



Chinook
Regional Library



Report of the Director of Chinook Regional Library
Reporting Period: **November 23, 2021 to December 18 2021**
Submitted by **Kathryn Foley** with input from **Staff**

Highlights of the CRL

We acknowledge that that we live on Treaty 4 Lands.

Thank you to the **Policy Committee** who, examined our framework policies and recognizes the need for professional support to make a major update and to write a strategic plan.

Saskatchewan Libraries made the news with our support of communities with **rapid test kits!** We are a big part of that initiative thanks to the work of Ashley Booth and other staff to acquire the kits and distribute them to branches. The distribution will have a small negative effect on shipping costs off set by the good will and recognition of another service provided by library staff to our communities.

We are happy to announce that the Chinook Regional Library has received a grant from the **Métis Cultural Development Fund for 2022.**



Staffing & Professional Development:

- The Staff workshop has had a lot of positive feedback and research supports are being developed.
- Following the Executive mandate, local boards and Ashley interviewed and hired staff to fill vacancies expected in January. All new staff have the blessings of the staff going on leave, and Ashley is working with them to create training plans. The new staff are above and beyond our expectations. Ashley is very excited to have them on board and will be spending two full weeks in early January training them. When both branch librarians need help at the same time, Ashley will be supported by Gayle and Wendy.
- Swift Current Branch Manager position is not attracting Canadian applicants at this time.

Programming and Advocacy:

- First Place for Chinook Regional Library patron Junia Tschetter, in the age 12–18-year category in Saskatchewan Library Association's 2021 Book Spine Poetry Contest. Competition in this age group was STIFF - more entries in this age category than in all the others combined! They sent a huge thanks to all who entered and big congratulations to the winners.
- Taneshea designed floor decals to honour our Land Acknowledgement are being printed for each library branch.
- Tekeyla did three weeks of zoom storytime with 12 children in the morning from Ponteix and 1 in the afternoon from Swift Current.
- She wrote, made the puppets and recorded a Christmas puppet show with a Métis cultural connection. Krupali up loaded it to Niche Academy.
- Tekeyla is assisting Jamie at Swift Current Branch with Babysteps. In 2022 this program will switch over to a Babysteps + toddler siblings' program with Tekeyla offering the tots time.



- Dec. 11th Tekeyla assisted Lorraine with a Gingerbread Storytime program. Audiences were delighted to visit the library in a morning session and an afternoon session. A short 15-minute storytime with puppet show took place, then children decorated gingerbread cookies and made a gingerbread paper bag puppet.
- The 10th Mo Newsletter is on the website.
- She is working on updating the Literacy STEM Bins using the Dorothy Saunderson fund. Many of the STEM toys have arrived. She will be taking pictures of the items for each finished bin and these will be added to the online catalog.
- Tekeyla made a Christmas Scavenger Hunt and offered it to all the branches as an easy to do program. The Scavenger Hunt is based on the book *Santa's New Jet*.
- For the New Year – Zoom storytime will continue for the Rural Branches. At S.C. Branch a STEM storytime and Mo STEM newsletter will start 6:30 pm Tuesday, January 18, 2022.
- Tekeyla will be helping the South West Literacy Hub with Family Literacy Day on Tuesday Jan. 25th. She will plan some exciting activities for the children. She is helping branches prepare for the Barbra Reid plasticine demonstration program Thursday Jan 27th.



Support/Services:

Ashley:

- Sent all staff Christmas cards with personalized messages :)
- Rural branch management as needed including advertising and interviewing for new staff
- Finalizing the Children's collection refresh among branches
- Shared some rapid test stock with vulnerable/people facing organizations in the community (newcomer welcome centre, etc). On an ongoing basis she is reaching out to give them away to organizations that could use them rather than stock them over Christmas in our back room!
- The rapid test program has been exploding with popularity in our rural locations as people collect tests to use before large family gatherings.
- Teresa from Ponteix wrote a testimonial about a patron with a child with cancer and how grateful they were to receive kits to test visitors at Christmas. Getting them out to the communities is filling a need and our patrons and others are grateful.
- Currently preparing to conduct annual reviews of staff performance and branch goals (including input and eval from the board on each branch's performance) in late Jan.

Kathryn:

- Ran a Friday afternoon and Saturday used book sale. We raised \$649.25 to use for programs.
- Working with Donna Thiessen at Swift Current; projects and completing staff hiring to cover the seasonal vacations and Taneshea. Taneshea is on temporary full-time internship with the Art Gallery and only working for the branch to cover programs.
- Working on projects of Book Sale, binders for new Board members, 50th Anniversary of CRL and policy investigation with Faith Rousseaux our Intern.
- Meetings and reports.
- The Dorothy Saunderson Fund has paid for supplies for the 'Fun Book Club' and to update the Literacy bins.
- Planning for staff reviews at headquarters using the newly written job descriptions from the library aide project.
- Completing 2021 projects and planning for 2022.