



Box 989 - Invermere, BC - V0A 1K0

Phone: (250) 342-6416

Fax: (250) 342-6461

invermere.bc.libraries.coop

publiclibrary@invermere.net

November 6, 2019

TO: Regional District of East Kootenay Regional Board of Directors

FROM: Invermere Public Library

RE: Columbia Valley Library Grants-In-Aid for 2020

The Invermere Public Library is a vibrant community hub where a wide variety of programs and services are offered to Columbia Valley community, free of charge. From traditional book lending services to access to the BC Downloads eBook collection to community programming, and more, the library has something to offer to everyone. The operating funds that the library receives each year from the RDEK are used to support the provision of these services to permanent residents, seasonal property owners, and visitors of the Columbia Valley with a designated service area that stretches from Spillimacheen to Canal Flats.

This past year was another successful year of service and growth at the Invermere Public Library. The library has now been operating with its expanded open hours of 48 hours each week and the additional hours being well used. Library staff continues to receive positive feedback from many people who appreciate the flexibility that these extra hours provide for them to access the library's services. There has been a notable increase in families using the library as a place to pass the time while their children are attending extra-curricular activities in town, particularly on Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

The Invermere Public Library continues to offer a wide array of services and programs to the Columbia Valley, for both residents and visitors. Book delivery and return services continued in 2019 through the book return bins that are installed in Canal Flats and Edgewater. The monthly outreach visit to Martin Morigeau Elementary School in Canal Flats continued with library staff visiting the school with library books and activities. Additional outreach activities have included pop up story times in Windermere and Canal Flats during July and August as well as a program partnership with CBAL, Windermere Valley this summer to deliver STEAM activities for kids in Canal Flats. While in the village for this summer program, the library staff also provided local residents with the opportunity to sign up for a library card and borrow library books, improving the accessibility of library services. Staff from the Invermere Public Library has also continued to collaborate with staff at the Radium Public Library in various ways including sharing a table during the Early Childhood Development fair and working together through the application and approval process for the Columbia Basin Trust Technology Hub funding.

Library patrons in the Columbia Valley continue to benefit from the many different services that are available to them remotely with their library card. Their library card provides them with online access to an extensive catalogue of eBooks and eAudiobooks through Library2Go, eMagazines through

the Zinio database, and the InstantFlix digital movie service that provides unlimited streaming of independent films. These services are important ones when considering the geography of the Columbia Valley's service area as it is not always easy for patrons to come into the physical library space on a regular basis. These online services provide patrons with the ability to access library services even when they cannot come into the library itself.

With a library card from their home library, a person can also access materials and services at libraries across BC through the BC One Card program at no additional cost to them. This includes the ability to borrow books from larger libraries such as the Cranbrook Public Library. These books can be returned using any of the three book drops in the valley and then the Invermere Public Library staff will return the items to Cranbrook or wherever else they may have been borrowed from.

The focus of the Invermere Public Library's physical collection remains on acquiring the newest materials and keeping those that are borrowed the most often. Patrons can access older materials and less popular titles through two provincial interlibrary loan systems. The Invermere Public Library participates in the Interlibrary Connect system which links together the online catalogues from those libraries that use the Sitka database across British Columbia. Using this system makes requests for interlibrary loans a more seamless process for our patrons. Patrons can also access books through a second system called Illume (formerly known as Outlook Online) when they don't find what they are looking for in Interlibrary Connect. The Invermere Public Library uses this interlibrary loan system to supply book clubs each month with enough copies of the book for their members to borrow. On average, there are 10-15 book clubs who use this free service every month to keep their members reading the latest pick.

