

Available June 13th
Pick up your Reading Log at the Sechelt Library!

1. Add a check mark every day you read
2. Bring your Reading Log to the library each week to get a sticker!
3. Bring your completed Reading Log to the Sechelt Library after August 22nd and get a medal for your reading achievement!

Read To Me Logs Available for Preschoolers.

Find the app at bcsrc.ca

Award Ceremony

Friday, August 26th
2pm
Outside the Library on the Lawn
Completed your reading log? Come get your certificate of completion and medal in our award ceremony and enter our prize draw! Family is welcome to come watch. Please let us know if you're attending.

All events are at the Sechelt Library's Community Room unless otherwise stated.

All programs require registration unless otherwise stated.



Summer Reading Club



All Together Now

Check our website for more info
<https://sechelt.bc.libraries.coop/>



Summer Reading Club: Primary

Ages 5-8
Thursdays

Drop off your kids for some Summer Reading Club activities. Each week we will play games, read books, do art and play!
Registration required.

July 7th 1-2 pm	Community Connections Work together to build a neighborhood!
July 14th 1-2 pm	Hello World Dream big and write or draw your travel plans!
July 21st 1-2 pm	Dream Team Play mini-soccer and invent your own sport!
July 28th 1-2 pm	Great Outdoors Create a sundial and paint rocks!
Aug 4th 1-2 pm	Together, Apart Write a postcard to a friend and create a string phone!
Aug 11th 1-2 pm	All Kinds of Families Learn about each other's families and make a paper house for your family!
Aug 18th 1-2 pm	Let's Play Together Challenge each other with obstacle courses!

Summer Reading Club: Intermediate

Ages 9-12
Fridays

Drop off your kids for some Summer Reading Club activities. Each week we will play games, read books, do art and play!
Registration required.

July 8th 2-3 pm	Community Connections Build your own cardboard community!
July 15th 2-3 pm	Hello World Design a postcard! At Seaside Centre
July 22nd 2-3 pm	Dream Team Build a Marble Run!
July 29th 2-3 pm	Great Outdoors Complete a Nature Scavenger Hunt!
Aug 5th 2-3 pm	Together, Apart Make a friendship bracelet and write a Mad Libs letter!
Aug 19th 2-3 pm	Let's Play Together Work together to draw pictures and write stories!



Messy Science: Primary

Ages 5-8
Every other Wednesday
Outside the library on the lawn
10:30-11:30. Registration required.

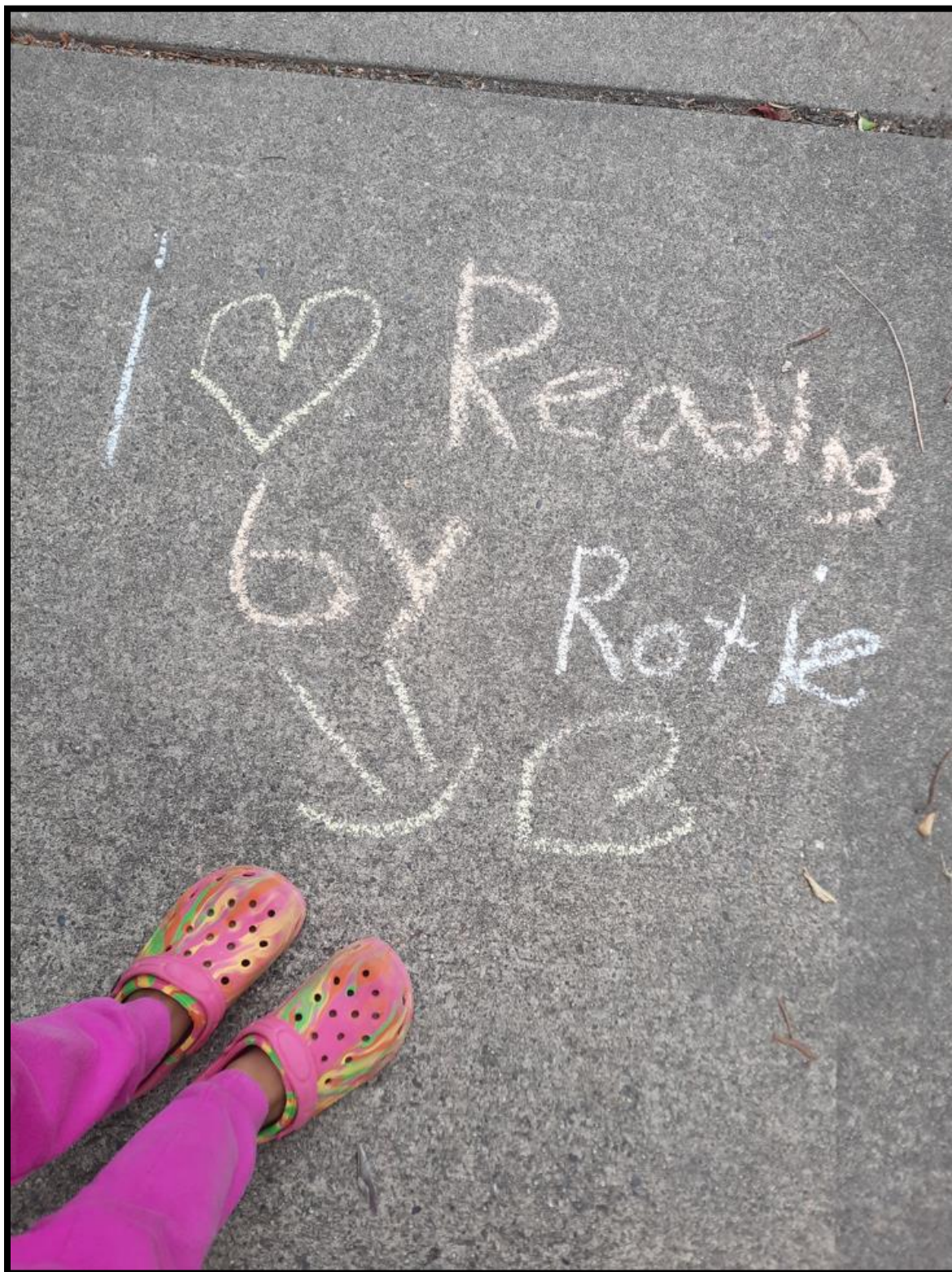
July 6th	Ooey Goopy Magnets Make magnetic slime and play with it!
July 20th	Dino Dig Dig up dino fossils!
Aug 3rd	Giant Bubbles Learn to make HUGE bubbles!
Aug 17th	Homemade Ice Cream: Learn the science behind ice cream!

SRC Artist Events

Wed Aug 10th 3-4 On Zoom Ages 8-12	Drawing Workshop Join the Summer Reading Club's 2022 illustrator Elaine Chen for a drawing workshop!
Wed Aug 3rd 2-2:45 Youtube All Ages	Elaine Chen: AMA Ask the 2022 SRC illustrator all your questions while she hangs out and draws with us.

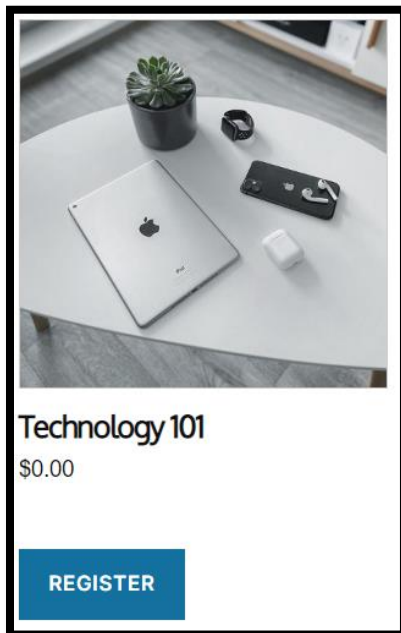






15. Elder College

We will be partnering with Elder College this September! Jason, our technology education coordinator, will be teaching a Technology 101 class in our community room for Elder College applicants. Of course, as we are a library, we had to request that Elder College make this class “free” to all. Rumor has it that it filled up in one day!



