

OCTOBER 2022 LIBRARY REPORT

STATS (September)

7645 items were borrowed in September, including:

- 3045 books for children & teens
- 1821 eBooks, eAudiobooks & eMagazines

Programs & Events

Local experts **Matt Herzog** and **Shane van de Water** presented a fact-filled evening on emergency preparedness and gave the Library printed information for the public.

HOW PREPARED ARE YOU FOR AN EMERGENCY?

Come find out @ Smithers Public Library

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

HOME FIRESMART

EVACUATION PREPAREDNESS

- **Matt Herzog** - Town of Smithers and Village of Telkwa Emergency Support Services Director and Town of Smithers Assistant Fire Chief
- **Shane van de Water** - Town of Smithers FireSmart Coordinator

EMERGENCY SUPPORT SERVICES

Telkwa

Join Matt Herzog and Shane van de Water for a presentation about neighborhood/personal emergency preparedness, local evacuation zones and the basics of FireSmart home assessment.

THURSDAY, SEPT 29
7:00 PM @ SMITHERS LIBRARY

The Library partnered with the **Bulkley Valley Museum, BC Courthouse Libraries' LawMatters Program** and **Moving Images** to bring community members together in learning on September 30, **Orange Shirt Day** and the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**. **65 people** gathered at the Old Church to view the short documentary **North Boys: The Story of Jimmy and Charlie** about two boys taken to Lejac Indian Residential School and the lifelong impacts of that experience. The Library explained that we chose to screen his particular film because of Jimmy and Charlie's descendants living in Smithers and the many Witsuwit'en children who were taken to Lejac. After the film, Indigenous audience members shared their stories of Lejac, followed by earnest conversation over refreshments and a giveaway of books on residential schools courtesy of LawMatters. Very special thanks to our neighbour **Daniel Johnnie** who informed Library staff of this documentary about his father and uncle, and gave us permission to share their story with the wider community.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY
FILM SCREENING & BOOK GIVEAWAY

"This is painful and difficult to talk about. We are privileged to hear from these two men."

*Lucy van Oldenbarneveld,
 Director and Producer*

On September 30, join us for an evening screening of the short film, *North Boys: The story of Jimmy & Charlie*. Through intimate interviews, Jimmy Dennis and Charlie Pete recount the traumatic day they were both forcibly taken from their homes and the lifelong impacts of the eight years they spent at Lejac Residential School.

Book Giveaway
Light Refreshments

FRIDAY, SEPT 30
AT 7:00 PM
THE OLD CHURCH
 FREE ADMISSION



LawMatters profiled the Smithers Library's use of their grant funding for Orange Shirt Day book giveaways in their blog, noting that the practice has spread to 10 other BC libraries (plus one more inspired by the blog post).

A **group of local youth** are using the library after-hours to rehearse a **radio play** that will be recorded at CICK.

Ongoing

Babytime, Toddlertime and **Storytime** for young children and their caregivers are presented weekly.

LEGO Time continues Thursdays from 2:00-4:00.

A local **Book Club** meets at the library on a monthly basis.

The **Smithers Boardgame Group** welcomes new players to drop into the library from 1-5 on the third Sunday of each month.

Book Lovers' Night Out, sponsored by **Wetzin'Kwa Community Forest Corporation**, will be held in the library for the rest of the season. **16 people** participated in October's session (nine attendees + seven readers).

Outreach & Advocacy

Staff gave a presentation to **nine Early Childhood Education students** from Witset on tips for bringing books to life with preschool-aged children through various formats, crafts and activities.

Library staff hosted a **morning drop-in** with coffee and muffins for our homeless neighbours in October. It was a good opportunity to meet newcomers and ensure that everyone knows they are welcome in the library.

Staff visited **Goodacre Place** to register two residents for library cards.

The Director met with **Taylor Bachrach, M.P.** to discuss the rise in organised censorship attempts and Freedom to Read Week. She later briefly spoke with **David Eby**, advocating for emergency winter shelter and mental health and addictions support for the homeless people beside the Library and inquiring about provincial funding for public library capital projects.

Reports & Funding

Our **Typical Week Survey** for Libraries Branch runs from October 17-22 this year. Library staff will report on the number of reference transactions and visitors.

The Library's Board-approved **2023 budget and funding request** for the Town of Smithers and Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako is due by noon on November 9.