



The Prince George  
**Public Library**  
www.pgpl.ca

# ANNUAL REPORT 2014

**"I COULD NEVER RETIRE AND MOVE SOMEWHERE ELSE  
UNLESS THEY HAD A LIBRARY AS NICE AS OURS."  
— JENNIFER BAMIA**

## LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

2014 was a busy and memorable year for the Prince George Public Library; a year filled with enhancements to services, new and innovative programming, significant improvements in our facilities, and the hiring of a new Chief Librarian. 2014 was also an exciting time for our City and the Library as we worked together to prepare for the Canada Winter Games in February, 2015.

The Board worked with a recruitment firm to search for a new Chief and in September of 2014, we announced the appointment of Acting Chief Librarian Janet Marren to the position.

We were pleased with building improvements that included new public washrooms in the downtown branch that opened in early 2015. Nechako Branch received a facelift with an improved service counter and shelving. Phase 2 of the Knowledge Garden was completed with the addition of fencing, a picnic table, benches and stepping stones. We hosted our first Harvest Feast dinner in October to raise funds for the Knowledge Garden. We thank the City for funds set aside to identify a project scope for the much needed entrance project.

On behalf of the current Board and staff, we would like to sincerely thank Anne George who served 4 years on the Board, and was Chair for the last 3 years. Her work has had a lasting impact in our community.

- Shelley Stafford  
2015 Board Chair



ANNE GEORGE  
2014 BOARD CHAIR



MICHAEL COLLINS  
VICE CHAIR



SHELLEY STAFFORD



DONOVAN UNRUH



DAWN STEVENS



WENDY DE MARSH



LYNN BAILEY



RUSS CALLAGHAN  
TRUSTEE TO MAY 2014



DAVE WILBUR  
COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

2014 LIBRARY BOARD



RAISE A READER 2014  
CHIEF LIBRARIAN, JANET MARREN; PG CITIZEN  
PUBLISHER, COLLEEN SPARROW; PRINCE  
GEORGE CITY COUNCILLOR, GARTH FRIZZELL

## REFLECTING ON THE PAST YEAR

- We're proud that the Prince George Public Library continues to provide vibrant and social spaces for our community to read, learn and discover. 2014 marked a particularly transformational year as we worked on improving our facilities, services and collections while making plans for major events upcoming in 2015.
- The PGPL, the Prince George Citizen and a devoted collection of volunteers came together again in 2014 to host the annual Raise a Reader campaign. More than \$30,000 was raised for literacy programs in Prince George as a result of this single event.
- We thank City Council for timely approval and funding for building renovations in 2014. Renovations for accessible washroom facilities needed for our own users and for incoming athletes were begun in 2014 with a grand opening planned for January, 2015.
- The British Columbia Library Association (BCLA) recognized our library with two Merit Awards in 2014. The Library Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) and the Don't Read These Books literacy campaign were both honoured by this provincial body.

*"One of Prince George's most precious gems, the Prince George Public Library, needs to be acknowledged and celebrated for all that it offers! Thank-you for the tremendous amount of work and support you provide to make it so!"*  
-Allison Gallagher

THE NUMBER OF TOTAL LIBRARY  
MEMBERS INCREASED BY **5%** TO 51,500



- The library hosted many unique events and presentations including “Mild to Wild: Hiking in the Prince George Region” with Rob Bryce; Family Literacy Day Munsch Mania with CBC Radio and “Farm to Table” with Hope Farm. Partnerships with the City’s heritage Commission and UNBC’s Community Development Institute (CDI) allowed the library to share community expertise in our space. New collections in 2014 included up-to-date video games selections and the QuickFlicks DVDs that allow users to access the newest titles with a reduced wait-time.

- Library programs contributed to the learning continuum in 2014. PGPLsupported school readiness through its early literacy programs and encouraged reading retention through the summer reading program. We held a regularly scheduled Homeschoolers’ Gathering programs and initiated a family Homework Help program where tutors met regularly with children struggling in school. We partnered with the UNBC Northern Medical Program to provide an experiential learning opportunity for two medical students, identifying programming gaps related to health literacy needs.

“This is the most amazing library I’ve ever been to. They have video games. Can you wrap your head around that?”