Additionally, the free community programs that we offer throughout the year continue to be very popular with community residents and valley visitors alike. STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) programming for children and families has continued to be offered on a regular basis in 2019 and is always popular. Participants have the opportunity to learn about the STEAM concepts through hands on play with robots, computer coding activities, building blocks, and more. Library staff has been opening the Columbia Valley Community Centre two mornings each week to provide community members with indoor walking and over the winter months, walkers were provided with a free weekly workshop on proper walking form. The library also hosted a family movie afternoon during spring break and there were over 200 people that attended this free matinee. There have also been several additions to our "library of things" which are physical items that patrons can borrow with their library card in the same way that people borrow books. These include a Geocache Kits with a GPS unit and introductory instructions for geocaching, Story Adventure Kits that provide families with a bag of books and themed activities to do together, pedometers for people to track their fitness and number of steps they walk each day, fishing kits complete with a fishing pole, and even a canvas tent for kids to set up in their living room for an instant reading spot.

The library's mezzanine space continues to see a lot of use from members of the public who spend their day studying and working there as well as people meeting up and using it for an informal meeting space. This space has also been booked throughout the year by a variety of different not-for-profit community groups to hold small meetings and workshops free of charge. The public printer was upgraded in the summer of 2019. Patrons can now manage their print jobs from their own account and will soon be able to print wirelessly from their own device. There has been a significant increase in the

use of the library's public access computers as well as the printing and photocopying services with an average use of 90 people per week up from 36 people per week in 2018. These are just a few of highlights of how the community is using the library and its services on a daily and weekly basis.

Looking ahead to the upcoming year, 2020 will be a busy and exciting one. The library has received funding from the Columbia Basin Trust to establish a community technology hub in the library. When complete, the public will have free access to a variety of new services including the ability to convert physical items such as photographs and VHS movies to digital format, record audio in a soundproof booth, and use the latest software for graphic design. There will also be a suite of 10 laptops that will allow library staff to provide group workshops and this suite can also be used by other non-profit organizations for group training sessions. In addition, the library will also be increasing its STEAM technology resources and some of these resources will be available for local program leaders and teachers to borrow to use in their own facilities. Outreach will continue to be a priority for the library and has been reinforced with the establishment of a permanent staff position, Library Assistant-Community Outreach. Plans are already underway to establish a regular book exchange in Canal Flats that will coincide with the library's visit to MMES and staff is always on the lookout for other opportunities for outreach and to connect with residents throughout the Columbia Valley.

For 2020, the Invermere Public Library Board of Trustees is requesting a grant in aid in the amount of \$131,885 from the Regional District of East Kootenay. This amount, in combination with the annual operating grant and in-kind amounts received from the District of Invermere (as outlined in the footnotes at the end of this report), will allow for the library to continue to operate at 48 hours per week as well as be able continue to provide, and possibly expand, additional outreach services to outlying communities such as Edgewater and Canal Flats. This request has been calculated based on the service area population that has been assigned specifically to the Invermere Public Library by the British Columbia Libraries Branch which is for 8,121 permanent residents. This number is established by the provincial ministry by using the most recent census data from Statistics Canada. The Invermere Public Library's provincially assigned service area population accounts for 86% of the permanent population of the Columbia Valley service area. Service to the remaining 14% of the population (1,361 people) has been allocated to the Radium Public Library. The Invermere Public Library Board of Trustees requests that the RDEK grants in aid funding available for the provision of library services in the Columbia Valley should be distributed equally based on the service area population that each library serves.

Thank you for your consideration of this request for the Invermere Public Library's annual grant in aid. The Invermere Public Library Board of Trustees and staff are committed to providing a broad level of exceptional public library services to the Columbia Valley in 2020. With the continued support from the RDEK, this goal will be achievable.

