

# BC SUMMER READING CLUB REPORT 2021

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 31<sup>st</sup> annual BC Summer Reading Club was successfully delivered to 71 public libraries across British Columbia while navigating a second summer of the global pandemic. Libraries were excited to have a more typical summer and found more creative ways than ever to connect with children and families in their communities, from in-person outdoor events to community events and a variety of virtual programs. We were pleased to see the many ways that libraries were able to welcome back their communities for another summer of reading, fun, and creating treasured memories.

This is also the second year that BC SRC ran a hybrid program, incorporating both in-person and virtual programming options to ensure we are offering an accessible and inclusive program. We were fortunate to be able to continue to work with the infrastructure that we quickly built last summer, ensuring our participants had the option to choose the program model that works best for them. While COVID-19 has opened our eyes to the ways that we can adapt and pivot our library programs and services to maintain service in unusual circumstances, we also learned that there were more children and families than we expected who were unable to join the traditional, in-person model of BC SRC due to various circumstances beyond the pandemic. For many of these families, the online option has allowed them to be a part of the BC SRC community regardless of personal or family needs or circumstances, in some cases for the first time.

BC SRC has always strived and prioritized being an equitable, inclusive, and accessible program for children and their families across British Columbia. We work with public libraries across the province to ensure that SRC can be tailored to meet the needs of the local communities they serve, while also providing the consistent, high-quality, and broadly appealing materials and programs they need to support their work regardless of their locale. By centralizing the coordination and creation of the program framework and theme, BC SRC encourages local libraries to focus on forging lasting connections with schools, organizations, and services in their community to help support children and families in their journey towards lifelong learning. This long-standing program is powered by the enthusiasm and dedication of library staff all over the province, and they have helped keep the spirit of BC SRC going strong for over thirty years.

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*In a community with little for children to do, the library is a central hub in Granisle. They look forward to participating in the Summer Reading Club and all the events we hold to promote it. We often have children trying to convince their grandparents to let them stay longer to continue participating in the summer programming. It's an amazing program, which not only encourages children to read, but also encourages parents and siblings to participate creating a bond and a love of reading. From Granisle Public Library*

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In 2021, 63,758 unique participants registered for BC SRC in more than 200 communities across the province through our hybrid model. With almost double the numbers from 2020, we are pleased to report that participation is on trend to return to our pre-COVID-19 numbers.

The BC SRC is made possible by a \$65,000 grant from the BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Public Libraries Branch. CUPE BC also generously provided a \$50,000 grant, ensuring that children across the province received a celebratory medal for participating in BC SRC.

## OUR FUNDERS

### BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Public Libraries Branch

The BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs provided a \$65,000 grant, as well as two additional one-time grants for Online Initiatives (\$5,000) and Learning (\$2,500) to generously fund the print materials, online experience, and operations for the program. Together over the years, we have created an equitable, accessible, and inclusive program for young readers and their families. We thank them for continuing to support this literacy program for children and their families across the province.

### CUPE BC

The BC Library Association is proud of the continued support from CUPE BC, who have partnered with BC SRC for a third year in a row. CUPE BC generously contributed \$50,000 to ensure BC SRC could provide medals to children across the province as they celebrate their BC SRC accomplishments.

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*We're very proud to continue our sponsorship of the Summer Reading Club and our partnership with the BC Library Association. Not only does CUPE BC represent library workers at most public libraries across the province, but we strongly support public services like libraries—especially as we build back better as we emerge from the pandemic. I hope that together we can make Summer Reading Club 2022 the biggest and best so far; if ever there was a moment in our history that we need more readers, not fewer, it's now.*

*From Karen Ranalletta, President, CUPE BC*

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CUPE BC represents over 100,000 people in more than 160 locals, including 29 public libraries in the province. Our shared commitment to libraries ensures that this partnership strengthens both CUPE BC and BCLA, as well as strengthening our members and the communities we serve.

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*It was a great experience for my daughter and the reading club helped her read more than usual and she also made sure to read every day as she wanted to complete the goal for the day. She was overwhelmed with the medal she could get from the local library for completing her reading goals. Thank you to the entire who is responsible for organizing the Summer Reading Club.*

*From 2021 Parent and Caregiver Feedback Survey*

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## BC SRC 2021 THEME AND ARTWORK

This year, we encouraged participants to *Crack the Case!* with our mystery-themed program. We were thrilled to work with Vancouver-based illustrator and cartoonist, [Zoe Si](#), to imagine and translate this year's mystery theme into the artwork. Zoe is a former BC SRC participant and lawyer, who illustrates children's books and for *The New Yorker*.


As in previous years, the artwork was fun and vibrant, while also perfectly capturing the curiosity and imagination of children. The artwork consisted of several vignettes of children trying to solve their own cases and emphasized a spirit of teamwork and adventure. This was the first time since 2013 that children were featured in the artwork, and we are proud of the representation and inclusion we saw in this year's characters.

Libraries responded very well to the artwork and theme, with many hosting summer long mysteries that encouraged participants to crack the case.



*Image Caption: Artist Zoe Si and one of this year's illustrations*

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*We've seen the SRC has given kids a creative and fun outlet to help counteract the summer slump. It has also encouraged younger readers to keep reading and expand their reading preferences. This BC SRC, the Crack the Case, has received the best response from our young patrons, with remarks from parents on how much fun  their having with the crafts and worksheets. From Taylor Public Library*

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## WHAT WAS NEW IN 2021

### Provincial Coordinator

Stephanie Usher, our Tween Project Coordinator from last year, took on the role of Provincial Coordinator, supported and trained by Cynthia Ford, who previously held this role and has helped make BC SRC what it is today. For 2021, Stephanie worked to continue to evolve the program to meet the current challenges, introducing the new changes to the program outlined below.

### New Website Design

In order to support the newly adopted hybrid model of the program, the BC SRC website went through a redesign and combined the public and staff websites together under one, unified domain (bcsrc.ca). Key new features included:

- A new modern design with easy navigation
- A new, user-friendly archive for previous SRC themes and artists that will be more efficient for staff usage
- An accessible staff resource page that includes images of the content available to download

### BC SRC Online Reading Tracker App

In addition to having the BC SRC Online Reading Tracker App updated to reflect this year's artwork, key additional features were introduced to enhance the experience:

- A small-scale user experience and user interface (UX/UI) audit was completed to ensure that the app was user friendly and accessible for all participants, including ensuring the app is WCAG<sup>1</sup> compliant and uses updated language
- Responsiveness to different screen sizes, enabling use from a variety of devices
- Option for participants to select their own avatar featuring this year's artwork

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*The online tracking system instead of a paper reading record made the Summer Reading Club more accessible for my child with learning disabilities. He was able to independently track his goals. This was great for his self-confidence.*  
From 2021 Parent and Caregiver Feedback Survey

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### Updated Reading Record Design

The annual reading record went through a redesign to simplify it, while adding a fun, interactive component with the stickers to match the mystery theme *Crack the Case*. The new design also significantly reduced paper costs, going from a 7-panel layout to a 4-panel layout. One of the most notable changes is that the new design incorporates space for children to track their daily reading goals instead of having libraries print off additional calendars to attach to the reading record. While the new design did not have space for children to write down their titles, a supplemental branded printout was available for participants who still wanted to track the individual titles they read.