16. Welcoming Communities

On May 26, we were pleased to tour Lea Bautista, the new Settlement Outreach Coordinator, from welcoming Communities around our library and have a meaningful conversation about how the library could work with them. It is now a fruitful partnership that is serving newcomers to the coast in a positive way.

Just received from Lea:

Good morning Leianne,

I hope all is well with you.

I just want to update you on how the drop ins are going at the library. I had one client for the month of June and for the month of July, I've met five clients. I expected it would take a while for the word to get out, and summers are always low-turnout for adult events but it is the other way around so far and I'm happy with it.

The library is just the perfect place to meet newcomers on the Coast. As the clients said, it is close to everything- the bus station, the mall and the water/beach. It is accessible for most of our clients from their workplace too.

On behalf of all the clients, I want to thank you and all your friendly staff for giving us the opportunity to meet up at the library. I am so grateful for your support and help in this endeavor.

Can't thank you enough.

Warmly,

Lea Bautista (she/her)

Settlement/ Outreach Worker

Sunshine Coast Welcoming Communities

604-212-2716

www.welcoming-communities.ca / [Follow us on Facebook](#)

17. Comments from Patrons

I am writing to commend Gillian Smith and the Sechelt Public Library.

Late last year I had a stroke following a bike accident thanks to prompt medical intervention and 6 weeks of rehabilitation therapy, I made a partial recovery. But I still had further to go. My physiotherapist recommended chari yoga and my occupational therapist recommended cognitive exercises in a "nice quiet place like your local library".

I had both the past 8 weeks at Sechelt Library and have made a full recovery. Thanks especially to Gillian Smith who was so supportive and understanding. I am now back at work, a contributing member of society.

Sincerely,

John Richmond, BSW, MSW, RSW (ON, BC)
Chair, Sunshine Coast Alliance for Senior Care Co-operative
Branch Representative, Vancouver Sea to Sky BC Association of Social Workers
Field Instructor Faculty of Social Work University of Toronto
Field Instructor Advanced Clinical Practice University of Windsor

Hi Teresa...

Well...aren't you just my hero today!!! :) How on earth you find these answers so quickly...or at all.. is impressive!!! Thank you so much for both the article and the YouTube video!

Thanks again Teresa...you have made my day today!!! I so appreciate it!!

Until the next time I can't figure something out! :)

Best..
Catherine

Comment from:
May 27/22 Patron whom I helped register with CELA
+ Easy Reader App for digital audio
access was very appreciative. Says
she never got this level of support
while attending UBC. Our policy of
self-declaration of print disability was
not an accommodation made at UBC
(was "unable to prove" her visual disability
i.e. unable to qualify for the needed
support)
June 14 "The interlibrary loan system is so great!"

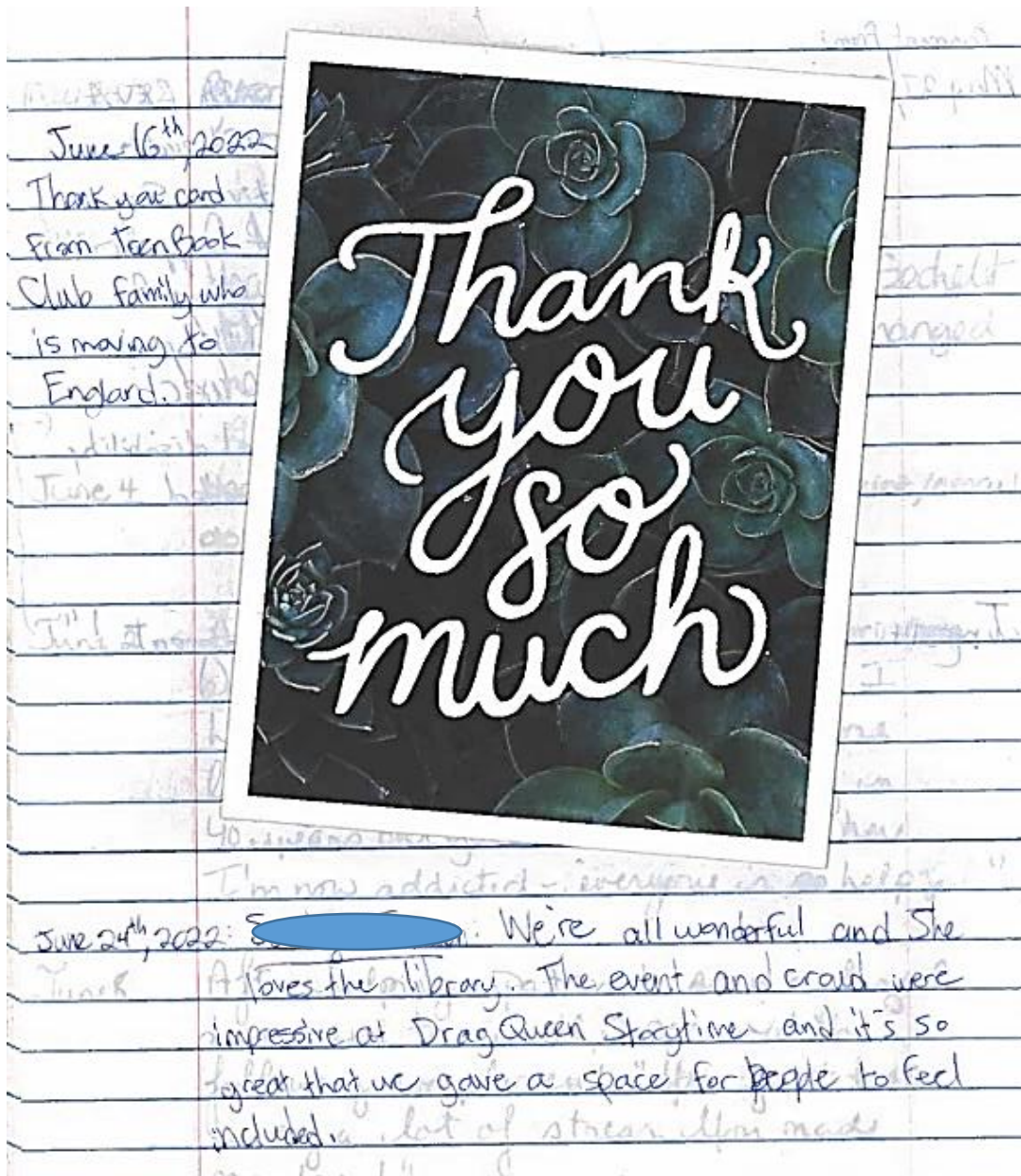
May 25/22 Patron asks if we can extend new DVD loan period to 2 weeks.

June 2 A library volunteer told me today that being able to volunteer at Sechelt Library and meeting Claire has changed her life.

→ June 4 Happy patron - glad we can fax/scan/print/email documents for seniors.

June 2 A patron was in asking for help with printing and then to ID a plant from a photo. I helped her with both. She said before leaving "I hadn't been in a library in 40 years but joined when we moved here. I'm now addicted - everyone is so helpful"

June 8 After helping a patron to scan a legal document to email, I received the following compliment. "You just took away a lot of stress. You made my day!"



July 4, 2022

on a super busy Monday AM I heard a grandpa, with his three grandchildren, how amazing the help he received from Gail was.

July 7, 2022

A parent commented at the Summer Reading Club program that they were thankful and happy that the library was putting on free programs for kids.

Patron asked if staff had to take a personality test in order to work here. Says we are all so pleasant and helpful and have been for years.

