



**Prince Rupert
Public Library
Annual Report 2022**

2022 Chief Librarian Report

January 2022 began sadly for us at the Library. On January 9th we lost a beloved staff-member and friend, Lisa Latimer, after her struggle with cancer. Lisa worked at the library for over sixteen years and made a huge contribution. She was dedicated to patron service and respectful interactions with all. Always an early adopter of new technologies, she helped colleagues and patrons navigate the rapidly changing IT landscape. She loved promoting the Library and developed strength in graphic design. She came up with an e-newsletter, posters, brochures, and reports, all with her characteristic vibrant touches. A strong and proud member of the Nisga'a Nation, Lisa mentored Library staff in understanding her culture, and spearheaded the Library's endeavours towards Reconciliation and support of Indigenous peoples. Lisa's interests in self-help books, sobriety, healthy living, and support for Indigenous people overcoming the trauma of residential school and other such difficulties resulted in a strengthening of those areas in the library's collection. She was the "Queen of the Positive Message", always with a catchphrase to help boost other people's self-esteem. She is dearly missed by the staff and patrons of the Library.



2022 also began with difficulties that included a burst drainpipe damaging both floors of the Library, ongoing heating problems and loss of technical expertise. These difficulties pushed the already receding COVID-19 threat into the background and Board and staff managed the issues to best serve our patrons. The repair of the burst-pipe damage took almost the entire year but was repaired by year-end. Our heating issues continued throughout 2022, but were only noticeable during spring, part of the autumn and winter. We dealt with the limited technical expertise as best we could and improved our capabilities later in the year. We will continue to work with the city to provide service while addressing the building issues as effectively as possible.

Fortunately, there was some good Library news in 2022 as well. The first highlight was the Library's centennial as a Public Library. In 1922, Prince Rupert Council created the Public Library for all residents of the city. Our 100 Birthday celebrations centred on May 2022. We celebrated here with cake and displays with over 200 guests enjoying themselves. The Library continued the joy by eliminating 'overdue fines' which had become barriers to a number of individuals. This was a direct result of the success seen by the elimination of 'children's overdue fines' in 2020-21.

We also resumed various staff-training that had diminished since COVID-19 started. Our staff participated in First-Aid training including CPR-C-/AED, Naloxone training, as well as Indigenous Awareness training. Ongoing training and continuous education are an important aspect of Library work which we will continue.

PRL also hosted the first NWLF (Northwest Library Federation) conference since 2019, helping not only own staff but the staff and trustees of 6 other Northern BC Public Libraries.

We also worked with CBC radio on creating "The Urbariginal" podcast series. Interviews and information gatherings were held in the Library throughout June of 2023. This was an enjoyable partnership that helped many people understand our First Nations individuals' life experience better than they did before.

Joe Zelwietro, Chief Librarian

2022 Board Chair Report

In 2022 the library board worked to support the chief librarian as we move forward in making the library truly representative of our patrons. We are grateful to Joe Zelwietro, the Chief Librarian, and all of the library staff for their flexibility and dedication to their work and to the community. Over the past year, the library has worked closely with the Prince Rupert Arts Council, Northwest Library Federation, and other groups to bring forward more programming opportunities, presentations, and conferences than we have been able to put on for the past several years. Our board and library staff are working to connect with local Indigenous nations and communities, and to include more Sm'algayax signage for the library - including our new signage on the building designating us as Wap Liistx – the house of reading. Despite personnel challenges at the board level, with the majority of our board starting their first term, our board has great ideas and passion for a vibrant and thriving library, and we have been working to connect more closely with library staff than we have before. The board is looking forward to the coming year, and to carrying this positive momentum forward.

Brendan Turner, Board Chair



Library Supporters in 2022

Ian Bell
Shernaz Bhesania
Chances Prince Rupert
Donna Christison
Marie Dickens
Deanna Hembroff
Victor Johnson
Barbara Kuhl
Justin Lefroy

Stephanie Lysyk
Carol Manning
Patricia Rogers
Travis Stoner
Marjorie Spisak
Mary Ann Sears
Candace Vanderbeek
Mark Walsh
Dale White
Ellen Witherly

We also appreciate the annual funding from the City of Prince Rupert, Province of British Columbia and the North Coast Regional District.

It is through your generosity, that we are able to purchase new items or replace damaged items. As well we will use these funds to purchase needed equipment for services and programs. You are appreciated.

Thank you!

2022 Library Staff and Trustees

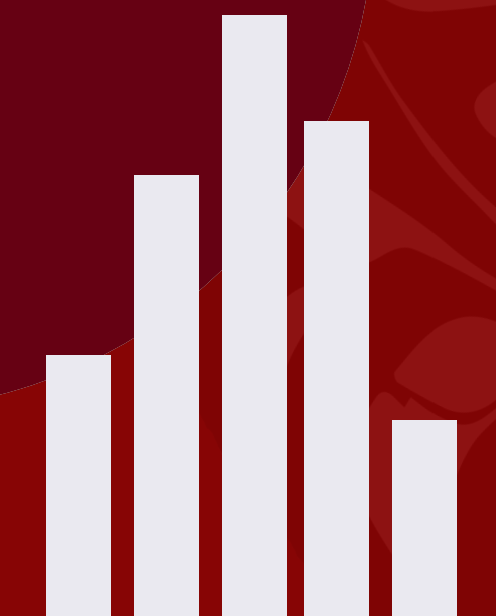
Staff

Joe Zelwietro - Chief Librarian
Kathleen Larkin - Deputy Librarian
Lou Allison - ILL
Katherine Arendt - Circulation
Beth Dimond - Children's Programs
Kaitlyn Frolek - IT
Ellie Hjelt - Page
Rob Hooft - Casual
Lisa Latimer - Circulation
Alexis Martin - Page
William Matheson - IT
William McDuff - Cataloguing
Mercedes Taylor - Circulation
Samantha Weir - Casual
Casey Yun - Page

Trustees

Nick Adey
Chris Armstrong
Carolina de Ryk
Chelsea Keays
Kate Lyon
Stephanie Lysyk
Brendan Turner
Dale White
Andrea Wilmot

Circulation Statistics 2022



Total Circulation 48,230
Internet Computer users 4,049
Patron Visits to Library 30,626
Adults in programs 1,072
Children in programs 320
New Library members 375
Total membership 9,533