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<sup>1</sup> Web Content Accessibility Guidelines: <https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/wcag/>



## GOALS, METRICS, AND OUTCOMES FOR BC SRC 2021

BC Summer Reading Club is guided by 4 main goals, inspired by and aligned with the [BC Government Strategic Plan for Public Library Service](#):

Table 1 Provincial Strategic Plan and Corresponding BC SRC Goals

PROVINCIAL STRATEGIC PLAN	BC SRC GOALS
Improving Access for British Columbians: <i>Supporting a connected library network that leverages its strengths and structure to deliver user-centred programs and services through the province.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create an equitable, accessible, and inclusive program experience for participants</li> <li>2. Support literacy opportunities for children and their families during the summer months</li> <li>3. Build community connections for participants and their local public libraries</li> </ol>
Building Capacity: <i>Reducing barriers for library staff and board members to access training opportunities so that they can continue to provide quality and future-focused library services.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Provide support for local public libraries</li> </ol>

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*The SRC is an absolute good. It stimulates a large section of Cranbrook's school children to continue their literacy journey over the summer months. The SRC helps kids build their confidence in reading, while having fun and building stronger connections with their public library over the summer months.*

*The program remains invaluable. Cranbrook has a lower-income/poverty population; the SRC at the Library is often the only exposure they have to books and reading outside of school. Few things are more important to a child's growth and development than literacy; and the SRC is one way to get or keep it.*  
*From Cranbrook Public Library*

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Table 2 BC SRC Goals with Corresponding Outputs & Outcomes

GOAL	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
Create an equitable, accessible, and inclusive program experience for participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued a hybrid program model supporting in-person and online participation, which allows children and families to participate in the manner that best suits their needs and circumstances</li> <li>• Conducted an inclusion review of the annual BC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 63,758 BC children and their families' had a free, high-quality, fun summer experience available through local libraries and online at <a href="#">bcsrc.ca</a>, including print materials and online activities</li> <li>• Children of all abilities were able to participate in Summer Reading Club</li> </ul>

GOAL	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
	<p>SRC Manual by Dr. Tess Prendergast, Inclusive Early Literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Created booklists that included titles available through CELA and NNELS for participants with print disabilities</li> <li>Resources were made available in a variety of languages, including bilingual print materials in English and French, a <i>Welcome to SRC</i> video featuring American Sign Language, the <i>What is Summer Reading Club</i> brochures available in 12 languages, and the <i>Value of Summer Reading Club</i> pamphlet available in 39 languages</li> <li>Created dyslexia friendly adaptations for some supplemental print materials</li> <li>Promoted an inclusive program through representational artwork featuring children for the first time since 2013 and hosted a BC Library Conference session to explain its impact on children</li> </ul>	<p>due to the availability of a hybrid program with a variety of accessible SRC resources such as programs, booklists, and online activities, and the reframing of success by allowing participants to set their own reading goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newcomer families were included and welcomed into the BC SRC reading community and their libraries, made possible by working with different settlement agencies and providing multi-lingual SRC brochures</li> <li>Libraries learned more about the responsibilities that BC SRC and public libraries have to be leaders in promoting inclusion and diversity in their communities, starting with their SRC programming and how they promote collections</li> </ul>
Support literacy opportunities for children and their families during the summer months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encouraged children to meet their daily reading goals through a flexible measure of their choosing for at least 7 weeks to earn an SRC completion medal</li> <li>Provided libraries with materials, as well as fun and engaging programs and activities such as weekly activities, quizzes,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 63,000 children connected with the BC SRC and their local summer libraries in over 200 communities across BC</li> <li>25,270 children participated in 1,545 SRC related programs at their local libraries; 2,645 adults were also reached through these programs</li> </ul>

GOAL	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
	<p>contests, and more, based on the annual theme voted by libraries: <i>Crack the Case!</i> (mystery)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoted different types of literacy for participants to encourage reading and storytelling such as playwriting, oral storytelling, reading in other languages, and more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children logged over 200,000 online reading entries were throughout the summer</li> <li>77% of respondents in the Parent and Caregiver Survey indicated their children read more this summer</li> <li>80% of respondents in the Parent and Caregiver Survey indicated their children built up their reading confidence this summer</li> <li>80% of respondents in the Parent and Caregiver Survey indicated their children completed their reading goals this summer</li> <li>33,000 participants received celebratory/completion medals</li> <li>Children explored new literacies like playwriting through Green Thumb Theatre partnership, and were also able to include other forms of literacy as part of SRC</li> </ul>
Build community connections for participants, local public libraries, and beyond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Created individual library contact pages on bcsrc.ca to direct participants and caregivers to their local library</li> <li>Partnered with Green Thumb Theatre to provide virtual programs, supporting BC arts</li> <li>Continued to work with external library systems, Nunavut Library Association and Yellowknife Public Library, to use BC SRC in their regions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>68% of respondents to the Parent and Caregiver Survey indicated they felt connected to a reading community through BC Summer Reading Club</li> <li>82% of respondents to the Parent and Caregiver Survey made a visit to their local library to pick up a physical reading record</li> <li>90% of respondents to the Parent and Caregiver Survey borrowed</li> </ul>

GOAL	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worked with the Association of Book Publishers of British Columbia to create booklists</li> </ul>	<p>materials from their local library</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnerships and community connections with 263 organizations and services were developed through local libraries across the province to help promote BC SRC in their communities while reaching 6,856 children and their families</li> <li>40,234 children and 2,260 adults connected with their local public library through 1,141 (virtual) class visits</li> <li>The BC book community was supported and promoted by the highlighting of works from local book publishers and authors</li> <li>The reach of BC SRC was expanded by connecting with children in Nunavut and Yellowknife</li> </ul>
Provide support for local public libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided libraries with free materials and resources, such as annual manual, report card stuffers, information brochures, graphics, and more to successfully run the program, including virtual activities and programming options via the newly re-designed staff website</li> <li>Worked with 6 BC public library systems to create the Annual BC SRC Manual to support library systems all over the province</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Libraries' capacity was increased by having access to a variety of program materials and resources through the inclusive annual BC SRC Manual and newly redesigned BC SRC staff website</li> <li>Libraries supported one another through the creation of the annual BC SRC manual and staff support Slack channel</li> <li>Library staff had increased professional development through conference sessions</li> </ul>

GOAL	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hosted two BC Library Conference presentations that discussed the need for inclusion in BC SRC and children's picture books, as well as what to expect for BC SRC 2021</li> <li>Provided weekly reports to the BC library community with Online Reading Tracker registration numbers</li> <li>Supported the Community Story Award</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communities had an opportunity to share the important impact that BC SRC has on them through the Community Story Award; the winner was given the opportunity to attend the BC Library Conference and continue their professional development</li> </ul>

## REGISTRATION 2021

BC Summer Reading Club's registration numbers nearly doubled from the previous year's numbers. We saw an increase from 34,486 participants in 2020 to 63,758 unique participants in 2021 with our hybrid model program. As we continue to see the impact of COVID-19 on library users and BC Summer Reading Club, we are proud of the ways that public libraries have come together to embrace and reinterpret this time-honoured tradition for children and their families across the province.