Sincerely,

Daneve McAffer

Invermere Public Library Board Chair

On behalf of the Invermere Public Library Board of Trustees

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

APPENDIX 1: DETAILS OF ANNUAL FUNDING FROM THE DISTRICT OF INVERMERE

The District of Invermere (DOI) provides an annual operating grant of \$117,000. In addition, the DOI provides \$45,800 in support that is in-kind. The details of the funding that is received annually from the DOI is as follows:

District of Invermere Municipal Support 2020 (anticipated)	Amount
DOI Operating Grant	\$110,000
DOI Grant for Annual Audit expenses	\$7,000
Facility Rental	(in kind) \$19,800
DOI Municipal Services (payroll, accounts payable, maintenance & grounds, etc.)	(in kind) \$8,000
Additional expenses: Communications (phone, internet) Utilities (BC Hydro, building heating) Janitorial IT Support Contract	(in kind) \$18,000
TOTAL	\$162,800

APPENDIX 2: 2018 STATISTICS HIGHLIGHTS

The data in the table of statistics below has been taken from the Ministry of Education, Libraries Branch Annual Survey of Libraries. The most current data that has been released is the dataset for 2018. Statistics about all of the public libraries in British Columbia from 2002 through 2018 is available for public review at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/pls/reports.htm. Statistics for 2019 will be released in the summer of 2020.

TABLE 1: INVERMERE PUBLIC LIBRARY STATISTICS COMPARISON 2017 vs 2018

Annual Statistics, British Columbia Public Library Statistics for Invermere Public Library		
Statistics Category	2017	2018
Annual total circulation of library materials, including in-library use	52,449	61,647
Annual circulation of eBooks and audiobooks	9,654	12,268
Circulation of books per open hour	24 items/hr	22 items/hr
Interlibrary loan materials borrowed from other libraries	2,533	2,960
Interlibrary loan materials lent to other libraries	1,072	1,213

Total physical materials held in local collection	13,452	14,466
Active resident cardholders at year-end (card used in last 3 years)	2,556	2,816
Population Served	7,706	8,121
In-Person Visits	29,400	37,250
In-Library Programs	407	463
Program Attendance	7,781	8,076
Annual open hours	1,976	2,400

TABLE 2: ANNUAL STATISTICS FOR 2018 COMPARISON OF INVERMERE PUBLIC LIBRARY vs RADIUM HOT SPRINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Annual Statistics, BC Public Library Statistics Comparison of Invermere Library and Radium Library for 2018		
Statistics Category	Invermere 2018	Radium 2018
Population Served	8,121	1,361
Active resident cardholders at year-end (card used in last 3 years)	2,816	357
In-Person Visits	37,250	3,400
Annual open hours	2,400	1,011
Annual total circulation of library materials, including in-library use	61,647	5,369
Annual circulation of eBooks and audiobooks	12,268	1,204
Circulation of books per open hour	22 items/hr	4 items/hr
Total physical materials held in local collection	14,466	7,100
In-Library Programs	463	9
Program Attendance	8,076	219

APPENDIX 3: 2019 TYPICAL WEEK STATISTICS FOR INVERMERE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The following table summarizes statistics that were collected in the library during the weeks of Aug. 12-17, 2019 and Oct. 21-26, 2019. We choose to do the survey in two different weeks to help capture the difference in service demands that is observed during the busy summer months in the Columbia Valley. The final numbers that are submitted to the province for the typical week statistics report are an average between the two weeks of collection. The averaged data is presented in the table below. Once the data is submitted to the Libraries Branch, they multiply the results by 50 weeks, a fair representation of the number of open weeks for libraries each year when taking closures for holidays into consideration. The table also presents that typical week stats that were collected in 2018 to provide a snapshot of the increase in the use of library services over the past year.

The numbers reported in the “Typical week count, 2019” column will be submitted to Libraries Branch and will form a portion of the 2019 dataset that the Ministry of Education will release in the summer of 2020.

CATEGORY	Typical week count, 2018	Annual total for 2018*		Typical week count, 2019	Annual total for 2019*
In-person visits	745	37,250		833	41,650
Users of public access computers	57	2,850		89	4,450
Wi-Fi users	47	2,350		74	3,700
Reference questions asked	180	9,000		222	11,100
In-library use of materials	202	10,100		312	15,600

*The annual total that is reported in provincial dataset uses the typical week count and multiplies it by 50 weeks of service. The amounts in this column will appear in the provincial dataset when it is published by the Ministry of Education, Libraries Branch in the summer of 2020.