



2023

ANNUAL REPORT

PRINCE RUPERT

PUBLIC LIBRARY

2023 CHIEF LIBRARIAN REPORT

2023 was a year focused on building for the future. We identified priorities and goals based upon community input, rebuilding processes, and strengthening relationships between the Library Board, library staff and patrons. It's important for the Library to assess how well it's meeting the demands of the public and how programs and collections answer the information needs of our users.

To ensure that we are doing this we have been working on a strategic plan, far longer than planned due to COVID, but in late 2023 we finished our consultations and review. Except for final touches we were finished and the 2024-2025 Strategic Plan was officially passed in January 2024. We will use this plan to guide us in both our near future and use it as a starting point for the next multi-year plan.

In the summer of 2023 the Library Board and CUPE staff began negotiating for a renewal of the Collective Agreement. A Memorandum of Understanding was agreed to by both negotiating committees prior to the end of 2023. The intention is that the final contract will be signed in 2024.

Here are some specific highlights worth noting from 2023:

- We, along with all other Libraries in BC received a significant one-time provincial Enhancement Grant of approximately \$270,000 that will enable the Library to upgrade equipment, improve collections, programs and services over 2024 and 2025 in a manner supported by our Strategic plan.
- We resumed staff First Aid training after a few years of little to no upgrading, which included Basic First Aid and CPR training. As well, staff had Naloxone administration and overdose prevention training.
- We also focused upon greater awareness about Library events, collections and programs through social media promotion.
- There was a significant increase, more than a doubling, in the number of children's program sessions and attendees in 2023 over 2022.
- We've also seen about a doubling of examination invigilation requests in 2023 over 2022. We were the only institution offering this service in Prince Rupert in 2023.
- One of the first expenditures through the above grant began in 2023. This project started with a patron's reference question, then helped by elders from the community of Metlakatla Alaska, our Library purchased the digital images of the entire correspondence of William Duncan (of both Metlakatla BC and Metlakatla Alaska) from Library and Archives Canada. This important part of the history of both BC and Alaska will be accessible to our patrons in 2024.

Joe Zelwietro, Chief Librarian

2023 BOARD CHAIR REPORT

2023 was a year focused on strengthening connections between the Library and local stakeholders, with the library board supporting the initiatives that library staff worked to implement. We are grateful to Joe Zelwietro, the Chief Librarian, and all of the library staff for working tirelessly to support initiatives that best serve the community. The library board is continuing to grow and have fruitful conversations and working towards the goal of providing inclusive programming opportunities for all members of our community - and through our partnerships with the Northwest Library Federation, Prince Rupert Arts Council, and other local community groups, we've had opportunities for excellent programs this year. Our board is committed to working closely with the staff at the library and incorporating their expertise into our strategic plan. We are pleased that our board can represent a diverse set of voices from across our community, and as such, we can more closely address the needs of our diverse community. The board is looking forward to the coming year, and the great work that is happening within our library.

Brendan Turner, Board Chair



LIBRARY SUPPORTERS IN 2023

Frederick Beil	Jennifer Kolarik
Ian Bell	Barbara Kuhl
Chances	Justin LeFroy
DP World	Carol Manning
Lynne Edwards	Dagmar Ohman
Deanna Hembroff	Dale White
Victor Johnston	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!

2023 LIBRARY STAFF AND TRUSTEES



STAFF

Joe Zelwietro - Chief Librarian
Kathleen Larkin* - Deputy Librarian
Mercedes Taylor - Deputy Librarian
Lou Allison - ILL
Katherine Arendt - Circulation
Beth Dimond - Children's Programs
Kaitlyn Frolek - IT
Ellie Hjelt* - Page
Rob Hooft - Casual
Aiden Lewis
Alexis Martin - Page
Tim MacDonald
William McDuff - Cataloguing
Lana Richardson
Samantha Weir - Casual

*Former Staff

TRUSTEES

Ronald Braun
Richard Butler
Carolina de Ryk: Vice-Chairperson
Teri Forster
Kate Lyon
Tiffany Prystay
Brendan Turner: Chairperson



CIRCULATION STATISTICS 2023



Circulation 49,204
Internet Computer Users 4,081
Patron Visits to Library 38,671
Adults in Programs 646
Children in Programs 790
New Library Members 365
Total Membership 9,874