### Participation Highlights

- 71 BC libraries participated
- 60,525 children registered in-person
- 12,115\* children registered online \*8,882 also opted to pick up a Reading Record
- 40,234 children participated in class visits
- 9,471 parents registered online
- 4,400 children participated in community events
- 209,610 reading entries logged online
- 25,270 children attended in-house library events

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*SRC continually helps our library connect with our patrons and, most specifically, our younger patrons. We see a building of literacy skills and also social/emotional skills through weekly interactions with the library. It is a great way for us to connect to our community!*

*From Castlegar & District Public Library*

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## Individual Library Registration Numbers

Table 3 Individual Library Registration Numbers

<b>LIBRARY SYSTEM or BRANCH</b>	<b>CHILDREN REGISTERED IN-PERSON or CURBSIDE</b>	<b>CHILDREN REGISTERED IN ONLINE READING TRACKER</b>	<b>COMBINED TOTAL</b>
Alert Bay Public Library	10	9	19
Beaver Valley Public Library	24	16	40
Bowen Island Public Library	65	8	73
Burnaby Public	5,561	1,160	6,721
Burns Lake Public Library	192	3	195
Cariboo Regional District Library	189	36	225
Castlegar & District Public Library	65	29	94
Chetwynd Public Library	61	0	61
Coquitlam Public Library	3,759	303	4,062
Cranbrook Public Library	306	37	343
Creston Valley Public Library	53	2	55
Dawson Creek Municipal Public Library	475	3	478
Elkford	18	14	32
Fernie Heritage Library	67	9	76
Fort Nelson Public Library	65	3	68
Fort St John Public Library	10	9	19
Fort St. James Public Library	540	12	552
Fraser Lake Public Library Association	18	2	20
Fraser Valley Regional Library	5,330	144	5,474
Gibsons & District Public Library	137	18	155
Grand Forks & District Public Library	30	10	40
Granisle Public Library	31	0	31
Greater Victoria Public Library	7,255	368	7,623

<b>LIBRARY SYSTEM or BRANCH</b>	<b>CHILDREN REGISTERED IN- PERSON or CURBSIDE</b>	<b>CHILDREN REGISTERED IN ONLINE READING TRACKER</b>	<b>COMBINED TOTAL</b>
Greenwood Public Library	17	0	17
Hazelton District Public Library	51	1	52
Houston Public Library	80	0	80
Hudson's Hope Public Library	30	0	30
Invermere Public Library	55	3	58
Kaslo & District Public Library	30	2	32
Kimberley Public Library	120	8	128
Kitimat Public Library	36	1	37
Lillooet Area Library Association	59	0	59
Mackenzie Public Library	17	2	19
McBride & District Public Library	48	4	52
Midway Public Library	10	2	12
Nakusp Public Library	179	2	181
Nelson Public Library	140	39	179
New Westminster Public Library	1,280	144	1,424
North Vancouver District Public Library	3,047	151	3,198
North Vancouver City Library	667	159	826
Okanagan Regional Library	5,001	972	5,973
Pemberton & District Public Library	111	0	111
Pender Island Public Library	77	14	91
Penticton Public Library	268	48	316
Port Moody Public Library	987	86	1,073
Pouce Coupe Library	33	0	33
Powell River Public Library	101	13	114
Prince George Public Library	535	8	543

<b>LIBRARY SYSTEM or BRANCH</b>	<b>CHILDREN REGISTERED IN- PERSON or CURBSIDE</b>	<b>CHILDREN REGISTERED IN ONLINE READING TRACKER</b>	<b>COMBINED TOTAL</b>
Prince Rupert Public Library	94	18	112
Radium Hot Springs Public Library	45	16	61
Richmond Public Library	3,184	711	3,895
Rossland Public Library Association	29	3	32
Salmo Public Library	34	19	53
Salt Spring Island Public Library	76	18	94
Sechelt Public Library	57	8	65
Smithers Public Library	35	19	54
Sparwood Public Library	55	3	58
Squamish Public Library	369	12	381
Stewart Public Library	18	1	19
Surrey Libraries	10,210	1,726	11,936
Taylor Public Library	16	1	17
Telkwa Reading Centre	28	0	28
Terrace Public Library	129	5	134
Thompson-Nicola Regional Library	1,034	195	1,229
Trail & District Public Library	50	2	52
Valemount Public Library	16	6	22
Vancouver Island Regional Library	2,603	2,131	4,734
Vancouver Public Library	3,571	3,182	6,753
Vanderhoof Public Library	57	6	63
West Vancouver Memorial Library	1400	2	59
Whistler Public Library	175	12	381
<b>TOTAL REGISTRATIONS:</b>	<b>60,580</b>	<b>12,115</b>	<b>72,640</b>
		<b>-8,882 participants who also picked up reading records</b>	<b>63,758</b>

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*The BC SRC is something our patrons look forward to every year. They start asking in June and we usually have a wonderful turn out. It was a challenge this year that restrictions eased for travel and we had wildfire season affect our ability to be outdoors, but our participation was still high and it was a joy for parents and their children to be able to interact with the library separately and as a family. We also had many visitors come by to see if we were offering any summer programs and were proud and happy to let them know that children from anywhere can participate in the BC SRC through us.*

*From Rossland Public Library Association*

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## REACH

### BC Libraries

All BC public libraries participated in the 2020 BC SRC except Tumbler Ridge. Tumbler Ridge chose to participate in the TD SRC and has done so since 2014. The Toronto Dominion Bank sponsors the TD SRC reading program run through the Toronto Public Library.

In total, the BC SRC reaches 71 public library systems in BC and over 200 communities that range from urban to suburban to rural.

### Libraries Outside of BC

We continue to welcome the Nunavut Public Library Association (6 branches) and Yellowknife Public Library in their participation in BC SRC. Libraries outside BC are welcome to purchase Core Print Materials and Novelties to use in their summer reading program. Such libraries are responsible for their own shipping and handling costs. BCLA does not publicize this opportunity and is currently not looking to monetize the interest shown in BC SRC across the country.

As libraries across the country become more aligned with social justice issues and adopt a more community-led model for delivering library programs, more and more libraries have shown an interest in a summer reading program that is not funded by a large bank, and is instead funded by local and provincial governments, and by groups with a direct interest in and connection to their communities.

## PRINT MATERIALS, MEDALS & NOVELTIES

BC SRC continued to provide high quality print materials to libraries this year. In addition to posters, reading records, stickers, and bookmarks, BC SRC also provided posters for the Green Thumb Theatre partnership, and medals were distributed across the province and to external libraries.