26 July 2022

♡ AUG 26/22 SUMMER READING CLUB MEDAL CEREMONY ♡

PARENT COMMENT ... " SEWELL LIBRARY DID MORE FOR
READING THIS SUMMER THAN
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(MY CHILD) LOVES HIS AND IT
MADE HIS SUMMER READING
MEAN SO MUCH MORE! "

" THANK YOU LIBRARIAN !! I LOVED THE PARTY! "
SMALL CHILD AS THEY WERE LEAVING 😊

18. Building Envelope Inspection / Building Needs Assessment

These two reports as well as our first building committee meeting will be discussed in more detail during the meeting.

19. Fire at Metrotown Library / Drug Hang Out

On Wednesday June 8th, a “shopping cart fire” and broken library window (due to fire) set off the sprinkler system at the Metrotown Library. They had to work with a restoration company to address smoke and water damage and were closed a week.

Right before the Metrotown fire happened due to a “cart” left at front door, we also had an incident that left us worried about safety of our staff and safety of the building. Early morning May 28th, video footage revealed persons known to us who prepared heroin on the blue book drop, one shooting up in her bare arm, and a heap of “stuff”. Then they left half their mess at the library front entrance for our staff to clean up, including heroin tubes and other disgusting items.

This has now happened a couple of times. The police don’t care – it’s just too common. The DOS were made aware.





20. School Tours

Now that COVID isn't such an issue, school visits have resumed! In June, Sam hosted four school visits to the Sechelt library. Visits included: kids getting library cards, library tours, games and storytime. Many young children become so excited about a library once they have had a tour – and especially love getting their own library card.





21. New Furniture

Rob, our amazing carpenter, has built three custom items for us (federal grant money set aside in encumbered funds):

1. Special (increased capacity) shelves for our junior graphic novels and wall displays for them (we also had to have the wall repaired and painted by Jonita)
2. A custom piece to hang all the Summer Reading Club Medals from previous years (they were previously in a box in the back)
3. A custom calendar of events for our front lobby entrance



old graphic novel shelving and wall in need of repair



new graphic novel shelving and wall display



22. BC Public Library Partners Advocate to Province

I'm happy to share that the [BC Public Library Partners](#) (made up of representatives from BCLA, BC Libraries Coop, BCLTA, and ABCPLD) presented to the BC Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services on June 7, asking the province to increase funding for public libraries to \$23 million in 2023.

As you know, provincial funding has been frozen at \$14 million for over a decade, even while libraries have continued to evolve and do more every year. We reiterated to the Committee that we are grateful for the recently announced one-time funding of \$8 million and that libraries will use that money well for the benefit of communities throughout the province, but that what libraries really need is a permanent increase to provincial annual funding to \$23 million in 2023, and then inflationary adjustments every year to prevent them from falling behind.

Representatives from each of the Partners had an opportunity to speak about the important work being done by libraries, library workers, and library trustees. We shared the vital role that libraries play in their communities, the diverse and complex needs to which libraries are responding, and the difficulty of meeting the needs of those communities with stagnant funding. We made the case that \$23 million is the amount of funding public libraries would have been receiving in 2023 if funding hadn't been cut and then frozen, and had kept pace with inflation.

There were several questions and comments from the Committee members, all of whom praised libraries in general and the libraries in their communities in particular. A [full transcript of the session](#) is available online for your reference, with the BC Public Library Partners' section starting 2/3 of the way down.

The Partners will also be advocating for increased provincial funding to public libraries at the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention from September 12-16. We are also investigating other advocacy avenues and opportunities.

Thank you to all of the staff who work every day to make public libraries a warm, relevant, and engaging presence in your communities – your work is the best possible advocacy for libraries.

Best,

Rina

Rina Hadziev, MLIS (she/her) [how to pronounce my name](#)

Executive Director

British Columbia Library Association

Email: execdir@bcla.bc.ca

Phone: 250-812-3893

Website: <https://bclaconnect.ca>

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The committee recessed from 2:03 p.m. to 2:07 p.m.

[J. Routledge in the chair.]

J. Routledge (Chair): Welcome, everybody. Our next panel is libraries. We have four presenters, and we'll hear from each one in turn. You have five minutes each. I think the timer is on your screen to help guide you. We'll hear from each of you, and then we'll open it up to questions from the committee for about 20 minutes.

Our first presenter is Kevin Millsip, representing the B.C. Libraries Cooperative.

Budget Consultation Presentations

Panel 8 – Libraries

B.C. LIBRARIES COOPERATIVE

K. Millsip: Thanks very much, Janet. Thanks, everybody, for the chance to speak with you today. My name is Kevin Millsip. My pronouns are "he" and "him." I'm calling in today from the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

I'm the executive director of the B.C. Libraries Cooperative and the volunteer co-chair of the B.C. Public Library Partners. The B.C. Public Library Partners is made up of four organizations, all represented on the call today. Collectively, we advocate on behalf of public libraries.

First of all, I want to heartily thank the provincial government for the \$8 million in COVID recovery and relief funding that recently came to this sector. These funds are a very welcome respite from what has been, for many of our members, an ongoing annual exercise in belt-tightening, in looking for more efficiencies where none exist — because of previous rounds of belt-tightening and, in too many cases, cuts to programs and services.

In terms of the co-op where I work, we're a non-profit that helps libraries help people. All the public libraries in B.C. are members of our co-op, and we provide a host of services related to technology, online infrastructure, consortial purchasing and services for people with print disabilities.

Our COVID recovering funding will go towards ensuring greater access to electronic resources for folks across B.C., to strengthening and upgrading the technology and the infrastructure that lets libraries work well in an online environment. For many in our sector, ourselves included, the COVID recovery funds are basically helping us catch up to where we should be after years of underinvestment in a range of services and areas.

Here's the challenge: once the one-time funds are gone and utilized and spent — and they will be spent well — we will, as a sector, be in danger of falling behind again in terms of being able to keep pace with the kinds of investments — human, technology, digital infrastructure — that our communities need for us to deliver the kinds of services that they deserve.

[2:10 p.m.]

In order for us not to fall behind again, I have one simple ask, which is: we need a permanent increase to the annual operating grant from the provincial government to the public library sector, and we need a lift, a small lift, from the current annual amount of \$14 million a year to \$23 million

Draft Segment 069

So in order for us not to fall behind again, I have one simple ask, which is: we need a permanent increase to the annual operating grant from the provincial government to the public library sector, and we need a lift, a small lift, from the current annual amount of \$14 million a year to \$23 million a year, linked to inflation.

Now, \$23 million a year is about what the annual provincial grant would be today had the grant amount not been cut over ten years ago from its high at \$17.9 million to the current amount of \$14 million and had the annual amount kept pace with inflation.

As I mentioned, we're immensely grateful for the \$8 million in recovery funding, and as I said, this money is going to be spent well, and it's helping us catch up to where we should be today. But in order for us not to fall behind again, we're asking you to lift the floor from the \$14 million to \$23 million per annum for public libraries in B.C.

I'm going to hold it there and pass it back to the Chair. Thanks for your time.

J. Routledge (Chair): Thank you, Kevin. Next we'll hear from Leigh Anne Palmer, Association of B.C. Public Library Directors.

ASSOCIATION OF B.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTORS

L. Palmer: Thanks very much for having me. My name is Leigh Anne Palmer.

I have the privilege of addressing you today from the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

I'm here today representing the Association of B.C. Public Library Directors in collaboration with the B.C. Library Trustees Association, B.C. Library Association and the B.C. Libraries Cooperative.

I'm going to set a little bit of context, as I'm a bit blurry. Sorry. In a world that is increasingly unaffordable, where citizens feel isolated from each other and where the future looks uncertain due to the climate crisis, libraries play a critical role. We're a community hub open to all, providing free spaces and services that build skills, nurture a sense of belonging and provide a refuge from climate emergency events. Libraries are essential. We're one of the few places where you don't have to buy one thing to be in there. And as the costs for everything soar, we're busier than ever.

Over the past ten years, we've expanded our services to meet the many and diverse needs of our communities. We offer a safe and confidential space to explore new ideas. We make referrals and create connections for people struggling to emerge from poverty, abuse or addiction, and we provide space for civic engagement and discourse on the issues that challenge our society.

