2015 LIBRARY BOARD

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For the Prince George Public Library, 2015 was a year of reflection, celebration and consultation. The Library commemorated 60 years as a Municipal Public Library with its Diamond Anniversary. It was also a significant year for community partnerships as the Library worked with the City to host athletes who competed in the 2015 Canada Winter Games, and with the Heritage Commission to celebrate Prince George’s 100th Anniversary.

The Board looked ahead to the year 2020 and worked to shape the direction for the Library over the next four years. Considerable time was spent consulting with community members to gather public input on the Library’s future. We are very proud of the resulting 2016-2020 Strategic Plan. Central to the Strategic Plan is our vision “to be at the heart of a community where everyone is welcome to explore and share. Our programs, services and collections enrich and engage the community.”

In October the Board hosted the second annual Harvest Feast fundraising dinner to support the continued development of the Knowledge Garden.

Library and City of Prince staff continue to collaborate to identify the project scope for an improved entrance for the Bob Harkins Branch, downtown. A full-day entrance workshop in August gathered community stakeholders together to consider requirements and choose the optimum location for the entrance. The preferred option design will continue the revision process in 2016.

- Carolynne Burkholder-James
2015 was a banner year for the City of Prince George as it hosted the Canada Winter Games and celebrated its 100th Anniversary. The Prince George Public Library was pleased to contribute to both events and thrilled that many celebrations took place outside our front doors in the newly named Canada Games Plaza.

While the second floor of the Library building became the Athlete’s Lounge during the Winter Games, the Library moved popular collections to the main floor and, with the assistance of the Winter Games Host Society, opened a pop-up satellite branch in the Pine Centre Mall for the month of February. Users loved our temporary mall location!

For the City’s 100th anniversary a Local History Speaker Series with the Heritage Commission highlighted 100 years of Prince George Citizen’s headlines and 100 years of firefighting with the PG Firefighter’s Association. In July over 200 people attended the Time Capsule opening at the Library to view items that had remained buried for 25 years. In the same month the Library launched a downtown walking tour app, which narrates stories about our historic downtown for users exploring the area.
Pop-up branch at Pine Centre Mall, February 2015.
2015 marked the library’s 60th diamond anniversary in June. Bylaw 801 signed June 20, 1955 established the Library Association of the day as a Municipal Public Library. A celebration with cake and dignitaries gave an opportunity for the public to express their thoughts on what they loved about the library and their hopes for the library’s future.

“I love my library because for everyone there is that wonder of a new world hidden in the pages”

“Someday my library will never close”

“Someday my library will host a ‘holodeck’ where I will walk into story-worlds.”

“I love my library because of all the money I save getting FREE books, DVDs and downloadable magazines. YAY!”
Family Literacy day in January was celebrated with the 3rd annual Munsch Mania day with many celebrity readers on hand to share their favourite Munsch stories. The Honourable Shirley Bond, MLA Prince George-Valemount, entertained children with her rendition of “Smelly Socks”.

The Library was thrilled to host a book signing event with General Romeo Dallaire during his visit to Prince George for the Bob Ewert Memorial Dinner in April. Over 100 people waited patiently to meet the much respected Canadian author and hero.
Board, staff, community supporters, Councillors and members of the Spruce Kings Junior “A” Hockey Team joined forces to hawk newspapers on Raise a Reader Day on September 23. Over $35,000 was raised and distributed to literacy programs in Prince George.

The Library supported civic literacy in preparation for the Federal Election held October 19. In partnership with CBC Daybreak North, a Cariboo-Prince George all-candidates’ debate was hosted in the Library, with over 200 people attending. Leading up to the election Elections Canada set up a booth in the Library to assist with voter registration and information.

Several notable interior improvements to the Bob Harkins Branch were completed in 2015 including a new teen area, new magazine area, lounge seating on the 2nd floor and space for exam invigilation.

A partnership between the library and the Prince George Youth Custody Centre led to the launch of a creative writing program for incarcerated youth in October. The Teen Librarian continues to make regular visits to the PGYCC to work with youths on their writing projects.
The Prince George Public Library hosted its biennial Beyond Hope Library Conference in June. Library staff and trustees from across the north converged in Prince George for three days of collaboration, learning and fun. The Conference theme, “Libraries are Forever”, was a nod to the Library’s diamond anniversary and the valuable and enduring contributions that libraries make to their communities.

The library partnered with UNBC to launch a convenient new delivery system in September 2015, making it easy for students and faculty to return library materials to the public library.