Materials distributed to libraries:

- 80,250 reading records
- 33,000 medals
- 2157 posters

We partnered with Fairware for a second year to produce and distribute t-shirts and novelties, including brand new baseball caps to compliment libraries' outdoor programming. We were impressed with Fairware's services last year: they significantly improved production and delivery for our novelty items (t-shirts, baseball caps, and tattoos) and their commitment to sustainability and ethical sourcing aligns with our values.

## ONLINE EXPERIENCE

Building on the work BC SRC did in 2020, we offered an enhanced online experience for participants by continuing to offer a virtual version of the program complete with an online reading tracker and various online activities.

Virtual activities included:

- Weekly video activities for younger and older kids based off the SRC Manual; these videos were also made available for libraries to download and post on their own websites
- Downloadable activity sheets and colouring sheets
- Weekly quizzes
- Weekly caption contest
- Spot the difference contest
- Green Thumb Theatre partnered activities, including live play reading event on August 18, 2021



*Image Caption: An example of one of the winning caption contest submissions.*

## MEASURING SUCCESS

BC SRC aims to support public libraries in serving the specific needs of their communities and each library determines how success is measured for their SRC. By allowing some flexibility with

measuring success, BC SRC becomes an equitable experience for its participants. For example, some libraries include goals that are:

- Time-based: 15 minutes of daily reading
- Quantity-based: number of pages/chapters/books read
- Tool-based: reading-log completion, stickers collected
- Participation-based: children who continue to read throughout the summer
- Self-determined: children and families set their own goals

More than 90% of libraries offer medals to their participants: approximately 70% award medals based on participation, with the remainder awarding based on completion of a designated goal. We noticed more libraries this year shifted towards participation in lieu of completion due to the challenges caused by COVID-19.

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*We use a Child and Family centered approach to setting reading goals, rather than telling the families what their goals should be. We encourage families to use an amount of time spent storytelling and reading because it levels the playing field for children, no matter what their reading competencies are. That said, we also want to encourage children to set their own goals because they will be more committed to them. Many families chose to set goals regarding the number of books or pages a child read. On the attendance sheets, we record the child's goals and chat with them each time they show up about their reading. From Hazelton and District Public Library*

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## PARTNERSHIPS

### BC Libraries

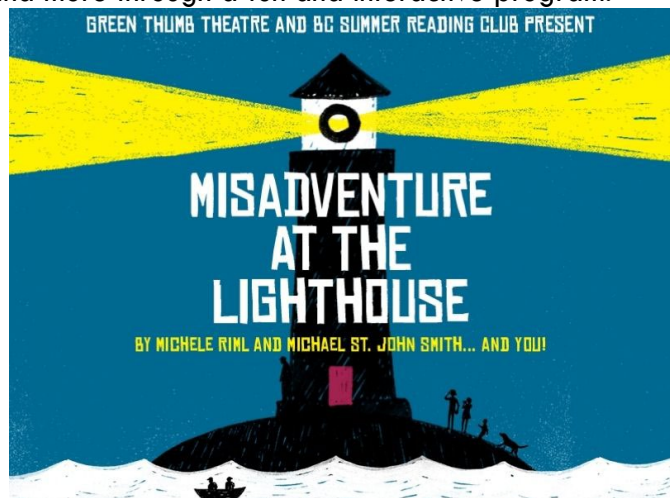
Year after year, BC SRC brings communities together to support young people and their literacy journeys. For many communities, the BC SRC is the highlight activity in town and not only enriches the local public library, but creates connections for the community. We encourage public libraries to connect with their local schools and community organizations to help support and encourage participants throughout the summer. Many local organizations support BC SRC at their local library through community events and prize donations.

In 2021, BC libraries made 1,141 class visits that reached 40,234 students and 2,260 adults. We also know that 4,400 children and 2,456 adults were reached in 263 community events. Some examples of community events include: farmer's markets, community centre events, pop-up libraries, Indigenous community events, parades, medal ceremonies, and more.

We want to acknowledge the difficulties that many libraries experienced in 2021 that greatly impeded their community outreach, including COVID-19 and forest fires in their communities. Many were unable to conduct school visits and had to limit their community events and partnerships.

### Green Thumb Theatre

BC SRC was thrilled to team up with Green Thumb Theatre, a professional theatre organization that tours to schools all over the province to bring theatre to young people. Together, we were able to bring the world of theatre to our participants and enable them to explore playwriting, live (virtual) theatre, and more through a fun and interactive program.



*Image Caption: Poster artwork commissioned by Green Thumb Theatre by artist cabin+cub*

When speaking of the partnership, Georgia Beaty, Green Thumb Theatre's Development and Outreach Manager, noted: "With COVID-19 putting a halt on all in-person touring, we were delighted to be able to partner with BCLA and BC Summer Reading Club to offer MISADVENTURE AT THE LIGHTHOUSE to connect young people with theatrical experiences. Together, we invited young people across BC to let their imaginations run wild by creating art based on the story and submitting endings to a brand-new mystery play developed specifically for the project by playwrights Michelle Riml and Michael St. John Smith."

Children were able to participate in the following free activities:

- A playwriting contest, in which participants were invited to write an ending to the original mystery play titled MISADVENTURE AT THE LIGHTHOUSE, written by Canadian playwrights. Green Thumb Theatre's staff read through all of the submissions and selected three entries to be performed at the virtual play reading event
- Artwork prompts for participants to create their own MISADVENTURE AT THE LIGHTHOUSE posters and scene art
- An opportunity to design their own scavenger hunt with the resources provided by Green Thumb Theatre
- A live virtual play reading for MISADVENTURE AT THE LIGHTHOUSE featuring professional actors and stage crew, as well as participants' original artwork and the performance of three alternate play endings written by SRC participants

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*We are grateful to the remarkable BCLA team for their willingness to try a new initiative and their commitment to creating memorable, accessible, and unique opportunities for young people to explore their creativity. Georgia Beaty, Development and Outreach Manager, Green Thumb Theatre*

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In order to prepare participants for the playwriting task, Green Thumb Theatre produced a list of tips and tricks for budding young playwrights to help in their new writing journey. We received a number of entries from all over BC from participants ages 7 to 13 who let their imaginations and creativity shine through and we couldn't be prouder of their wonderful work. To read the play endings and see the artwork, please visit [bcsrc.ca/greenthumb](https://bcsrc.ca/greenthumb).

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*I am so proud of my daughter! She spent weeks of writing and revisions to her ending of the play.*

*Thank you so much! I'm more excited than I have been all summer! The play ending was a lot of fun to make!*  
*From a mother and daughter who participated in the Misadventure at the Lighthouse contest and in her 9<sup>th</sup> SRC year*

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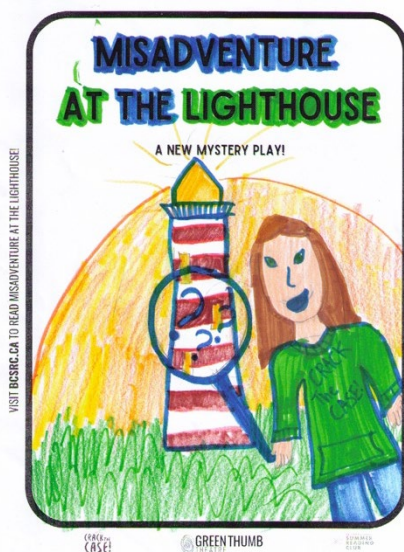


Image Caption: Two examples of the artwork received from participants this summer for the Green Thumb Theatre Partnership

### BC Publishers Booklists

Since 2017, BCLA and the Association of Book Publishers of BC (ABPBC) have had a collaborative partnership. As one small part of this relationship, our partners at ABPBC contribute their own theme-related titles and annotations, making it easier for BC SRC to highlight BC books.