Libraries are open to job seekers and small business owners, providing access to computers for job searching and resources like LinkedIn Learning that help them develop the skills they need to land a position, build a business and provide for themselves and their families.

Libraries are open to newcomers. We provide connections to services that support immigrants as they navigate the complexities of settlement, connect with the community and build lives in Canada.

Libraries are open to families, providing safe spaces for youth to gather and build literacy skills that will benefit themselves and their communities as they move through their lives.

Libraries are, finally, open to everyone. When our province has been rocked by climate emergency events — wildfires, heat domes, floods — our doors have been open, welcoming British Columbians in from the elements, helping them connect with the services they need to stay safe and to rebuild their lives. We are truly privileged to be that constant resource, welcoming everyone and making them feel at home while we connect them with the information, technology and the community they need to survive and thrive.

While over the past ten years we've expanded our services to help more people connect with more services, we've had to do this with less funding. In 2009, public library funding was cut by 25 percent to approximately \$4 million. Since that time, we haven't seen an increase in our base grant funding. We're grateful for that one-time CRR funding that the province provided to help lessen some of the costs we've incurred over the pandemic, but that funding is only a temporary support. The fundamental gaps remain and, indeed, grow each year as operating this critical social infrastructure becomes more and more expensive.

Libraries across B.C. — small and large, urban and rural — are all facing challenges. Some are struggling to keep buildings and services open due to skyrocketing costs of operating, staffing and providing collections. Other are facing significant challenges in equipping their staff with the tools they need to help those struggling with mental health and addiction issues while still providing a welcoming space for others in the community.

[2:15 p.m.]

The events of the last two years have demonstrated the ways in which we have been stalwart partners working tirelessly to meet the priorities of government and citizens across the province. Adequately funded, think of what we could do.

I think we all agree: British Columbians shouldn't have to buy a cup of coffee to access high-speed Internet. No child in our province should go without a new bedtime story because of the cost of a book. And everyone in our province

Draft Segment 070

to meet the priorities of government and citizens across the province. Adequately funded, think of what we could do. I think we all agree that British Columbians shouldn't have to buy a cup of coffee to access high-speed Internet. No child in our province should go without a new bedtime story because of the cost of a book. Everyone in our province deserves a place to go free of charge to weather a storm.

With that in mind, it's increasingly difficult to understand why libraries haven't warranted an increase to our base grant funding in 13 years. We ask you to think about the value derived from the government's existing contribution to B.C. public libraries and all that we do to support British Columbians.

With this in mind, we ask for your commitment of \$23 million in 2023 as well as ongoing incremental increases so that we can continue and improve our ability to meet the needs of individuals, families and communities across the province when their need is greater than ever.

We are here asking for your support. On behalf of the Association of B.C. Public Library Directors, I thank you for this opportunity to share what libraries are doing for their communities and for considering an increase to our funding in 2023.

Thank you, and I'll hand it back to the Chair.

J. Routledge (Chair): Thank you, Leigh Anne. Now we'll hear from Rina Hadziev, representing the British Columbia Library Association.

B.C. LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

R. Hadziev: Thank you for the opportunity to talk to you today about libraries. They're one of my favourite things. I'm Rina Hadziev. I'm coming to you from the unceded territories of the Ləkʷəŋjínəŋ-speaking people, specifically the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations. I'm pleased to be presenting on behalf of the B.C. Library Association and as the volunteer co-chair of the B.C. Public Library Partners.

The B.C. Library Association represents libraries and library workers from across the province. Our members are individuals — both unionized staff and non-unionized staff — from large and small libraries.

We represent B.C. libraries with institutions ranging from the biggest university libraries to the smallest public libraries. We're privileged to represent many library stakeholders in B.C. as well, including publishers, literacy organizations and library vendors. We were founded over 100 years ago, and we've had a steady, progressive and relevant role to play as an essential part of the infrastructure of B.C.'s library environment.

First, I wanted to join my colleagues in expressing thanks on behalf of our members and our sector for the one-time COVID recovery and relief funding. At BCLA, this funding is going to be used to support libraries to increase their capacity to provide accessible services and meet the diverse needs of their communities. It's also going to be used to increase the accessibility of the B.C. Summer Reading Club, ensuring that every child in our province has a fun and memorable summer reading experience that meets their needs.

We're proud to be part of such a vital sector in our province and particularly proud of the work our members have done over the past two years. During the pandemic, libraries and library workers have evolved and stepped up and supported their communities in new ways. But we're hearing from our members now that their communities have greater needs than ever before, and they're no longer to meet all those needs.

While provincial funding to libraries was cut and then frozen for the past 13 years, unfortunately, the cost to provide library service has been increasing. I sometimes find a small example can be helpful when talking about such a large scale, and I'm a librarian, so I wanted to share information on the average cost of a few different kinds of books, from the fall of 2009 compared to the fall of 2021.

In 2009, an adult hardcover fiction book, a bestseller — you might see a John Grisham, something like that — was \$31 and change. In 2021, it was \$35 and change. In 2009, an adult non-fiction book was \$32.37. In 2021 — \$38.46. In 2009, a board book or a baby book was \$10.54. In 2021, it is \$3 more than that, at \$13.53. The dollars just are not going as far as they used to.

Another issue libraries face is excessively high prices and restrictive purchasing models for digital audiobooks and e-books from the big-five publishers — they control 80 percent of the trade book market — and Amazon and Audible. So libraries lend digital copies just like physical books, on a one-to-one basis, but the prices we pay are exponentially higher for the digital.

This material is popular. It has the capacity for improved accessibility. It allowed libraries to continue offering collections when they were shut down due to the pandemic, and it allows them to provide access 24/7, 365.

[2:20 p.m.]

In addition to offering collections, libraries are a vital part of the social safety net, as my colleagues have said. They are open to everyone, and that is wonderful and essential, but it's also challenging. It means libraries are deeply impacted by all of the issues playing out in society.

Our members are individuals who work in libraries.

Draft Segment 071

in addition to offering collections, libraries are a vital part of the social safety net, as my colleagues have said. They are open to everyone, and that is wonderful and essential. It's also challenging. It means that libraries are deeply affected by all of the issues playing out in society.

Our members are individuals who work in libraries. We're hearing from them that their work is being impacted by the opioid crisis, by the lack of affordable housing and trying to support people living with homelessness, by the climate crisis and by mental health issues in their communities.

These people who work in public libraries do the work because they believe in what libraries do. They believe in the importance of community, and they desperately want to meet the needs of their community members. We're starting to hear from them that it is hard, and at times heartbreaking, to do their jobs, as they're having to decide what cuts to make, knowing the impact that it's going to have on their community but not having the funding they need to maintain, let alone increase, services.

Our request to you is to invest in communities across B.C. by investing in public libraries. We provide both tangible and intangible contributions, but we can only continue to do that if we have the funding we need.

Thank you for considering, supporting and increasing provincial funding to libraries. They can do even more to meet the increasing needs of our communities.

I'll hand it back to the Chair.

J. Routledge (Chair): Thank you, Rina.

Finally, we'll hear from Jerrilyn Kirk, representing the B.C. Library Trustees Association.

B.C. LIBRARY TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION

J. Kirk: Hello. Hadih. I know you're hearing a lot of really compelling presentations, so I thank you for accepting this submission from BCLTA. We are the provincial association that represents over 700 community leaders and local government officials who understand the importance of, and govern, B.C.'s public libraries.

I am speaking to you today from the unceded traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, part of the Dakelh Carrier people's territory. The Carrier and Sekani Indigenous people have walked gently on these diverse traditional territories, which I am grateful to live, work, learn and play on as an uninvited guest. I am committed to building and nurturing relationships with Indigenous peoples. We acknowledge their traditional lands and thank them for their hospitality.

