

Nelson Public Library Fact Sheet



We live in a world that is constantly changing, so it comes as no surprise that the Nelson Public Library and the services and programs we offer have undergone significant changes. The 21st century public library contributes to our communities' efforts to build a healthy, resilient, and sustainable community. Beyond offering traditional services the Nelson Public Library is a cornerstone of the community, for the benefit of all.

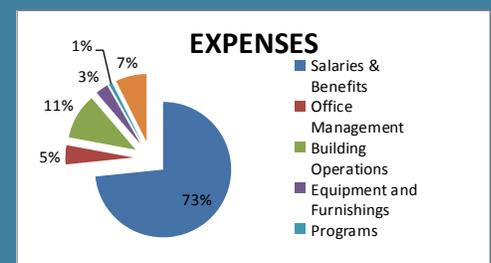
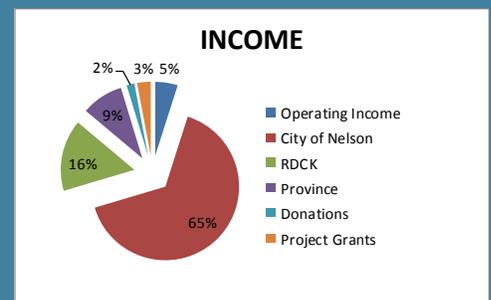
The Nelson Public Library:

Public Libraries provide what residents need to face the future with the resilience that comes from new knowledge, skills, and abilities.

- ◆ Facilitates individual and community learning
- ◆ Builds capacity to adapt to a changing world
- ◆ Enables participation by all in an increasingly digital society
- ◆ Fosters creativity, considered an essential life skill in the new economy
- ◆ Supports workforce readiness
- ◆ Engages the minds of an aging population, slowing cognitive decline
- ◆ Builds newcomers' capacity to be involved members of the community
- ◆ Supports community engagement and reduces social isolation
- ◆ Showcases and generates enthusiasm for local culture and identity
- ◆ Contributes to a community's appeal as a vibrant place to live.

By the numbers (2017):

- ◆ 8,279 members
- ◆ 178,550 physical items circulated
- ◆ 30,577 digital items circulated
- ◆ 141,470 library visits
- ◆ 10,293 reference questions answered
- ◆ 7,571 people attended 342 programs
- ◆ 20,731 uses of our public computers
- ◆ 18,160 employee hours worked
- ◆ 626 volunteer hours worked
- ◆ Open 50 hours/week, 300 days/year (2,500 hours)



2017—2021 Key Priorities:

Community Needs, Spaces to Connect & Sustainability

In 2017 the Library launched a new five-year Strategic Plan after consulting with community, board, and staff to establish clear objectives for the coming years. In addition to increased digital collections while maintaining a strong physical collection, we heard a strong interest in seeing the Library continue to grow as a social and educational community hub, a leader in providing leading-edge technology, and a support for people to creatively use information and resources. **Read our full strategic plan at www.nelsonlibrary.ca.**

Providing programs and services for all ages:

Small ones:

- ◆ Babies & preschool: story times, drop-in play days and family programming
- ◆ School-aged: class visits, Summer Reading Club, Reading Link Challenge, after school programs
- ◆ Slokan Valley outreach

Teens:

- ◆ Reading Buddies: teens mentoring younger children to improve reading skills
- ◆ Teen Time programs, from coding to crafting
- ◆ Courier service to high schools, parent and youth book clubs and school presentations

Adults & seniors:

- ◆ Author readings, plus public education presentations from health to legal & more
- ◆ Digital skills training
- ◆ Outreach to seniors' facilities and the Slokan Valley

Everyone:

- ◆ New to Nelson Potluck; an innovative way to welcome newcomers
- ◆ Public computers, free wifi, mobile printing



Governance

The Library is governed by a volunteer Board of community members appointed by the City of Nelson Council and the Regional District of the Central Kootenays (RDCK). The Nelson Public Library Board is responsible for developing Library policy and works with the Chief Librarian to establish and maintain policies that define the scope within which the Nelson Public Library operates.

The Library operates under the provisions of the British Columbia Library Act and provides services to the City of Nelson and Areas F and H South of the RDCK as per a memorandum of agreement between the City and the RDCK.