## COMMUNITY STORY AWARD

Since 2013, BCLA has celebrated library staff through the BC SRC Community Story Award, which provides an opportunity to recognize and honour amazing stories that described the impact of BC SRC on participants, library staff, and their communities. Each year the BC SRC presents the award to a library worker whose story best demonstrates how important BC SRC is to children and community members.

For 2021, BC SRC wanted to highlight the ways libraries adapted to bring SRC to their communities during an unprecedented and challenging time. We wanted libraries to celebrate their COVID-19 victories, no matter how big or small. We had a record number of entries this year, and were inspired as we read and listened to the ways that libraries found to ensure their communities would be able to participate in the program.

The 2021 winners for the BC SRC Community Story Award were Kate Longley of North Vancouver City Library and Danielle Wing of North Vancouver District Library for their joint story on how their libraries came together to bring SRC to North Vancouver: [BC Summer Reading Club 2020: A Collaboration between Libraries.](#)



### About Kate Longley

Kate Longley is the Teen Services Librarian at the North Vancouver City Library. She feels extremely lucky to be supported in traveling this new programming terrain by working with such a collaborative youth team. During the lead-up to SRC 2020 she was inspired by conversations with library workers across libraries who have been endlessly amazing at sharing ideas.



### About Danielle Wing

Danielle Wing is a children's librarian at the Lynn Valley branch of the North Vancouver District Public Library. She has loved Summer Reading Club since she was a child and thinks it's the most exciting time of the year at any public library!

### BC Summer Reading Club 2020: A Collaboration between Libraries by Kate Longley and Danielle Wing

This year North Vancouver City Library and the North Vancouver District Public Library took the big step to coordinate our Children's and Teen Summer Reading Club program promotion to the schools and worked together to present exciting virtual programming.

It does not need to be said (not even one more time!) that 2020 was a challenging year. One of the first things we started thinking about when we closed to the public due to COVID, was how we would be able to offer our Summer Reading Club programs. SRC is such an important way for children in our community to stay connected to reading and the resources the library has to offer over the summer. At the time, many staff at libraries were laid off, and we had little idea of what others would be doing. Thank goodness for our library networks and communities, where we soon began to learn about the amazing work that BC Summer Reading Club was doing to create a virtual option for 2020.

Our next challenge was how to let youth in our community know that SRC would indeed be happening? Though we technically share a school district, our libraries had never collaborated on promoting SRC before. COVID turned out to be the motivation we needed. To avoid confusion and overlap, we coordinated our messaging and programming. The youth teams and communications departments at our libraries worked together to create a joint promotional video for our local schools, with dignitaries from each of our communities, and staff from both of our libraries. We also put a joint advertisement for SRC in the local paper. Finally, we combined forces on a series of seven virtual author visits for children, sharing the programs on each of our websites in tandem.

When planning our virtual author visits, we quickly discovered that the possibilities were endless! Authors and illustrators were keen to connect with readers and the fees associated with the virtual visits were very reasonable. We hosted astronaut and author Dr. Dave Williams, Jim Ottaviani & Maris Wicks, Gale Galligan, Andy Runton, Rashin Kheiriyeh, Robin Stevenson and Mark Leiren-Young. Our readers were able to chat with them over Zoom and had the opportunity to ask questions and learn about writing and illustrating. This was an unusual summer for kids: one participant was set up in the bathroom (presumably, because his parents were working from home in a small space), while another tuned in from the backseat of a car! It is safe to say that these virtual programs brought everyone together in a very unique way. This was an opportunity to try something new, exciting, and a little bit intimidating. Sharing the workload and supporting each other made all the difference.

Working together with another library system to coordinate our plan was exciting and empowering. As part of our decision, we not only promoted the exciting new virtual option for BC SRC, but also decided to retain the physical reading record as a possibility for our participants to pick up via library takeout until we re-opened our doors. Each of our libraries added our own flair, such as a community prize at NVDPL, and weekly prize draws at NVCL. In addition to our

shared virtual author visits, each of our libraries promoted our own virtual programming and recorded storytimes.

Some families enjoyed the new online option while others were pleased to have the normalcy of the print materials. Comments from customers included:

“Our 3rd pick up. Sylvie (age 9) came this time and was over the moon to find her Summer Reading Card waiting for her! We all love Bambi Edlund’s illustrations! The booklets are always a lovely keepsake. Many thanks to you all”

“The kids participated in the Summer Reading Club this year and the two previous years. Both missed having the medal ceremony in the square (thank you for making a big deal at the desk!). They liked the dinging on the computer as the days were ticked off (we did it in clumps) and getting the special badges. They also liked choosing fun login names (Bookdragon and Bookmonster). They liked not having to write down every day’s book. It was easy for them to stick with the reading”

Summer Reading Club usually brings with it our largest-scale children’s events of the year, including in person kick-off parties with a special entertainer, face painting, and more. Holding our medal ceremony has been important to our library and community in many ways. It culminates a summer of reading for fun. Participants come to the library to share the excitement of receiving their well-deserved Summer Reading Club medals, have cake and to get their photo taken with the Chief Librarian and the Mayor. It’s difficult to recreate this type of large-scale event virtually, but we did our best. We extended medal pick up dates over a two-week period to avoid congestion, and created a photobooth in the children’s department for recipients to pose with their medals. One customer had this to say:

“I cannot tell you enough how important the medal will be this year. Kids need something to feel good about. After all that has been taken away this summer due to COVID. Thank you a lot for keeping this program alive even under these circumstances.

Please let all the staff know how much moms are thankful for you to keep this program. My daughters are really looking forward for their medal...”

We felt overjoyed to be able to work together to offer children the consistency and support they needed this summer. More than half of our usual number of participants registered for Summer Reading Club and picked up physical packages in the library with their reading record or used the online BC SRC portal to track their reading. Though we kicked-off and wrapped up the summer on a smaller scale than normal – we couldn’t have been happier about teaming up with our library neighbours to make participation in SRC the most accessible it could be, and to make being recognized for reading a reality for our community this summer.

## INCLUSION & ACCESSIBILITY

The BC Summer Reading Club centres its work around creating an equitable, inclusive, and accessible free program that welcomes all children and their families across British Columbia. We are always seeking ways to improve and increase our accessibility to ensure that all participants

have an equitable and enjoyable experience. With our new hybrid program model that incorporates both the traditional program and an online version complete with a virtual reading tracker and activities, we have been better able to meet the needs of a wider variety of participants and increase our reach.

