



Report of the Director of Chinook Regional Library
Reporting Period: **January 27, 2022 to February 21, 2022**
Submitted by **Kathryn Foley** with input from **Staff**
We acknowledge that that we live on Treaty 4 Lands.



Program at Maple Creek

Highlights of the CRL

Thank you to the hiring committee for their support and dedication. We have a candidate for the **Rural Branch Manager** with superior qualifications. Dawn Silver will start March 14, 2022, weather permitting. The **Swift Current Branch Manager** position is again advertised.

The Provincial Government **Health Protocol** has had its affects on our staffing and programs.

Chinook Regional Libraries continue to support local communities with **rapid test kits**. There are protocols in place for any sudden increase of illness throughout our area. These include going back to curbside and possible changes to open hours.

Staffing & Professional Development:

- Staff from Hodgeville and Shaunavon on temporary leave of absence due to COVID protocols, have been sent registered letters and new employees at those branches will be informed of any layoffs.
- Swift Current Branch Manager **applications will be reviewed starting March 15, 2022** with interviews happening as soon as practical following review and contact.
- Management is meeting major commitments; however, deadlines have had to be adjusted where they are not possible. All staff have shown understanding and support as we work through this challenging time.



Programming and Advocacy:

- **In-person programs** have started in Swift Current, however attendance will take time to return to full capacity. We hope the March Saturday programs on Metis culture and traditions will acquire participants by March 5. These programs are also offered in the afternoons at Maple Creek.
- Tekeyla supported the South West Literacy Hub Family Literacy Day offering with activities. There have been over 16,000 people who have seen the reading and question and answer program up on YouTube.
- Some branches went ahead with their plasticine programs following the Barbara Reid plasticine demonstration program. However, some may still be postponed.
- Participants at the Gruffalo Program enjoyed stories, a dramatic read and activities. Swift Current's next family program is Lego building March 19th, 2022 at 1:00 pm.



Support/Services:

Kathryn:

- **Discussion is advised for solutions to the indicated shortfall in income; the projected expectation of \$22,000 higher expenditures than our revenue will be closer to \$60,000.** The Swift Current Municipal first installment on the Library Grant was received; the amount is the same amount as paid in February of 2021. Should the second installment in July be the same amount we expect to have a \$60,000 deficit in 2022. This can be adjusted by changing staffing levels, service and open hours at the Swift Current Branch.
- The present management staffing level for Chinook Regional Library has resulted in a **workload for managers** that is not sustainable.
- Most days I drop in for a chat and am available most hours for consultation at Swift Current. I took pictures Saturday Feb. 19, unfortunately I could not make the afternoon when more families were there. Jami was a great addition to a dramatic reading led by Tekeyla.
- Meetings and reports and direct communication with many staff is a pleasure. I will enjoy introducing many friends to our new Rural Manager throughout our spring and summer visits.
- "Friday Staff Memo" is out each week, with only one moving to Saturday! Staff have showed their appreciation of the increased communication and information. Colour posters for the changes of health protocols help to reinforce the messages.
- **50th CRL Anniversary** planning is going forward. Thanks to those who have volunteered their time. We still need to decide on where the kick-off celebration will take place in June. Headquarters will have an outdoor event on September 10th.
- One more grant application for programming has been written, mainly done by Tekeyla.



Anecdotes from Senior Outreach in Swift Current, by Jessica Keleher February 18

- Today (Feb. 18) we were exchanging books at one of our regular buildings. One particular patron has recently had his 103rd birthday. Each month we deliver 13 paperback books to him. It is sometimes a challenge to find 13 that he hasn't read but by ordering from the other libraries we've managed to keep him in books.
- An elderly patron today returned *Les Misérables*, which she said she had read in its entirety, all 1229 pages of tiny print. She told us she just loved it.
- When Lorraine was on holiday last month, every building Jessica went to patrons asked after her. She has created a wonderful relationship with all of the patrons.
- We have two patrons with Victor Reader Stratus devices who have been enjoying the CELA discs we have ordered from HQ. Being able to accommodate readings with different modalities has been uplifting for these patrons.
- In January, we were able to recommence delivering to patrons at the Meadows. This means 10 patrons who had previously been big readers before the Covid lockdowns now have access to library books once again.