

Library Report April 2018  
Wendy Wright, Library Director

**March 2018**

- Circulations **10,224**
- Visitors **5,744**

**Community Outreach, Partnerships & Events**

- **22** people listened to **Brigitte Kloosterman** read from her book "Goodbyes Are Always Hard", a memoir addressing grief through a Christian lens. The reading was followed by a Q&A and discussion.
- The library participated in the local tradition of **Schnai Day** on Hudson Bay Mountain, delighting children with face painting and promoting upcoming library events.
- April is National Poetry Month, and the library celebrated with a **Poetry Coffeehouse & Open Mic**. This year's event featured a reading and slideshow from Quick poet **Curtis Gesch**.
- Sandra has begun booking her annual **class tours** of the library. Hundreds of children and teens will visit the library in May and June.
- UNBC Master's candidate **Heather Mitchell** shared her research on **Bicycle transportation solutions for healthy northern communities** with **19** cycling enthusiasts over lunch hour in March. Thanks to **Mayor Bachrach** for initiating this community information-sharing session.



- Volunteers with the April **Smithers Homeless Count** set up a table in the main reading area to reach library users willing to participate in the survey.

**Ongoing Programs and Facility Usage**

- **Babytime, Toddlertime, Storytime, Magic: The Gathering, Book Club, Board Games,** and **LEGO/KEVA** programs continue. **Book Lovers' Night Out** and the Board Games group continue to attract new members.

### **Funding**

It has been a banner month for fund-raising, resulting in a rich array of programs and events for all ages. What an outstandingly generous and supportive community we serve!

- Thanks to a very generous one-time grant of \$5,000 from **School District 54**, the library can finally resume **programs for Teens!** Sandra has contacted last year's teen participants who are over the moon about the news. For starters, the **VolunTeens** will be assisting with April's non-instructional day program and **Dungeons & Dragons** is set to begin May 25. We deeply appreciate the school district partnering to offer teens safe, supportive and creative programs outside of school hours.
- Once again, the community has come together to turn a good idea into reality. **Hy-Tech Drilling, Smithers Community Services Association, Pretium Resources,** and the **Bulkley Valley Credit Union** are funding an Indigenous Student for our Summer Reading Club team. One of two students running the program, the Indigenous student enriches the experience of all participants by adding elements of Indigenous culture; performing outreach; and gathering feedback.
- **Joe and Lana Wong, Woodmere Nurseries, Maple Leaf Green World** and **Vandergaag Construction** present an evening with award-winning author **Richard Van Camp** at the library on April 20. An engaging and enthusiastic storyteller for all ages, Richard will share tales of growing up in Fort Smith, NWT. Richard's adult novel "The Lesser Blessed" has been turned into a movie and his latest work, a novella titled "When We Play Our Drums, They Sing!", is being adopted by schoolteachers as an educational resource on reconciliation. Thanks also to **Wetzin'Kwa Community Forest Corporation** and the **Aboriginal Education Council of School District 54** for helping create this opportunity.

### **Staff & Volunteers**

- Two student **Summer Reading Club** positions have been posted.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Privacy screens have been installed on the Public Access Computers. The screens block people sitting beside each other from seeing what their neighbours are viewing.

### **Professional Development**

- Wendy attended a webinar on cross-sector partnerships and “**Welcoming Our Two-Spirit Stories**”, a presentation and community needs assessment for service providers on Two-Spirited, transgendered and LGBTQ+. The session was presented by the Dze L K’ant Friendship Centre and Trans Care BC, a division of the Provincial Health Services Authority.
- Wendy and Melissa will attend the **BCLA conference** in Richmond this May. They each received Alice Bacon grants from BCLA to cover their conference registration fees, and Melissa received an Irving K. Barber Learning Centre grant to cover her travel costs.
- Wendy will begin a two-year term as a **Director-at-Large** on the **British Columbia Library Association (BCLA) Board** in May 2018.

\*\*\*\*\*

And finally, congratulations to the Smithers Public Library Board on winning the  
**2018 British Columbia Library Trustee Association (BCLTA)**  
**SUPER TRUSTEES AWARD!**

The Super Trustee awards recognize trustees who have made a major contribution to their own libraries. **The Smithers Board is being recognized for their collective impact on reconciliation through library governance.**

The nomination reads:

“Through strategic governance decisions, the Smithers Public Library Board empowers the library to advance reconciliation in their community. Over the past two years they have developed an employment equity policy; created a Summer Reading Club position for Indigenous students and supported it through fundraising; and approved the use of resources towards partnerships, events, and collections that facilitate cross-cultural education. One trustee donated local Indigenous art to ensure all library patrons feel recognised and welcome. By working together through collective debate and decision-making, the Board has given the library the tools to lead change within their institution and their community.”

The award will be presented at the British Columbia Library Association Conference Awards Luncheon in Richmond on May 11.