### Increasing Language Accessibility

#### French

Thanks to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Public Libraries Branch, children and their families are able to join in and “Perce le Mystère!” (i.e. “Crack the Case!”). Core Print materials were available in English and French:

- Poster (one side English; one side French)
- Reading Record (English cover on one side; French cover on the other)
- Bookmarks (both languages on bookmarks)

BC SRC also produced a thematic French booklist and French downloadable letters for parents, schools, media, and other interested groups, which can be found on the Staff Website.

As part of our larger inclusion and language accessibility goals, Core Print Materials are produced with a minimum of text in order to support the participation of children of any language and any reading ability.

#### American Sign Language

We include an audio and ASL (American Sign Language) video on the website to welcome children with hearing and/or print disabilities to the BC SRC, assuring them that all reading counts, including ASL and audio stories.

#### Other Languages

For many newcomer families the BC SRC not only supports new language skills but also connects them with their local library and new community. A Google translate plug-in is available for visitors to readily translate any page.

As we continue to evolve the Language Accessibility component of the BC SRC, we are aware of the complexity of the challenges involved and focus our efforts on:

- creating Core Print Materials with a minimum of text in order to support the participation of children of any language and any reading ability;
- increasing our understanding of the needs of the various language communities and the best way to support them;
- providing better support to library staff (specifically, SRC) in connecting to Newcomer communities; and
- creating background/support materials for Newcomer parents to increase their understanding of the BC SRC and confidence in how to access it at their local library.

To date, we have the following support materials available to parents/caregivers and librarians:

- “The Value of Summer Reading” letter for parents, translated into nearly 40 languages. The site also includes a Google translate plug-in so visitors can readily translate any page
- Customizable “Parent Letters” are available on the staff site for libraries to download and send to their local schools. These letters include language that explicitly supports

children reading in whatever language they feel most comfortable. As well, the letters specifically express support for cultures that emphasize oral storytelling

- The “What is the BC Summer Reading Club?” Brochure: this brochure was created by the BC Summer Reading Club to welcome and support the participation of Newcomer families in BC libraries, settlement organizations, and community groups. The brochure is “evergreen”, intended for year-round display

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

BC SRC would like to take the time to celebrate the hard work and commitment of our BC SRC Co-Chairs and their libraries, Laura Zaytsoff (Castlegar and District Public Library) and Alicia Dobbs (New Westminster Public Library). Both Laura and Alicia graciously committed to staying on for an extra term while we navigated, recuperated, and adapted to the challenges that have arisen due to COVID-19.

Laura and Alicia worked together with staff from four other libraries to create the annual BC SRC Manual and accompanying online content on [bcsrc.ca](https://bcsrc.ca). The Manual underwent an inclusion review by Dr. Tess Prendergast and also had some notable changes to the format, including:

- adaptable program options such as virtual program adaptations and/or skill level adaptations to make programs appropriate for any age
- booklists based on format and the overall theme versus booklists based on subthemes (the lists still included which titles matched certain subthemes)
- expanded activity sheets that included multiple activities, book recommendations, and fun facts/jokes

The Manual is an invaluable resource that helps build staff capacity for many libraries across BC, such as those who welcome summer students to help run BC SRC for their communities. This year’s Manual and online activities were greatly appreciated by libraries as many still have limited/reduced capacity in our second summer with a global pandemic.

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*Having the resources curated by professional children's librarians makes it so much easier for our staff to support the summer staff to design and deliver our local program. From Lillooet Area Library Association*

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### The Full BC SRC Team

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to these individuals for helping making BC SRC 2021 possible:

Stephanie Usher, [BC SRC](#), Provincial Coordinator  
Laura Zaytsoff and [Castlegar & District Public Library](#), Committee Co-Chair  
Alicia Dobbs and [New Westminster Public Library](#), Committee Co-Chair and Content Creator  
Mehjabeen Ali and [Surrey Libraries](#), Content Creator  
Gina Gaudet and [Vancouver Public Library](#), Content Creator  
Wiena Groenewold and [Fraser Valley Regional Library](#), Content Creator

Corene Maret Brown and [Port Moody Public Library](#), Content Creator  
Dr. Tess Prendergast, Inclusion Consultant and [UBC iSchool Lecturer](#)  
Michal Utko, [Utko Creative](#), Graphic Designer  
James Matsuba, Online Reading Tracker App Developer  
Neil Firkins, Web Design  
Mari Martin, Director, [Public Libraries Branch](#), Ministry of Municipal Affairs  
Adrienne Wass, Library Consultant, [Public Libraries Branch](#), Ministry of Municipal Affairs  
Karen Ranalletta, President, [CUPE BC](#)  
Scott Leslie and Jonathan Schatz, [BC Libraries Cooperative](#)  
Michael Burris and the staff, [InterLINK](#)  
Angie Ayupova, [BCLA](#), Manager  
Cynthia Ford, [BCLA](#), Project Coordinator  
Rina Hadziev, [BCLA](#), Executive Director  
Annette DeFaveri, [BCLA](#), former Executive Director

## CONCLUSION

In 2021, BC Summer Reading Club found new and different ways to work with libraries and their communities to support literacy and encourage summer reading while navigating through the second year of a global pandemic. We remain committed to creating an engaging hybrid program that is equitable, accessible, and inclusive to all of its participants. As a program, we will continue to work with BC public libraries and their communities to ensure all participants and their families are able to continue to find ways to enjoy reading throughout the summer and connect with their peers and local community. Lastly, BC SRC continues to review and analyse our work, seeking ways to innovate and enhance the program by supporting library staff and meeting the needs of participants and communities across British Columbia.

### **The BC SRC 2021 Report was prepared by:**

Rina Hadziev, BCLA Executive Director

Stephanie Usher, BC SRC, Provincial Coordinator

## APPENDIX A: BC SRC 2021 BY THE NUMBERS

### Participation:

- 71 BC libraries participated
- 60,525 children registered in-person
- 12,115\* children registered online \*8,882 also opted to pick up a Reading Record
- 40,234 children participated in class visits
- 9,471 parents registered online
- 4,400 children participated in community events
- 209,610 reading entries logged online
- 25,270 children attended in-house library events
- 63,758 children registered in the BC SRC (online & in-person)

### Parent & Caregiver Survey Responses

- 89% of respondents indicated their children completed their SRC reading goals
- 77% of respondents *strongly agree* and *agree* that their children read more this summer
- 80% of respondents *strongly agree* and *agree* that their children built up their reading confidence this summer
- 68% of respondents *strongly agree* or *agree* that their children felt connected to a reading community this summer through SRC

### Adults Directly & Indirectly Affected by BC SRC

- More than 2,260 adults were reached through 1,141 school visits
- More than 63,758 parents participated (counting one adult per officially-registered child)
- More than 2,456 adults participated in community events
- More than 2,645 adults participated in in-library events

### Materials Distributed to Libraries

- 80,250 reading records
- 33,000 medals
- 2157 posters

## APPENDIX B: FEEDBACK FROM INDIVIDUAL LIBRARIES

We typically include a survey question asking libraries to describe **“what you've observed to be the most significant values and benefits the BC SRC brings to your library and your community”**. As a provincial program, BC SRC works alongside 71 different library systems and connects with over 200 communities. Each library system chooses to run the program that best meets the needs of their community, and as a result, share individual feedback that relates to their communities. It is important to acknowledge the similarities and differences in these answers to provide direction on how we support libraries across the province.