I would like to begin by saying that BCLTA's members are grateful to Ministry of Municipal Affairs for the annual grant libraries receive each year, as well as the one-time technology grant, which was received in 2020. We are more than grateful for the one-time \$8 million grant that was received in 2022, which will help with many issues caused by COVID.

All of these funds help support communities across B.C., providing increased access to digital and hard copy resources, as well as providing libraries the ability to serve a plethora of other community needs. As each community is different, so are each community's needs and so is each community library.

There are 71 public libraries across B.C., which serve rural communities of 400 to urban centres of over 600,000 and many more people. Provincial funding for public library service funding has been frozen since 2010. On top of that, B.C. libraries have not been eligible for federal pandemic support, such as CEWS, CERS or CEBA, but bear the high cost of new and ongoing safety measures.

As low-barrier social infrastructure, libraries promote belonging and equity for those they serve. They support traditional and technological literacy, which supports economic development for all. Libraries provide well-trained and compassionate staff, providing connection to essential social and government services in an environment without stigma, as Leigh Anne had mentioned.

Built on a history of collaboration, libraries advance collective progress on connectivity, increased sectoral action on the climate crisis and promote deeper progress on accessibility, inclusivity and reconciliation.

Did you know that there are 71 public libraries, 249 service locations and six federations serving 99 percent of B.C.'s population? Did you know that we have 22 million active cardholders provincially? Did you know that approximately 45 million physical items are borrowed from libraries every year? That's 45 million.

[2:25 p.m.]

Libraries see 60 million annual library visits, in-person and virtual, each year; 74,000 library programs per year; and 1.7 million people attending library programs per year. These stats are mind blowing. Public libraries are truly the only public institutions that are equitable in providing services for all community members so that each British Columbian is able to participate in and benefit from the social

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and 1.7 million people attending library programs per year. These stats are mind-blowing. Public libraries are truly the only public institutions that are equitable in providing services for all community members so that each British Columbian is able to participate in and benefit from the social and economic development of their communities.

We know that public libraries significantly contribute to the government's goals for making life more affordable, improving services and building a strong, sustainable, equitable, reconciliation-focused and innovative province for all British Columbians. We also know that this committee is aware of the important role of public libraries from things like the annual UBCM resolutions.

We appreciate the provincial government's recognition of the public library funding issue. We see that they understand what we're saying.

I'm going to end this with a quote from one of our trustees who serves on the Tumbler Ridge Public Library board. This is why she's proud to be a library trustee. Her name is Amber. I don't know if you can see this, but this is Amber and her little family. "Our library means so much to my family and I. Our older kids grew up using it. They spent endless hours in there enjoying...programs offered throughout the year. Some of their favourites were the free snack program and LEGO club." Anyways, she goes on to explain how important libraries are to her family, and that's why she's a library trustee.

I thank you for this opportunity, and back to the Chair.

J. Routledge (Chair): Thank you, Jerrilyn.

Now, we will open it up to questions from the committee. The first hand I see is Ben's.

B. Stewart: Thank you for all of your presentations. Just as you're talking, I'm thinking about my own library experiences, back in the community — that the library has grown, and it's not near the same size or location.

But anyways, my more important thing. With the diversity in British Columbia.... I'm just wondering about how communities, the libraries, are addressing different cultures and making certain that the selections that are there attract new immigrants that are here in British Columbia to the library system.

L. Palmer: Would you like to handle it, or shall I?

A Voice: You can go ahead.

L. Palmer: Okay.

Thank you for your question. Meeting the needs of every British Columbian is something that is critical to our libraries and to our collection development librarians, who are specialized in finding the right resource for the right person at the right time.

In doing so, what we do is we focus on a diversity of collection — in multiple languages, multiple formats — to ensure that everyone has access to something that meets their specific needs.

This isn't cheap. It's getting more and more expensive, but one of the interesting things is, depending on your neighbourhood or your library, if you have a specific culture or a specific immigrant population, those libraries or those branches really invest in creating a deep and rich connection, let's say, in South Hill, where my neighbourhood is, in Urdu and in Punjabi languages, because that is the ethnicity and the ethnic background of many of the people in their community.

We're trying our hardest. One of the important things is recruiting a really educated and invested staffing that have access and have the skills and the knowledge of the language and the connections to the community. So diversifying our workforce is also a really important part of meeting that need.

J. Kirk: Could I just...? May I speak to that too? The whole Indigenous library usage as well. In the North, that's tremendously important. And being from the North, I'd just wanted to speak to that a little bit and say that we also provide books in First Nations languages. So we do try to reach everybody in the province.

J. Routledge (Chair): Thank you.

Our next question is from Henry, followed by Mike, followed by Megan.

H. Yao: I feel like I should speak something about that too.

[2:30 p.m.]

I do want to say, first of all, thank you so much. I remember the Richmond library. When we were dealing with pandemic, dealing with issues.... I used to do community dinners too. I'd see the whole family hanging out in the library during the regular hours. It just reminded us: the library is not only a place for literacy; the library is a place for a community hub.

When we are looking at 3D printers, when we're looking at

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when we were dealing with the pandemic, when we were dealing with issues.... I used to do community dinners too. I'd see the whole family hanging out in the library during the regular hours.

To remind us, the library is not just a place of literacy. The library is a place for a community hub. When we're looking at 3D printers, when we're looking at LEGO sets.... We're looking at a community place where people can study together in a quiet space. Of course, the regional libraries are one of the fastest at pivoting for culturally appropriate materials. They are way ahead of everyone else with regard to

preparing the staff, preparing the quality materials, preparing the services to ensure individuals from various cultural backgrounds can be serviced.

I want to say kudos. I just want to throw that out there — everyone is talking about a crisis — for a second.

My actual question is.... Correct me, if I'm wrong. You mentioned something about \$17.9 million when the first budget froze. Then you talked about when you guys were only receiving \$14 million. You're looking for an \$8 million top-up, at this point, to match the \$17.9 million happening in projection, which is ahead to \$23 million, by today's standards.

What's the actual cut — what happens for a period, that is the reason you went from \$17.9 million to \$14 million?

K. Millsip: Yeah. Just very briefly, Henry, in 2009-10, the provincial operating grant to the sector was at a high of \$17.9 million. Then that got cut back to.... It settled at \$14 million. There was a little bit of up and down. We've been at \$14 million per annum for about a decade.

Our ask is to bring it to \$23 million. That would.... If we had stayed at \$17.9 million and that had grown with inflation, we'd be in the \$23 million per annum range.

H. Yao: Chair, may I have a follow-up question?

Obviously, I know the library does hire a lot of great staff because of all the resources. I apologize that you guys have to shoulder the financial differences.

Can I ask what kind of strategy you guys employ just to make up a couple of differences? You can ensure your staff get a proper wage. You can have proper supplies for the general public. It sounds like our librarians, our boards of directors, our governance bodies, as Jerrilyn was mentioning earlier, probably had to put in a lot of extra effort just to tighten, as Kevin was mentioning earlier, and find resources elsewhere to match the differences.

K. Millsip: Leigh Anne, it looks like you're ready to speak.

L. Palmer: I can do that. Yeah. Thanks.

Over the past decade, when provincial funding for the library was cut — let's say 2009 — we went from 7 percent of our funding coming from the provincial government to about, in 2019 — it's gotten even worse — 4.5 percent coming from the provincial government. In that same period, the municipal portion, then, has risen from 72 percent, at that time, to 80 percent. Those gaps have really only increased.

A lot of it has been doing more with less. So tightening our belts, trying to find as many efficiencies as possible, trying to be as collaborative as possible to save funds and harness collective purchasing. But that can only take you so far.

While both levels of government have multiple increasing service demands, municipalities have much more of a restricted revenue, in terms of their options, than the province does. So that's one of the reasons why we're looking for the province to return to and keep up with the funding that we had in 2009 and then, moving through inflation, get us to \$23 million in '23.

