BC Summer Reading Club 2023: Final Report

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Executive Summary

For children and their families across British Columbia, the summer months signal the end of the school year and a time to rest and relax before moving onto the next grade. It is also a time to have fun, connect with their local libraries, and join the BC Summer Reading Club (BC SRC). In the summer of 2023, BC SRC was successfully delivered to 71 public libraries in British Columbia with an all-time high of over 92,000 registered participants through our hybrid model. With our popular time travel theme, *Journey Through Time*, BC SRC and libraries invited participants to explore the past, present, and future through engaging literacy-based programs and activities. We saw an increase in class visits, community outreach events, and partnerships across the province and more than ever, we saw how libraries were able to connect with their local communities by promoting a free and inclusive program for children of all ages. We also heard from libraries that being able to provide a high quality, free summer program has never been more important with rising costs impacting families and libraries themselves.

"The "free" element of SRC has never been more important. Several times, we have heard feedback that as costs increase, the ability of parents to pay for high quality programming for their children decreases. SRC is filling an increasingly wide gap for many families, and VPL is fortunately to have the resources to be able to provide over 300 SRC programs each summer."

From Vancouver Public Library Staff

As libraries begin to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic by heading back into their communities to deliver in-person class visits and participate in more outreach events, the ongoing challenges caused by the climate crisis and forest fire evacuations, as well as staffing limitations, continue to impact libraries in various ways. On a provincial level, BC Summer Reading Club aims to provide support and empower libraries to implement the program in the ways that best meet the needs of their individual communities. We emphasize different ways to provide accessible and inclusive programming to one's community, leading by example in our annual SRC manual and variety of online resources. Our ongoing commitment to creating a more accessible British Columbia involves developing more professional development opportunities for library staff and it continues to be a priority that aligns with the values of the Province, public libraries, and the British Columbia Library Association. We remain grateful for the financial support for these ongoing initiatives from the BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Public Libraries Branch and we look forward to returning in 2024 with a series of new resources.

"CUPE BC members are incredibly proud to be the lead sponsor of the Summer Reading Club medals. This partnership with the BC Library Association supports learning and literacy, helping young people around the province discover the world through their local library. The program also helps kids discover the many services and resources provided by libraries and library workers, turning new readers into life-long library patrons. Our members working in libraries across the province are excited to support this program in the coming year, and we know their dedication will help this the program achieve success again in 2024."

From Karen Ranalletta, CUPE BC President

Image Caption: A group shot of all the dinosaurs and robots from this year's artwork by Jeni Chen

What's New for 2023

In 2023, these were some new additions and/or changes for BC Summer Reading Club:
- Welcomed new Provincial Assistant, Sabrina Gurniak for a 1-year term
- Created new training videos and BC SRC glossary for library staff
- Expanded Participant Feedback Survey to be advertised by libraries to their communities
- Moved towards a passive program/event with BC SRC Artist versus a virtual event
- Added Yukon Public Library as one of our new external library systems
- Connected with TD Summer Reading Club, Library and Archives Canada, and New Brunswick Public Library Services to plan accessibility workshops and professional development opportunities for library staff who work with summer reading programs

More details about these additions and changes can be found throughout the report.

"My children asked to go to the library everyday. They participated in many of the activities offered by the library. They also requested multiple books throughout the summer. They were excited about reading and the prizes offered by the library. Thank you for this wonderful program that has grown their love of the library and reading."

From a Participant's Caregiver

BC SRC 2023 Theme and Artist

For 2023, children and families across the province were invited to time travel with BC Summer Reading Club. *Journey Through Time* was a theme with endless possibilities that sparked creative programs in the annual Staff Manual, including a celebration of all things retro which resonated with many library workers' and caregivers' sense of nostalgia. To make the time travel vision come to life, BC SRC worked with Richmond-based author and illustrator Jeni Chen, who brought her incredibly playful and bold style to our program. When Jeni suggested incorporating dinosaurs as the *Journey Through Time* characters, we knew we had something that would resonate with many children and generate excitement for the program. The characters were colourful and fun, and

each dinosaur had a personality and interests that connected to a specific sub-theme. With artwork featuring creatures of the past, *Journey Through Time* found a way to highlight the various possibilities of the future to inspire our young participants.

Image Caption: A dinosaur drawn by Elodie S., Age 7, Whistler Public Library

In addition to her artwork, BC SRC enlisted Jeni's help this year to run a passive online program and contest where she created a quick tutorial on how to draw a dinosaur which also included some helpful illustration tips and tricks. Children across the province shared their amazing art and Jeni selected a few of her favourites to win prizes. One of the highlights included that Jeni got to personally meet one of the young artists who attended her workshop at the Whistler Public Library.