This year, COVID-19 still impacts the work of library staff and some of the comments reflect that impact. Library staff were still able to come through for their communities to deliver quality programs and spread the BC SRC spirit in various creative ways.

Below, listed alphabetically, are library responses in their own words.

Library System	Feedback
<b>Alert Bay Public Library</b>	This was such an usual year. Some children did use the online resources but we had no way of finding out who they were and with such a small staff had no time to really explore further.
<b>Beaver Valley Public Library</b>	We so appreciate all the hard work put in by librarians all over the province; the suggestions, themes, booklists and craft ideas really help us put on a quality SRC, even in our small community.
<b>Burnaby Public</b>	High quality, reliable materials that we can use as a basis for our own work in the community. BC SRC keeps evolving which I appreciate
<b>Burns Lake Public Library</b>	We were very excited about distributing the reading logs and craft packs to many students. The craft packs included materials and instructions for a craft but also contained word searches, crossword puzzles and other activities that help children retain the skills they learned during the school year but in a fun way.
<b>Castlegar &amp; District Public Library</b>	SRC continually helps our library connect with our patrons and, most specifically, our younger patrons. We see a building of literacy skills and also social/emotional skills through weekly interactions with the library. It is a great way for us to connect to our community!
<b>Chetwynd Public Library</b>	It was great to see kids excited every week to pick up their packages as well as to be excited to read. I had a lot of feedback from parents about the program being very encouraging for their children to keep reading all summer.
<b>Coquitlam Public Library</b>	The BC SRC brings a sense of excitement to summer reading. Many kids eagerly anticipate the new booklets, materials and medals.
<b>Cranbrook Public Library</b>	<p>The SRC is an absolute good. It stimulates a large section of Cranbrook's school children to continue their literacy journey over the summer months. The SRC helps kids build their confidence in reading, while having fun and building stronger connections with their public library over the summer months.</p> <p>The program remains invaluable. Cranbrook has a lower-income / poverty population; the SRC at the Library is often the only exposure they have to books and reading outside of school. Few</p>

	things are more important to a child's growth and development than literacy; and the SRC is one way to get or keep it.
<b>Creston Valley Public Library</b>	In a rural library, SRC is an extremely important program for providing free summer children's activities. Much more-so than I've experienced in urban libraries, as there aren't as many options for kids & families, especially on a budget.
<b>Fort Nelson Public Library</b>	Families very much appreciate the ongoing SRC program to help encourage reading and engagement over the summer. Overall the program is always anticipated with great enthusiasm, and participated with excitement and enjoyment.
<b>Fort St John Public Library</b>	Many families look forward to this program as a framework for their summer. SRC does so much to highlight the fun side of reading, learning, and engaging with our community. It's very gratifying to see kids return year after year, and to grow with the program.
<b>Grand Forks &amp; District Public Library</b>	SRC is a great way to improve library perception in the community and to reach families who need literacy support through the summer.
<b>Granisle Public Library</b>	In a community with little for children to do the library is a central hub in Granisle. They look forward to participating in the Summer Reading Program and all the Events we hold to promote it. We often have children trying to convince their grandparents to let them stay longer to continue participating in the summer programming. Its an amazing program which not only encourages children to read but also encourages parents and siblings to participate creating a bond and a love of reading.
<b>Greater Victoria Public Library</b>	Families seemed to prefer the actual reading record versus the virtual one. Many preferred to have a spot to write in the title of books they have read.
<b>Greenwood Public Library</b>	The children that attended most of the sessions really enjoyed the weekly SRC groups most said they would like to attend next year as well.
<b>Hazelton District Public Library</b>	<p>Our summer student said that friendship building and offering a safe place for kids to hang out were significant benefits. I'd like to add that one of the children (our 9-year old volunteer) made the library her safe place for the whole summer. She comes from a family that was struggling in many ways. After the T-shirt decorating day, she said to Tenille, "This was the best day ever. I'm going to remember it for the rest of my life!"</p> <p>One new-comer family to the area has come to the library several times to thank us for the Summer Reading Clubs where both she and her daughter met and made friends.</p> <p>I'd like to add that the outreach to communities in trying to recruit facilitators, in looking for a suitable venue and employing community members has been one of the best "friend-raising" activities the library does.</p>
<b>Houston Public Library</b>	The manual was very useful to use when creating reading and craft packages.

<b>Hudson's Hope Public Library</b>	I really enjoyed this year's theme. We had parents and kids all comment on how fun it was and such a cool theme.
<b>Invermere Public Library</b>	Being able to provide free programming to the youth in the community is huge! We had one mom give us chocolates at the end of the summer because she was so grateful to have somewhere to drop her 9-year-old son of for an 1.5 hrs while she dealt with her two littles. The other camps in the area were too expensive for that family, so a free program was really appreciated. SRC in particular is great because kids are expecting it and come excited! I love seeing them rush through reading to claim their prize and then continue reading for the rest of the summer.
<b>Kaslo &amp; District Public Library</b>	Summer engagement with the community and Kaslo is a tourist town so we had a lot of people travelling through participation in the activities and utilizing the library. During the school months I think children use the school library more but in the summer they check out a books and read. It's great to see them and help them choose books.
<b>Kimberley Public Library</b>	This was a huge year for reading! We more than doubled our online views and have been reaching out all around the province and even globally. This grows our community and makes the library "cool". Many kids maybe didn't formally sign up to the program, but would stop by often to pick up kits and joined us online to be read to. I know that some seniors that live alone often shared the books on video with their grandkids as a way to connect with no cost :0)
<b>Lillooet Area Library Association</b>	Having the resources curated by professional children's librarians makes it so much easier for our staff to support the summer staff to design and deliver our local program.
<b>Mackenzie Public Library</b>	This is a valuable resource for our Library and community.
<b>Midway Public Library</b>	Continued reading encouragement over the summer.
<b>North Vancouver City Library</b>	The kids are SO excited about SRC. It was great to see so many families coming into the library this summer, and I think SRC is a big part of that draw.
<b>Okanagan Regional Library</b>	Physical reading records are by far the preference. 5000 in-person vs 927 online. This SRC was our first stage of really welcoming families back into the libraries. Staff were so happy to see the families and feel the energy in the branch.
<b>Pemberton &amp; District Public Library</b>	Engaging the children throughout the summer, especially during Covid where library visits have dropped significantly. The activity passport format we use has worked really well for our community as it does not tie participants to specific dates and times
<b>Penticton Public Library</b>	This remains a great way to encourage summer reading and support literacy. It creates excitement around reading and reinforces all the active and social parts of reading behaviour through participation with family and friends and the inclusion of games, crafts and projects. Even without in-person programming, this was an opportunity for community engagement and interaction between participating families.