R. Hadziev: I'll just add, really quickly.... At the time when that cut was made, libraries took different paths.

I was a librarian at that point. Some of us stopped buying new materials for the rest of that year. So there are gaps in collections, where there's just a chunk of material that was never purchased. Some laid people off. Some cut service hours and didn't replace positions. I think a lot of libraries — we would probably all acknowledge this — have started doing things where.... They reduced staff by attrition.

[2:35 p.m.]

They are buying less. Where you might have had 15 languages because you would invest in a language when you started to see growth in a community, now you wait until you have enough people to actually justify, which is unfortunate. Part of making you feel like the library is the place for you is having you come in and see some of your language.

It used to be that a library might say: "We're starting to see a Tagalog community. We're starting to see a Filipino community. Let's build a Tagalog collection so when they come in, they'll see a collection."

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people to actually justify, which is unfortunate because part of making you feel like the library is a place for you is having you come in and see some of your language. Where it used to be that a library might say, "we're starting to see a Tagalog community; we're starting to see a Filipino community; well, let's build a Tagalog collection so when they come in, they'll see a collection," now it's: "Let's wait and see. Once there's a big enough group and we're getting demand, we'll do it."

Again, that sort of ability to be proactive and create shared space is, now, you're having to make tough decisions. Do you offer a storytime? Do you have the staff to do that? Or do you offer a new language? Do you offer downloadable material or not? These are some of the tough decisions.

K. Millsip: There's an equity piece. I'll be very quick.

The ability of a larger library system to absorb those kinds of cuts might be a bit better or more resilient at one level than in a smaller community. There's absolutely no doubt that one of the things — you know, a smaller municipality might simply have less fiscal room to be able to support its local library than a larger one. Then we start to get bigger distortions between the more metro areas of the province and once we get out of metropolitan areas.

Again, that's something we want to try to recalibrate, if that makes sense.

M. Starchuk: Thank you to everyone. I mean, it doesn't surprise me that the libraries have just completely evolved into something else. The library in my city, you know, you can go grab a cup of coffee while you're inside of there, where years ago, you would have been told: "Shush. Push that away." They're absolute places of activity.

My question, though, and it just struck me as odd. I think it was Rina. You were talking about the prices of the books that were coming in when you're adding more stock. You had said that digital was exponentially higher. I'm just taken back by it, because as a person who reads digital books, as opposed to the conventional books, I just find that odd. So maybe we could understand why.

R. Hadziev: Yeah. I can expand a little on that.

In a nutshell, when we buy books, we're buying them under the Copyright Act, so libraries can buy a book and then, under copyright, whoever buys a physical item can then lend it to whomever they want. Really, the legal opportunity for libraries to lend things is no different than your ability to lend a book that you buy.

The difference is that with digital, that does not exist. So, in fact, you're not as a consumer buying a digital book, nor is the library. What you're doing is licensing it. Again, this is generally not B.C. publishers. This is the big multinationals, Amazon and Audible, but they are where almost all the books come from. They are licensing the books, which means that they choose to do a different kind of licence for a consumer than for libraries.

What they have decided, many of them, is that libraries are their competitors, not their partners. So they will charge us anywhere from two to five or six times what a consumer would pay, and they generally put a licence term on it of, usually either a number of uses or a time, usually one to two years. That that means is that a book that you might as a consumer spend \$15 on as an e-book might realistically cost the library \$60. They have it for one to two years, and then they have to rebuy it.

This will also be why you might look at your library's e-book collection and wonder: "Where's all the older stuff? Why do they only have 7, 8, 9 of the series and not 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 like they would have on the shelves?" The answer is that 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 have expired. They cannot afford to buy those and keep buying the new ones and keep rebuying 1 every two years.

In addition to the cost to rebuy and the increased costs — we're paying far more for the digital than we would have paid for a physical, where we get a significant discount — you also have the staff time it takes to be trying to monitor all of that and decide: "Do I rebuy one of this popular series, or do I buy a new book?"

There are many factors at play, but it really comes down to licensing. There is advocacy happening at a national level in Canada and the U.S. about this, but there is no solution coming soon. At the same time, it is sort of unrealistic for libraries to not have digital content, for many of the reasons I mentioned. It's not just about popularity; it's about equity.

There's also more and more material only being published digitally, and there is some material that publishers will not even sell to libraries. So we are actually ending up in a world in which if you do not have the money, there is some information that is not for you. Part of the role that libraries have always played is levelling that playing field. You might have to wait, but you will get the material. We are now struggling to get the material so that it's not an information elite and everyone else.

[2:40 p.m.]

M. Starchuk: Thank you.

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if you do not have the money, there is some information that is not for you, and part of the role that libraries have always played is in levelling that playing field. You might have to wait, but you will get the material. We are now struggling to get the materials so that it's not an information elite and everyone else.

H. Sandhu: Thank you to all the presenters. It's a comment and then a question.

When I think about the library in going through your presentation or every time I look at my local library, in Vernon, I think about a place where you don't need to have change in your pocket. It promotes equality and equity. Anybody can go in and get treated fair, equally. As we speak, my older daughter is sitting in the Vernon library, where lately she's spending hours of her day preparing for her medical college admission exam.

Not only that, it's entrusting.... My younger one, who is 15, went with her one day. She just had no choice. She had to wait there for her sister, when she picked her up from school. She always gets distracted with studies. She has a different academic level than the older sister, but she came home and told me how focused she felt in the surrounding in the library and how quickly she was able to finish her homework. Now they both go there.

I talk about diversity. A few years ago, a while ago, in Vernon, my mom happened to walk in the library. She was walking through one corner, upstairs, and there were Punjabi books. My mom came running to me. Her eyes just lit up with so much joy. You wouldn't think that there would be Punjabi books in Vernon five, six years ago, and I thought that was very thoughtful. She was able to grab a few and read and felt included. So little things, and the emphasis you put on, thank you for that.

Last year, we all know, libraries across the province — certainly in my riding, Vernon-Monashee — also provided cooling centres during the heat dome. My question is: has the conversation shifted to focus more on emergency response as climate is changing? Have the libraries felt supported when you were doing this incredible work to support community? Somebody never realized.... They always think it's about reading books, and I thought that was incredible. Libraries do step in to do that, so thank you.

L. Palmer: Thanks for this question. It is definitely on the top of libraries' minds across the province, especially as we enter into those summer months, right? We feel very much supported in that we are turning our minds — like the rest of the province, like all of the services — to try to figure out how we can support our communities during climate crises and what we can do to help individuals prepare.

There are programs for individuals — FireSmart programs, more programs around how to prepare for those kinds of emergencies, the kind of patron facing front, let's say. On the business front of libraries, we ourselves are really grappling with how we can work to afford to maintain spaces that can be used in the multiple ways in which our communities need them to be used during whatever climate emergency faces us — heating shelters when it's really cold, cooling when it's blisteringly hot, clean air during forest fire season, and some place dry during floods.

Part of this one-time funding has been really dedicating to trying to think through and do some of that kind of emergency preparedness work. It will give us some information so that we can plan, moving forward. That being said, it will not solve the problems that we're facing.

As we all know, hazards like heatwaves and climate emergencies where we have air quality issues are really affecting people, disproportionately, who are already vulnerable and face systemic inequalities. Libraries are well positioned to really support those people. However, with our very tight belts, as Kevin put it, we don't really have a lot of flexibility in our budget to meet all of the needs going forward. I'll give you a few examples.

[2:45 p.m.]

During the heat dome of last summer, we heard that many of these libraries across the province have had to cut back hours over the past ten years. That meant that at 4 p.m., when one library has to

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to meet all of the needs going forward. I'll give you a few examples.

During the heat dome of last summer, we heard that many of these libraries across the province have had to cut back hours over the past ten years. That meant that at 4 p.m., when one library has to close, the cooling centre had to close or we needed to find staffing and operational funding to keep libraries open. That's not to say just the weekends and staff holidays. There is no buffer. Many of our libraries have no buffer, so it is hard to plan for those kinds of contingencies.