The Library’s first “Food For Fines” initiative was a smashing success in December; over thirty boxes of food were collected in support of local hamper granting agencies. Fines were waived for patrons who brought in non-perishable food items.
By the Numbers

Circulation of materials in 2015 increased slightly by 1% to a total of 816,420.

Circulation of eBook, audiobook and downloadable music increased by 2% to a total of 60,800.
In 2015, library staff assisted customers with 73,817 reference inquiries; a 6% increase over the previous year.

3,100 residents registered for a new library card in 2015.

359,203 visits to the library were recorded in 2015 (based on 332 open days).

Over 220,000 people attended 1215 program events in 2015 – a participation increase of 5%.

REFERENCE ENQUIRIES

Bob Harkins Adult Info Desk
Bob Harkins Circulation Desk
Bob Harkins Children's Info Desk
Nechako Branch Info Desk
Email Queries
As we neared the end of our 2011-2015 strategic planning cycle, the Library spent time consulting with the community and brainstorming with stakeholders, staff and board members to develop a blueprint for the future. The Library considered feedback from almost 1,000 survey responses and from focus groups, including 42 stakeholder representatives, conducted an environmental scan and reviewed library trends throughout the world. The result is a new mission, vision and values, and five strategic priorities that will guide our work through 2020.
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

We create welcoming physical and virtual spaces
We enhance community well-being and engagement
We expand and safeguard access to information and ideas
We nurture an innovative and adaptive organization
We communicate and celebrate the library’s achievements and impacts

The community consultation and strategic planning process, Library 20/20, was led by Dr. Cheryl Stenstrom, Professor in the Library and Information Science Department at San Jose State University in California. As Dr. Stenstrom guided the Prince George Public Library through each step of the process, she developed modules for an online course with the goal that Prince George’s experiences and results can be used as a model for other libraries in northern BC.
FINANCIAL DONATIONS

We are grateful to be primarily funded by the City of Prince George, the Regional District of Fraser Fort George and the Province of B.C. Additional projects are made possible through grants and fundraising activities.

We would like to acknowledge our many individual donors who provided contributions in 2015. The following organizations and businesses also provided funds for projects in 2015:

Beyond Hope Conference
Libraries Branch, Ministry of Education
North Central Library Federation

Books for Babies
Raise a Reader
Success by Six

Downtown Walking Tour App
Select Committee on Prince George
100th Anniversary Celebration

LawMatters Grant
BC Courthouse Libraries

PG Newspapers Digitization Project
Friends of the Prince George Public Library
Irving K. Barber
CNC
UNBC
PG Citizen

Summer Heritage Project Assistant
Young Canada Works

Summer Reading Program
Friends of the Prince George Public Library

Tech Kits
Children First Initiative

Teen Area Computer
New Gold Blackwater Project

Queer Straight Alliance
Children First Initiative
MyPG Social Development Grant
Prism North

Canada Winter Games Student Lounge

2015 Canada Winter Games Host Society

Homework Help
Children First Initiative
## Statement of Operations - Cash Based

### Revenue & Deferred Contributions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Funding</td>
<td>$3,765,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provincial Funding</td>
<td>218,355</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late fees &amp; other</td>
<td>110,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred contributions used in 2014</td>
<td>131,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amounts transferred from Deferred Contributions to purchase assets</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,225,815</strong></td>
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### Investment in Assets

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Asset</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Study Rooms</td>
<td>$25,267</td>
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<tr>
<td>Furniture</td>
<td>75,922</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>8,230</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Infrastructure</td>
<td>33,490</td>
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<tr>
<td>Materials (hard cover books, eBooks)</td>
<td>214,528</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$357,437</strong></td>
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### Expenses

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<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>$22,864</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred Contribution expended</td>
<td>131,288</td>
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<tr>
<td>General &amp; Admin</td>
<td>246,793</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>484,225</td>
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<tr>
<td>Materials (paperbacks, audio-visual, subscriptions)</td>
<td>240,823</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wages, benefits, other employee costs</td>
<td>2,571,734</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repairs &amp; Maintenance</td>
<td>199,550</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,897,277</strong></td>
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### 2015 Results

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<th>Transaction</th>
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<tr>
<td>Balance, 2014</td>
<td>-$28,899</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sale of asset</td>
<td>2,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prior year balance</td>
<td>70,669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total balance, 2014</strong></td>
<td><strong>$44,270</strong></td>
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</table>
We gratefully acknowledge the continuing contributions by the City of Prince George, the Regional District of Fraser Fort George and the Province of BC.