

# INVERMERE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Invermere Public Library (IPL) is situated on the traditional unceded territory of the Ktunaxa and Secwepemc Peoples and the chosen land of the Métis.

The library is located within the municipal boundary of the District of Invermere (DOI) of the Columbia Valley in the East Kootenays. Bordering Lake Windermere, the population of just over 4,000 increases significantly when vacationers and recreational property owners from neighbouring provinces spend the summer months in the area.

The Invermere Public Library serves the large geographical area of the Regional District of the East Kootenays (RDEK), from Spillimacheen in the north to Canal Flats in the south. This area encompasses the District of Invermere, the Village of Radium Hot Springs, the Village of Canal Flats, and Areas F and G of the RDEK. The library's total service area population is roughly 9,000. The DOI is the commercial centre of the Columbia Valley and is where most residents come to access medical services, retail shopping and groceries. Elementary students attend school in their own communities, but the regional high school, located in Invermere, provides the only public schooling for students in grades 8-12.

## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

33,184  
Items  
circulated



30,888  
In-person  
visits



2,686  
Cardholders  
at year end



The year 2022 started with pandemic restrictions in place and limitations on programs and services at the Invermere Public Library. Fortunately, through partnerships with the member libraries of the Kootenay Library Federation (KLF), the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL), and programming adapted for platforms such as Zoom, the library was able to connect patrons, share and promote author visits, and offer a variety of literacy experiences. The IPL adapted programs such as the Writers' Group and Story Time for virtual delivery. The use of social media and video conferencing platforms continued until March. On March 11, the mask mandate in B.C. ended and, by April, the library was able to offer limited in-person programming.

Children's Story Time, STEAM, crafts, the Writers' Group, and Family Free Play returned to the regular schedule in April. School visits could not be accommodated in the library, so the outreach library assistant went to classrooms where she facilitated activities, book exchanges, and library card registration. Keeping patrons safe was always top of mind and efforts were made to adapt programming to accommodate groups outdoors and online.

The Strategic Plan for the library was reviewed and updated for 2022-2026. Key objectives for the next five-year period are:

- Increase the physical space of the library
- Secure additional funding
- Advocacy
- Expand community outreach

## 2022 STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

TOTAL REVENUES AND GRANTS	\$374,618
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$356,333

## 2022 Community Partners



"Our library offers a free, safe space to work, relax, and interact and engage. It is an absolutely essential service in our valley, filled with amazing staff and resources."

"Libraries are great equalizers. They provide resources - without prejudice - to anyone in need. Our library is good at this."

"In more than 30 years as a member, this little 'engine that could' library has been so impressive with the services it renders and the kindness of the staff. This is the place that makes a community."