<b>Powell River Public Library</b>	We love the way that BC SRC gives us a theme, strong visuals, and a feeling of province-wide connection as we launch our summer programs each year. We really use BCSRC as a jumping-off point and/but appreciate the focus it gives us in that process as well as consistency of image and expectations when we're advertising to local kids.
<b>Prince George Public Library</b>	The SRC is an excellent opportunity to increase youth literacy and to connect with the families that come to our library. Many parents were eager for educational summer events that kept their kids entertained, especially during the pandemic. Parents and guardians were either very keen on attending in-person, while others strongly preferred attending virtual programs. Having a combination of in-person and virtual programs provided a safe space for everyone to enjoy.
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<b>Prince Rupert Public Library</b>	First of all, you make the lives of the children's department staff in small libraries so much easier! Thank you! The families are always appreciative of the high quality of the materials supplied to their children. They also appreciate the incentives offered to the children to keep them reading over the summer. More books were read this summer than ever before, or at least in a very long time!
<b>Radium Hot Springs Public Library</b>	Our program was in grab& go format this year and was well attended. Children and our area have gotten used to grab & go during the pandemic, and find the program really engaging.
<b>Richmond Public Library</b>	SRC helps to demonstrate to families the importance of reading throughout the summer, but also the value of reading for fun.
<b>Roseland Public Library Association</b>	The BC SRC is something our patrons look forward to every year. They start asking in June and we usually have a wonderful turn out. It was a challenge this year that restrictions eased for travel and we

	had wildfire season affect our ability to be outdoors, but our participation was still high and it was a joy for parents and their children to be able to interact with the library separately and as a family. We also had many visitors come by to see if we were offering any summer programs and were proud and happy to let them know that children from anywhere can participate in the BC SRC through us.
<b>Salmo Public Library</b>	This year it was seeing 4 new families register for SRC. What better way for new kids to the community to meet and interact with their peers! The SRC club brings a fun free way for kids to keep up on their reading skills and explore all the library has to offer.
<b>Salt Spring Island Public Library</b>	Kids read, they had fun, it provided a guide for our Free summer Camp programming, it brought us closer to a local business, it was FUN.
<b>Sechelt Public Library</b>	Encouraging children to read all summer, even if it's extrinsically motivated (stickers, prizes).
<b>Sparwood Public Library</b>	Families look forward to the reading program and even though it was online last year and a hybrid program this year I think it gave a sense of continuity despite the pandemic. We included reading tips and activities for families in our newsletters and then going to the library once a week for activities helped to bring a sense of normalcy. It is also a good program to encourage literacy while school is out for the summer. Kids really seemed to enjoy the mystery themes this year.
<b>Squamish Public Library</b>	It's always a great programme. I find the new website not as user friendly as the old one. And I preferred it when the children wrote down the titles of their books (or the amount of time they spent reading). I feel that just putting a check mark is not as much fun.
<b>Stewart Public Library</b>	BC SRC keeps kids engaged in reading throughout the summer. It is a fantastic resource to help us get kids into the library who otherwise wouldn't come. All the planning is done for us which is a HUGE help to our summer programming.
<b>Surrey Libraries</b>	<p>Collation of thoughts from various staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Getting or keeping kids excited about reading throughout the summer to keep their literacy skills up.</li> <li>• Free space, resources and activities for families in our community</li> <li>• Helping caregivers in our community keep their kids engaged during the summer.</li> <li>• Bringing families into the branches and discovering new materials for their child.</li> <li>• Encourage reading and exploring books.</li> <li>• Love the artists every year</li> </ul>
<b>Taylor Public Library</b>	We've seen the SRC has given kids a creative and fun outlet to help counteract the summer slump. It has also encouraged younger readers to keep reading and expand their reading preferences. This BC SRC, the Crack the Case, has received the best response

	from our young patrons, with remarks from parents on how much fun their having with the crafts and worksheets.
<b>Thompson-Nicola Regional Library</b>	Our branches all serve diverse communities, but overall most branches agree that some of the main benefits are encouraging children to continue to read and keeping children engaged in the summer months. It really is so special to show children that reading is celebrated. For those who are strong readers, they get acknowledged and rewarded for something they might not really get noticed for any more. And for those who are just learning, they get encouragement and support to continue learning. We also really see the value of SRC in bringing our smaller communities together with shared excitement over the theme, the supplementary activities and programs, and the chances to win prizes doing something they love. It's so inspiring seeing the bonding when kids come in at the same time with their reading records and proudly share how far they've come, or they help each other with the scavenger hunt or laugh together at an SRC program. It creates a positive experience for them at the library, and that in turn fosters lifelong library patrons who think of the library as a fun, safe, welcoming place to be! Staff also noted that this was the first year they heard a lot of parents refer to the "summer slump" so we are guessing that that must be more of a dialogue in schools now and they've been directing parents to the library to get resources. Which of course we are happy to provide!
<b>Trail &amp; District Public Library</b>	Loved this year's theme!
<b>Valemount Public Library</b>	We really enjoy being part of a BC wide program with the resources that are provided. It is an excellent guide for our staff and helps us to tie in to the provincial library system.
<b>Vancouver Island Regional Library</b>	<p>In many rural communities, SRC is one of the only summer long free events children can partake in. SRC provides families with activities to do together that are literacy based; it gives children more confidence in reading and helps them maintain their reading level over the summer, and provides necessary fun and</p> <p>entertainment for all ages of children. SRC was additionally valued this summer as it was something familiar in these uncertain times. Families look forward to participating each year and this summer was no different.</p>
<b>Vancouver Public Library</b>	<p>A compilation of staff response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SRC gets kids excited about reading and goal setting. Two things that are super important life skills!</li> <li>• Makes library a destination for the neighbourhood and an opportunity for staff to interact with kids in the community</li> <li>• SRC is the main reason kids and their families visit the library in summer and a tradition to partake in year after year</li> <li>• For small branches SRC increases foot traffic and brings people in to the library.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It's a great draw to bring kids in to the library. In particular this year we were able to reach some new Canadians and reluctant readers who may not have otherwise used the library</li> <li>• The flexible goals were a big hit! I had some participants ask if there is a "winter reading club"</li> <li>• Heard from one participant "I'm so proud of myself" when she completed her goal in a year when so many people of all ages felt isolated, the SRC allowed kids to feel like part of a community, even virtually. It was great to see kids' excitement when I did virtual class visits – even through the screen, their enthusiasm was palpable. For kids who've done SRC in previous years, it's been a reassuring link to the familiar in an unusual and sometimes scary time.</li> <li>• BC SRC was particularly powerful for newcomer families who appreciated the materials and activities, but especially the feeling of making a connection with their new community.</li> <li>• Access to free summer programming.</li> <li>• The SRC allows kids to connect to each other and to the library through our programs and our collections. This connection helps build friendships and a lasting love of reading.</li> <li>• Kids are excited to visit the library and check out the best new books.</li> <li>• Encourages and celebrates reading for recreation. Actively engages the community in a shared goal.</li> <li>• It gives some children in the area who are not attending day camps or other programming something to do and work towards.</li> </ul>
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