

Library Stats for 2016

Circulation	71,313
# of Internet Users	10,603
Patron Visits to Library	54,996
# of Adult in Programs	1,306
# of Children in Programs	891
New membership	369
Total Membership	8,960

Library Supporters in 2016

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, and Genealogy Club of Prince Rupert.

Heather Brewer
Jan Currie
Daisy Iverson
Lisa Latimer
Helen Moore
Elizabeth McDonald
William McDuff
David Norman
Carol Manning
Jan Palmer
Travis Stoner
David Wesley

Thank you very much!

Library Board 2016

Tim MacDonald, Chairperson
Devlin Fernandes
Helen Moore
Brent Patriquin
Barry Cunningham, City Council Representative (alternate)
Joy Thorkelson, City Council Representative
Dale White, Jagdev Uppal
Lauren Williams, Glenn Groulx
Heather Rose, Andrea Wilmot

Library Staff 2016

Joe Zelwietro - *Chief Librarian*
Kathleen Larkin - *Deputy Librarian*
Beth Dimond, Leah Cuthbert,
Lisa Latimer, Lou Allison,
William McDuff, Duncan Calder,
John Harvey, Katherine Arendt
Daelan Calder, Emily Larsen,
Emmett Hogendoorn, Anna Nguyen

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Prince Rupert Public Library



Annual Report 2016

Library Board Chair Report 2016

The board welcomed three new trustees in 2016: Heather Rose, Dave Uppal, and Andrea Wilmot. Trustees are appointed by City Council. Appointments are for terms of two years. Trustees may be reappointed, but may not serve for more than eight consecutive years. The term of office is stipulated by the Library Act.



Numerous housekeeping issues preoccupied the board in 2016. Early in the year the board faced the possibility of a reduced Community Enhancement Grant from the City. Fortunately, the reduction did not occur. In 2009 the board committed itself to achieving wage parity for library staff with comparable unionized positions at the City. During 2016 a union-management committee revisited the issue. Its report is about to go before the board for approval and then be presented to City Council. Another labour-management committee investigated ways to improve staff safety from harm from visitors. The committee's work is not yet complete. The board also began revising the Chief Librarian's job description. This work remains incomplete.

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 2016



The Prince Rupert Public Library saw both challenges and development in 2016. Statistics from 2016 show a general holding trend from 2015 in several categories that end a multi-year downward trend. A third year (2017) of statistics will determine if this is a minor

deviation from a long-term downward trend, or a stable transformation to an upwards trend.

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. The importance of the library was clearly demonstrated by the public support the Library received from the residents of Prince Rupert when the City Council considered cutting the Library budget almost 20% in the first quarter of the year. After public consultations the Council reversed its position and fully funded the library for the year.

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 39% 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 an increasingly digital world. In 2016 we considered and planned how to increase the non-patron's awareness of library services.

We focused on serving the public.

- We were happy to start a new Create & Make after-school program, which we carried into 2017. We also introduced the community to our 3D printer, as well as other technologies-in-play such as Lego Robotics.
- Successful community presentations included author readings by Jean Pierre Makosso, RJ McMillen and Roy Henry Vickers as well as magician Leif David.

- Our Useful stations (also known as our public internet computer stations) allowed our residents almost 11,000 sessions in 2016.
- There was a considerable focus on community building (in both the infrastructure and relationship varieties); we've hosted meetings such as with our MP Nathan Cullen re: community infrastructure, Rupert ReBuild, Stats Canada mtgs, as well as Environmentally focused groups such as Prince Rupert Environmental Society and others.
- 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.
- 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, Gitwiyoots Tribal meetings, and a successful First Peoples Artist Workshop, as well as, Cedar Road Aboriginal Head Start tours.

Finally, the library gives to the community in other ways every year. In 2016 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 \$1,000 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 2016, and we'll strive to continue to do so in 2017.

~ *Joe Zelwietro, Chief Librarian*