We also don't have — let's say many of us — the infrastructure in order to support our communities and the needs that they have. So while many have air conditioning, we don't have HEPA filtration in many, many of our buildings because of the aging infrastructure. There's a real gap there and a real opportunity for us to be able to invest in our libraries so that they can more adequately support the communities with whatever the climate throws at us, and we know how much we don't know, in the next few years.

B. Stewart: I couldn't help but think of a library joke. The other day I was listening to CBC, and I found it there. This fellow Ted Sams of California got his diploma 60 years late because he hadn't paid his library fines when he was in school. Hopefully, we don't go back to that.

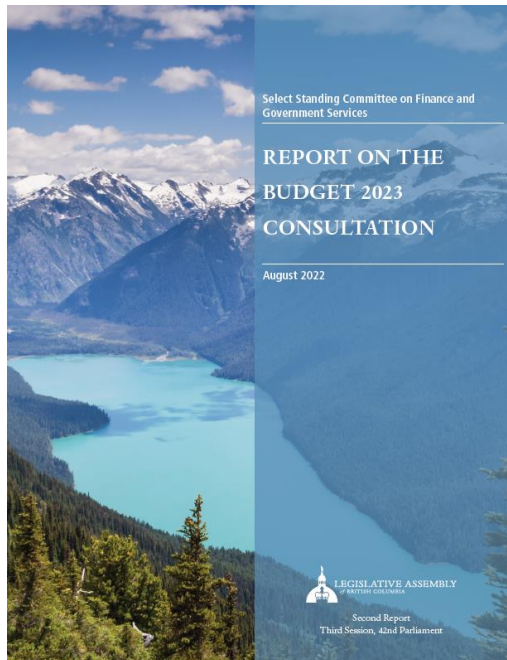
J. Routledge (Chair): Well, I want to, on behalf of the committee, thank this panel. What you've shared with us has been very informative and very instructive. As you've been describing your situation, I've been thinking about the library in my community, and it definitely is a hub. It's definitely an equalizer, and it knits our community together.

We hear you when you talk about the changing needs of communities and how it is more difficult — their needs are more challenging — and how it is more financially challenging for you to meet the very needs that you are clearly so passionate about. So thank you so much for sharing your time with us.

We will now take a recess.

The committee recessed from 2:47 p.m. to 3:10 p.m.

23. Report of the 2023 Budget Consultation



The [Report on the 2023 Budget Consultation](#) is out. In case you haven't seen it, below please find content tied to Public Library funding advocacy below:

- From the Executive Summary, page 7: "With respect to public libraries, Committee Members recognize their role as community hubs and centres for information, literacy, and creativity and support increased funding with particular attention to libraries in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities."

- The PUBLIC LIBRARIES subsection, pages 28-9 of the Arts, Libraries, and Sport section of the report, "Several library boards and associations recommended increasing the funding of public libraries to \$23 million dollars annually with ongoing incremental increases. These libraries and organizations noted the importance of libraries as community hubs and referenced

increasing costs of operating, staffing, and providing physical and digital collections. BC Libraries Cooperative estimated that \$23 million a year would be the equivalent annual provincial grant today with inflation had it not been cut over ten years ago. Other libraries and organizations recommended increased funding to help meet increased demand, create more stability, expand programming, and enable the hiring of staff. The Powell River Public Library added that municipalities have had to increase their funding to libraries, with West Vancouver Memorial Library noting the limitations of municipal revenue options compared to the Report on the Budget 2023 Consultation 29 province. Surrey Public Library Board recommended reviewing the funding formula to make distribution of this grant more equitable, noting that Surrey is a rapidly growing area that welcomes an average of 1000 new residents each month and many come to the library to learn about their community. Similarly, West Vancouver Memorial Library recommended a more progressive funding model that includes populations and inflation, and reflects the modern role of public libraries. British Columbia Library Association highlighted the role libraries play in the opioid crisis, providing valuable resources to those struggling with addiction, homelessness, and mental health. This organization also spoke to how libraries adapted to the pandemic through the increased offering of digital book lending, allowing libraries to continue to provide services while being closed despite the higher associated costs. The Association of BC Public Library Directors additionally noted the role libraries have played during climate emergency events such as wildfires, heat domes, and floods and the services libraries provide during and after these events. Two organizations highlighted the role of rural libraries as hubs for community support and access to technology and noted that many rural and Indigenous communities in BC still have little or no access to library services."

- From the Conclusion, page 30 of the Arts, Libraries, and Sport section of the report: “Committee Members recognized the changing role of public libraries as community hubs and centres for literacy, creativity, diversity, and innovation. Further, they highlighted the important role libraries played during the pandemic and heat dome and discussed how libraries have been flexible in addressing community needs. Members agreed that libraries must be supported with adequate funding as they serve as equalizers – providing services, resources, connectivity, and entertainment to those who may not have access otherwise, especially in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities.”

- **Recommendation #43 to the Legislative Assembly, on page 31: “Increase the annual operating grant for public libraries, linked to inflation, and provide targeted financial support for libraries in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities to increase access in these areas.”**

I look forward to speaking more this Fall about provincial advocacy messaging for Public Libraries.

Take care,

Leigh Anne

Leigh Anne Palmer
Executive Director
Association of BC Public Library Directors

24. Strategic Initiatives Fund

The Association of BC Library Directors group (ABCPLD) has embarked on a campaign to raise funds from BC libraries to fund special lobbying/marketing to the Provincial Government. This is in addition to the annual work the Library Partners Group and many individual libraries do to have input into the budget consultation process (as written above).

message from our ABCPLD Director:

Strategic Initiative Update

We've received enthusiastic responses from ABCPLD members to our campaign to raise funds for the Advocacy Strategic Initiative. *We have received \$83,000 in commitments already* from a range of libraries - small to large, rural to urban. I'd like to give a special shout out to Surrey Public Library who was our first contributing member. The full list of inaugural contributing members includes:

- Bowen Island Public Library
- Burnaby Public Library
- Grand Forks & District Public Library
- Penticton Public Library
- Richmond Public Library
- Surrey Public Library
- Trail & District Public Library
- Vancouver Public Library
- West Vancouver Memorial Library

We are well on our way to meeting our target of \$150,000-180,000 for the 2-3 year project. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. We'll provide our next update in September when, hopefully, we will be even closer to reaching our goal.

25. Action4Canada Notice of Personal Liability

In June many libraries received a “Notice of Personal Liability” from a supposed Christian group called Action4Canada. Of course, there was much conversation between library directors about what this actually meant and what are obligations were. Many of you may have heard about this through the BCLTA. Legal advise came in and I will copy below. To be honest, most libraries used this removal list as a shopping list. Many of the books we already have in our collection.

Notice of Personal Liability

Facilitating in Exposure of Minors to Sexually Explicit Materials, Activities and/or Events

Date: 06 / 15 / 2022

ATTN: Wendy Wright

Position: Library Director

Smithers Public Library

It has become evident that the LGBTQ SOGI 123 learning resources, implemented into the provincial educational curriculum across Canada in the past several years, have become an avenue to expose minors to sexually explicit, pornographic and inappropriate teachings, materials and activities.

As a Canadian citizen I have a duty to report the following concerns. Students (K-12) are being instructed on how to masturbate and exposed to pornographic cartoon material depicting minors engaged in explicit sexual activity. Hundreds of these pornographic/explicit books are being found in schools and public libraries across Canada¹.

It is understood that many of these books have been permitted in an attempt to support the diversity and inclusion guidelines. However, the books must be age appropriate, not cause emotional harm and should not be sexually explicit so as to stay within the bounds of the rule of law and School/Education Acts.

Schools are also encouraging students to participate in Pride parades and events which are exposing minors to nudity, sexually explicit acts and sexual paraphernalia². Pride day has turned into Pride month and now into Pride year as the school calendar is filled with activities that are indoctrinating children and further exposing them to sexually explicit groups and organizations who are grooming children. For eg. Youth for a Change promoting events that involve Twinks³

According to Section 163.1 of the Criminal Code, it is an indictable offense liable to imprisonment, to exploit or expose minors to any form of pornography or sexually explicit material or activities.

