

Library Stats for 2015

Circulation	71,483
# of Internet Users	10,632
Patron Visits to Library	54,921
# of Adult in Programs	1,380
# of Children in Programs	711
New membership	392
Total Membership	8,633

Library Supporters in 2015

City Of Prince Rupert,
Public Library Services Branch,
BC Ministry of Education,
Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District,
Heritage Canada, North Coast Literacy Now,
Prince Rupert Friends of the Library, BC
Courthouse Society, Genealogy Club of
Prince Rupert, Hecate Strait Employment
Development/ Settlement Services,
Ridley Terminals Inc. Employee
Community Fund

Elizabeth Lang
Helen Moore
Elizabeth McDonald
Carol Manning
Sandra Duffus
Lisa Doolan
Andree Fawcett
Lynn Edwards
Jan Currie

Thank you very much!

Library Board 2015

Devlin Fernandes
Glenn Groulx
Tim MacDonald, Chairperson
Peter Maksymyszyn
Helen Moore
Brent Patriquin
Joy Thorkelson, City Council Representative
Barry Cunningham, City Council Representative
Dale White
Lauren Williams

Library Staff 2015

Joe Zelwietro - *Chief Librarian*
Kathleen Larkin - *Deputy Librarian*
Beth Dimond, Leah Cuthbert,
Lisa Doolan, Lou Allison,
Duncan Calder, William McDuff,
John Harvey, Katherine Walsh

Pages / Summer Students

Daelan Calder, Megan Cunningham
Maurice (Moe) Hughes, Morgan Weir
Emily Larsen, Emmett Hogendoorn
Dana Page, Brendan Ciccone

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Prince Rupert Public Library



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Library Board Chair Report 2015



In the first few months of 2016 the library very nearly lost 16 percent of its funding from the City. Service reductions and job losses would have been unavoidable. Fortunately, the City found a way to restore funding. The staff and trustees of the library thank the public, library users and non-users alike, for defending the library's value to Prince Rupert and surrounding communities. In the coming year the City and library board hope to replace the library's annual Community Enhancement Grant application with a more predictable and stable funding arrangement.

The library board welcomes your opinion on the library's services. Attend a board meeting or contact a trustee directly. Consider becoming a trustee when openings on the board arise. The board is an important factor in the quality of your library. ~ *Tim MacDonald* ~ Chairperson

Librarian's Report 2015



2015 was a transition year for the Prince Rupert Public Library. Statistics from 2015 show a slight increase from 2014 in several categories that end a multi-year downward trend. While it will take another year to determine if this is a minor deviation from a long-term

downward trend or an stable transformation to a upwards trend it is good to see increases in overall circulation of items, inter-library loan traffic, in adult programs as well as an increase in the number of new library patrons.

The Public Library is an important community hub for the residents of Prince Rupert and surrounding area. People of all ages gather here to access information for varied purposes such as employment, continuing education, and recreation. Public internet access, printing and fax services, children's programming, author readings and our public meeting area are all well-used.

Our importance derives from the demographics of our community. We are a diverse community made up of long-time settler families, Canadians from other provinces, recent new immigrants and a significant portion of First Nations individuals (Stats Canada estimates over 37% of our population self-identifies as First Nations). We have a considerable population who have economic barriers and often have no other access than the Library to information and skills development. As other government agencies close their public offices, the library increasingly provides the necessary online access for purchasing commercial fishing licences, pension applications and the like.

The library continued to work with the resources it has to maintain the collections and services while strengthening relationships with partners to understand the roles of a library in a increasingly digital world. In 2015 we considered and planned how to increase the non-patron's awareness of library services. The results of which will be seen in 2016 in new programming, improved collections and new relationships with community partners.

We focused on serving the public.

- The management and the union successfully negotiated a multi-year agreement giving the library stability and cost certainty for the next few years.
- Successful community presentations included author readings by Eden Robinson, Ev Bishop, Ann Alma and Chris Czajkowski as well as musician Grant Simpson and magician Mike Norden.
- Our Useful stations have allowed our residents almost 11,000 sessions in 2015.

- We partnered with a local Ferry company to provide books for children travelling on the ferry from Lax Kw'alaams. As well we increased our library tours to include early primary grades from nearby villages.
- Our annual Family Literacy Day celebration in January and the larger Literacy Fair at the Rupert Mall were very successful and brought in many children whose families have economic barriers.
- Prince Rupert Library hosted the annual North Coast Library Association Annual Meeting bringing together the library directors and trustees of Prince Rupert, Terrace, Stewart, Hazelton, Kitimat, Smithers and Houston.
- We also supported the Books for Babies program by assembling Book/CD/brochures Packages (which we paid for in part) with Provincial funds which are then distributed at the Prince Rupert Health Unit.
- Different public meetings held in the Library to support local First Nations activities: Haida Nation community meetings, Kitkatla Canoe project, First Nations authors such as Roy Henry Vickers, Cedar Road Aboriginal Head Start tours.

Finally, the library gives to the community in other ways every year. In 2015 we had the Food-for-fines program again over the holiday period, whereby we would forgive patrons' fines if they brought in some food items. This allowed us to donate almost \$1000 of food items to the Salvation Army over Christmas and New Year's.

The Library's mission also includes supporting the educational, civic, and cultural activities of community groups and to provide opportunity and enrichment for children, young people, men and women to educate themselves. We worked hard to meet this mandate in 2015 and we'll strive to continue it throughout 2016 as well.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joe Zelwietro ~ Chief Librarian
April 2016