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# Lillooet Area Library Association



## 2020 Annual Report

### Lillooet Area Library Association

**Vision:** A welcoming hub for culture, learning and enjoyment.

**Mission:** Connecting community, fostering knowledge and understanding, sharing and reconciling stories.

**Values:** Inclusivity, Equality, Respect, Empowerment, Curiosity, Intellectual Freedom, Accountability.

### A Message from Regan Dixon, Library Board Chair

As with every other service or business, Covid-19 has affected the Lillooet Library; but the pandemic has really highlighted the resilience and adaptability of LALA staff, who have found new, yet safe, ways to continue delivering services to patrons.

Physical distancing and other safety protocols have forced us as a board to explore technology that allows us to meet remotely. In spite of a few initial hiccups, this mode of meeting is actually working quite well. Although there is nothing quite like meeting in person, online meetings are time efficient and economical--saving important resources, which can be

vested in other work.

The Covid pandemic may well force library organizations to take the plunge to become virtual-friendly, enabling more remote participation in conferences and training for both board and staff, for which distance has been a barrier to would-be participants in remote communities.

Some people speak longingly of "returning to normal", but I feel that there are some parts of "normal" that we can safely leave behind, to embrace the virtues that necessity has gifted us with, to work more efficiently and effectively, post-pandemic.

Take care of yourselves, and see you in person, in the not too distant future.

- Regan Dixon, Board Chair

### A message from Toby Mueller, Library Director

At the beginning of 2020 there was only a hint that we were about to steer through a global pandemic. LALA had many big goals: finish the Strategic Plan; host "At the Table 2" and establish the next tasks for the Community Coordinator; open the Digitization Station (a place where patrons can turn VHS home movies into digital formats); and expand the MakerSpace program.

On March 18th the three LALA Branches closed in response to provincial public health orders. All staff stayed home for two weeks in order to help flatten the curve. We were one of the first libraries in B.C. to open for “take out service” on April 7th. We wheeled a laptop outside so patrons could search the catalogue or send an email. Dedicated staff brought people their books and DVD’s to the front door, they quarantined returned items and washed their hands often. LALA introduced new digital collections so that people could access more from home. We received a donation of 10 gently used lap-tops that are available for people to borrow. The Adult Literacy program accessed special funding from the United Way and made “Family Literacy Packs” that were given out at the Food Bank.

The public library sector in B.C. has several provincial organizations that work together to support our work. During the pandemic these groups cooperated in many ways to ensure Library staff and Boards had access to the most recent and accurate information to protect the safety of staff and patrons. Covid safety planning in the Library sector has been very successful; public libraries have not been a source of infection in our communities. Public Libraries help bring people together and address social isolation

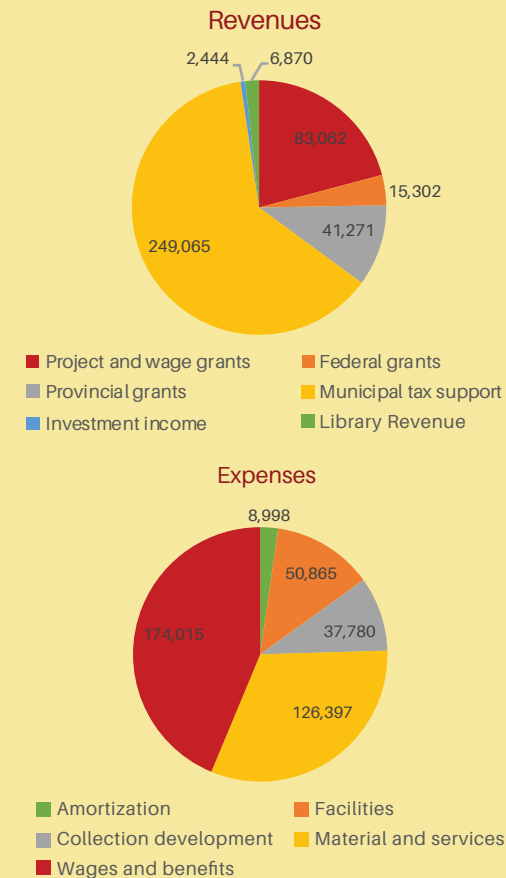
at the best of times: in the worst of times our mission of “connecting community, fostering knowledge and understanding, sharing and reconciling stories” takes on increased significance and importance. The reasons for Public Libraries remain constant: democracy requires informed citizens and access to quality information, people need safe places to relax and learn, and sharing resources helps everyone. 2020 taught us that we can fulfill this mission using many different methods. We look forward to continuing the innovations, and hopefully a return to leisurely browsing and chats at the Library in the years to come.



## 2020 in Numbers

In person visits.....	7,906
Reference Questions Answered	2,527
Physical items borrowed.....	19,341
Digital Books Borrowed.....	4,234
Digital Magazines Borrowed.....	697
Virtual Story-time visits.....	148
Interlibrary Connect - Items Lent	490
Interlibrary Connect - Items Borrowed.....	700

## Revenues & Expenses 2020



## Library Staff

### Lillooet Public Library

- **Library Director** - Toby Muller
- **Community Librarians**
  - Angela Jean-Louis
  - Cindy MacDonald
  - Michelle Smith
  - Stephanie Witt
- **Library Assistant** - Hunter Gair
- **Adult Literacy Coordinator** - Lorelei Lester
- **Literacy Outreach Coordinator** - Lynda Simpson
- **Community Coordinator** - Kim North
- **Children’s Program Coordinator** - Christina Timms
- **Summer Reading Club** - Hunter Gair, Kirstyn Isaac, Kiya John

### Gold Bridge Library

Community Librarian - Jean Shaw

### Bridge River Library

Community Librarian - Vanessa Blake

## Board Members

- Regan Dixon
- Jane Duber
- Beverly Goes
- Maggie Lord
- Karen Playfair
- Jen Leach (District of Lillooet)
- Vivian Birch-Jones (SLRD)