Criminal Code Section 163.1 (1)⁴:**Definition of child pornography**

In this section, child pornography means:

- (a) a photographic, film, video or other visual representation, whether or not it was made by electronic or mechanical means,

¹ <https://action4canada.com/wp-content/uploads/A4C-schools-sexually-explicit-books.pdf>

² <https://be-the-change93.webnode.page/pride-parade/>

³ <https://action4canada.com/wp-content/uploads/twinks.png>

⁴ <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/c-46/section-163.1.html>

- (i) that shows a person who is or is depicted as being under the age of eighteen years and is engaged in or is depicted as engaged in explicit sexual activity, or
- (ii) the dominant characteristic of which is the depiction, for a sexual purpose, of a sexual organ or the anal region of a person under the age of eighteen years;

(b) any written material, visual representation or audio recording that advocates or counsels sexual activity with a person under the age of eighteen years that would be an offence under this Act;

(c) any written material whose dominant characteristic is the description, for a sexual purpose, of sexual activity with a person under the age of eighteen years that would be an offence under this Act; or

(d) any audio recording that has as its dominant characteristic the description, presentation or representation, for a sexual purpose, of sexual activity with a person under the age of eighteen years that would be an offence under this Act.

Making child pornography

(2) Every person who makes, prints, publishes or possesses for the purpose of publication any child pornography is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than 14 years and to a minimum punishment of imprisonment for a term of one year.

Distribution, etc. of child pornography

(3) Every person who transmits, makes available, distributes, sells, advertises, imports, exports or possesses for the purpose of transmission, making available, distribution, sale, advertising or exportation any child pornography is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than 14 years and to a minimum punishment of imprisonment for a term of one year.

Possession of child pornography (eg Book: It's Perfectly Normal - Animated/Cartoon Pornography⁵)

(4) Every person who possesses any child pornography is guilty of

(a) an indictable offence and is liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than 10 years and to a minimum punishment of imprisonment for a term of one year; or

(b) an offence punishable on summary conviction and is liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than two years less a day and to a minimum punishment of imprisonment for a term of six months.

In addition, encouraging minors to masturbate is a criminal offense according to section 152 of the Criminal Code of Canada.

Criminal Code Section 152⁶:

Every person who, for a sexual purpose, invites, counsels or incites a person under the age of 16 years to touch, directly or indirectly, with a part of the body or with an object, the body of any person, including the body of the person who so invites, counsels or incites and the body of the person under the age of 16 years,

(a) is guilty of an indictable offence and is liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than 14 years and to a minimum punishment of imprisonment for a term of one year; or

(b) is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction and is liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than two years less a day and to a minimum punishment of imprisonment for a term of 90 days.

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cartoon_pornography

⁶ <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/c-46/section-152.html>

The Canadian Center for Child Protection also defines a non-contact sexual abuse as⁷:

- Encouraging a child to masturbate or watch others masturbate
- Exposing a child to individuals engaging in sexually explicit acts (including exposure to adult pornography)
- Exposing a child to child sexual abuse material

I therefore demand the following books, and other titles by the same authors, be immediately removed.
<https://action4canada.com/wp-content/uploads/List-of-SOGI-Inclusive-Books-for-K-12-Schools.pdf>

I further demand a Freedom of Information providing all the details (to include emails, attachments and any other correspondence) of who approved these books, as well as the grounds for this approval, any instructions given from anyone else in relation to this approval, and minutes of all meetings in relation to all such approvals.

Due to the rising number of concerns from parents in response to the highly politicized and controversial SOGI-123 learning resources, and their negative impact on the well-being of the majority of children, these resources must immediately be removed from the provincial educational curriculum.

School guidelines do not supersede the Criminal Code in these matters. Individuals/educators who approve and/or use or make accessible to minors any pornographic materials, resources or activities, will be held personally liable and may be subject to criminal charges.

Name: [REDACTED]

Signature: [REDACTED]

Date: 05 / 15 / 2022

Memo to CFLA-FCAB Members

From the CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee

Re: Notices of Personal Liability

Background

Recently, several Canadian libraries have been served with a document titled: Notice of Personal Liability Facilitating in Exposure of Minors to Sexually Explicit Materials, Performers, Activities and/or Event. It is a form letter produced by Action4Canada and can be found on their website at <https://action4canada.com/political-lgbtq-activism/>.

The Notice poses as a legal document, citing excerpts from the Criminal Code of Canada and

accusing the recipient of contravening the law. It demands the removal of all the books found at a link on Action4Canada's website, plus any other books written by the authors on the list. Finally, the Notice alludes to Freedom of Information (FOI), demanding the library surrender any written communications or records associated with the selection and purchasing of those titles.

Libraries need to know that the Notice of Personal Liability...

- has no legal value with regards to its claims of the recipient breaking the law, and
- does not replace processes that the library already has in place to facilitate challenges to library materials, such as a Request for Reconsideration form.

Freedom of Information requirements and procedures vary across Canada. Recipients should consult their provincial or territorial legislation (see Appendix B).

Recommended Response

The Notice is flawed and misleading. Apart from the inaccuracies noted above, it refers to schools throughout yet has been sent to public libraries, and references SOGI 123 which is restricted to the British Columbia and Alberta curricula. The Notice appears to be an intimidation tactic created for widespread use in an organized campaign but may also be viewed as an individual library patron expressing their disapproval. Libraries may wish to inform the patron of existing policies and procedures by which patrons can request a formal review of a specific item in the collection, noting that a separate form must be completed for each item. (See Appendix A for a sample response.)

Committee at IFCchair@cfla-fcab.ca.

26. Carpet Repair

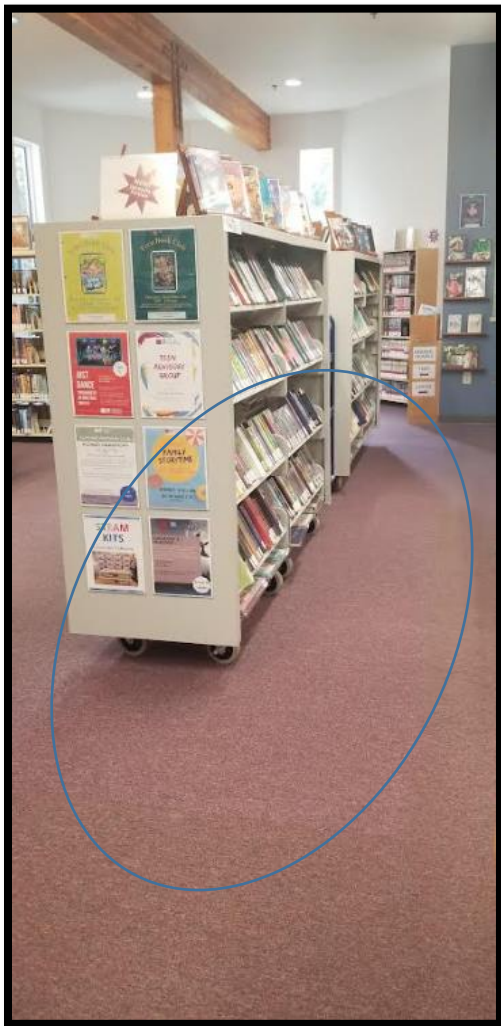
Three separate areas in the library had distinctly different carpets in public showing areas (see below). We have had these areas replaced with carpet tiles to match the ones put in in 2007. The new carpet tiles will eventually wear and match even better.



Two distinctly different carpets (one from original construction and one in 2007)



This former "step" in the children's areas was left with bare raw concrete - very dangerous



27. Nona Reads

Spotted on more than one occasion in the last month – Beverly S reading to her grandies!