- Overheard in Children’s



PRINT ITEMS CIRCULATED IN 2014 TOTALED

**819,750**

THIS INCLUDES ITEMS USED IN THE LIBRARY,  
A SLIGHT INCREASE OVER 2013 NUMBERS

TUTOR AND STUDENT,  
HOMEWORK HELP PROGRAM 2014





CHEERFUL RECIPIENT OF A BOOKS FOR BABIES BAG OF LITERACY MATERIALS, 2014

- 2014 marked a 40% increase in use of the library's Home Service program. Accessibility to a wider range of reading materials was made possible for Home Service clients with the introduction of eReaders for loan, allowing users suffering from visual or physical impairment to read in larger fonts from a lightweight resource.
- The library joined the National Network for Equitable Library Service (NNELS) in the summer of 2014. With a donation from the Spruce City Lions Club, the library purchased specialized DAISY players for loan to any patron with a print impairment. These two services are complementary, with NNELS providing access to content and the specialized equipment providing the means to enjoy it.
- Library staff attended numerous events throughout the Region to highlight library services – a Health and Wellness Days at Canfor, Summer Reading to Go at the mall, Huble Homestead children's day, Willow River Fun Daze, the AGM of the McLeod Lake Indian Band, a Family BBQ in Beverly and the Seniors Fair at the BCNE, among others.
- Popular "Dr. Tech" tutoring programs continued, inviting people to bring in any technical device for hands-on help from library staff and volunteers. A mobile circulation module and tablets were purchased for library staff to use for outreach demonstrations. These ongoing training programs continue to improve digital literacy in the community.

Thank you for offering Zinio! I absolutely love it. To have such a wide variety of magazines readily available in this format is a very great treasure. Its ease of use is appreciated to.  
-J. Kemp, Prince George

**19,938** PEOPLE ATTENDED **1216** LIBRARY PROGRAMS IN 2014. THE NUMBER OF LIBRARY PROGRAMS OFFERED INCREASED BY **4%** IN 2014



"Thank-you for numerous years of providing such a welcoming environment for my youngsters. My children are always excited to visit, your up to date selections really inspire my kids to read. Your extensive programming, free and appealing to a wide range of interests, is a tremendous support to this community! What a treasure to PG."

- Comment Card, 2014

## MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The 2014 municipal elections were an opportunity for community engagement and civic literacy. The library was a neutral community space where people could come and learn about their civic leaders and issues of concern to them. The Mayoral Debate at the library was the first community electoral activity of the election period and attracted over 400 people. The debate was also webcast to the public and broadcast simultaneously in the library's open computer lab.

A 'Speed Candi-Dating' event held close to voting day gave community members an opportunity to speak with candidates one-on-one.



CIRCULATION OF EBOOK, AUDIOBOOK AND DOWNLOADABLE MUSIC INCREASED BY 3%. TOTAL NUMBER OF CIRCS =

**59,854**

FUTURE MAYOR, LYNN HALL, SPEAKS WITH MEMBERS OF THE VOTING PUBLIC AT THE 2014 CANDI-DATING EVENT



## FINANCIALS

The Prince George Public Library is grateful to be primarily funded by the City of Prince George, the Regional District of Fraser Fort George and the Province of British Columbia. Additional projects are made possible through grants and fundraising activities.

We would like to acknowledge our many individual donors and supporters who provided contributions to our collections and services in 2014. The following organizations and businesses also provided funds for projects over and above our regular operational income:

### PG Newspapers Digitization Project

Irving K. Barber  
UNBC  
CNC  
The Prince George Citizen  
Friends of the Library

### Knowledge Garden

BC Hydro  
Friends of the Library

### Homework Help

PG Literacy Advisory Committee

### Library QSA Program

MyPG Social Development Grant

### Lego Program

Success by Six

### Accessibility Devices

Spruce City Lions Club

### Harvest Feast

Huber Farm and Equipment  
Canadian Tire

### Books for Babies

Raise a Reader  
Northern Interior Children First Initiative

## Statement of Operations - Cash Based

### Revenue & Deferred Contributions

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Municipal Funding  | \$ 3,671,890        |
| Provincial Funding   | 220,959             |
| Late fees & other  | 111,827             |
| Deferred contributions used in 2014                                | 68,758              |
| Amounts transferred from Deferred Contributions to purchase assets | 49,371              |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$ 4,122,805</b> |

### Expenses

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Supplies  | \$ 18,123           |
| Deferred Contribution expended                      | 68,758              |
| General & Admin                                     | 213,592             |
| Rent  | 483,942             |
| Materials (paperbacks, audio-visual, subscriptions) | 229,962             |
| Wages, benefits, other employee costs               | 2,524,677           |
| Repairs & Maintenance                               | 183,205             |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$ 3,722,259</b> |

### Investment in Assets

|                                      |                   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Knowledge Garden                     | \$ 57,909         |
| Furniture                            | 38,249            |
| Equipment                            | 16,720            |
| Computer Infrastructure              | 10,170            |
| Materials (hard cover books, eBooks) | 226,901           |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>\$ 349,949</b> |

### 2014 Results

|                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Balance, 2014              | \$ 50,597        |
| Prior year balance         | 20,072           |
| <b>Total balance, 2014</b> | <b>\$ 70,669</b> |

# PRINCE GEORGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Bob Harkins Branch, downtown  
888 Canada Games Way  
Prince George, BC V2L 5T6  
250-563-9251

Nechako Branch, in the Hart  
6547 Hart Highway  
Prince George, BC V2K 3A4  
250-563-9251



[WWW.PGPL.CA](http://WWW.PGPL.CA)

We gratefully acknowledge the continuing contributions by the City of Prince George, the Regional District of Fraser Fort George and the Province of BC.