Image Caption: A dinosaur drawn by Sophie Khue A.-H., Age 11, Burnaby Public Library

Goals, Metrics, and Outcomes for BC SRC 2023

BC Summer Reading Club is guided by four main goals, inspired by and aligned with the *BC Government Strategic Plan for Public Library Service*:

PROVINCIAL STRATEGIC PLAN	BC SRC GOALS
Improving Access for British Columbians: *Supporting a connected library network that leverages its strengths and structure to deliver user-centred programs and services through the province.*	1. Create an equitable, accessible, and inclusive program experience for participants 2. Support literacy opportunities for children and their families during the summer months 3. Build community connections for participants with and for their local public libraries
Building Capacity: *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.*	4. Provide support for local public libraries

As a note, many of the outputs and outcomes for this year are continuations from previous years and we hope to see this evolve as we focus on additional accessibility initiatives for the coming years.

GOAL	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
Create an equitable, accessible, and inclusive program experience for participants	· 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 · Conducted an inclusion review of the annual BC SRC Manual guided by Dr. Tess Prendergast, UBC iSchool Instructor	· 92,096 BC children and their families had a free, high-quality, fun summer experience available through local libraries and online at bcsrc.ca, including print materials and online activities · Children of all abilities were able to participate in Summer Reading Club due to the availability of a hybrid program with a variety of accessible SRC resources such as programs,

	· Created booklists that included titles available through CELA and NNELS for participants with print disabilities and promoted these lists on the online tracker and website · Resources were made available in a variety of languages, including bilingual print materials in English and French, a *Welcome to SRC* video featuring American Sign Language, the *What is Summer Reading Club* brochures available in 12 languages, and the *Value of Summer Reading Club* pamphlet available in 39 languages · Created dyslexia friendly adaptations for some supplemental print materials	booklists, and online activities, and the reframing of success by allowing participants to set their own reading goals · 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 · 80% of respondents in the Parent and Caregiver Survey indicated their children felt included in the program and/or library-related events
Support literacy opportunities for children and their families during the summer months	· 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 · Provided libraries with materials, as well as fun and engaging programs and activities such as weekly activities, quizzes, contests, and more, based on the annual theme voted by libraries: Journey Through Time · Promoted different types of literacy for participants to encourage reading and storytelling such as playwriting, oral storytelling, reading in other languages, and more	· Over 92,000 children connected with the BC SRC and their local summer libraries in over 200 communities across BC · 57,471 children participated in 2,486 SRC related programs at their local libraries; 15,479 adults were also reached through these programs · Children logged over 133,500 online reading entries throughout the summer · 80% of respondents in the Parent and Caregiver Survey indicated their children built up their reading confidence this summer · 91% of respondents in the Parent and Caregiver Survey indicated their children completed their reading goals this summer · 34,000 participants received celebratory/completion medals

Build community connections for participants, local public libraries, and beyond	· Created individual library contact pages on bcsrc.ca to connect participants and caregivers to their local library · Continued to work with external library systems, Nunavut Library Association, Yellowknife Public Library, and Yukon Public Library to use BC SRC in their regions	· 78% of respondents to the Parent and Caregiver Survey indicated they felt connected to a reading community through BC Summer Reading Club · 83% of respondents to the Parent and Caregiver Survey made a visit to their local library to pick up a physical reading record · 644 community outreach events and 497 partnerships and community connections were developed through local libraries across the province to help promote BC SRC in their communities, reaching 39,253 children and 26,243 adults · 120,702 children and 14,118 adults connected with their local public library through 3,906 in-person and virtual class visits · The reach of BC SRC was expanded by connecting with children in Nunavut, Yellowknife, and Yukon
Provide support for local public libraries	· Provided libraries with free materials and resources, such as the annual manual, report card stuffers, information brochures, graphics, and more to successfully run the program, including virtual activities and programming options via the staff website · Worked with 5 BC public library systems to create the Annual BC SRC Manual to support library systems all over the province · Created two training videos and an SRC glossary to familiarize new and veteran staff with the program · Hosted an exhibitor's booth at the BC Library Conference	· Libraries' capacity was increased by having access to a variety of program materials and resources through the inclusive annual BC SRC Manual and BC SRC staff website · 91,725 reading records were delivered to libraries across BC and to external provinces · Libraries exported their online registration data, including school reports, to meet their own needs · Libraries supported one another through the creation of the annual BC SRC manual and staff support via the BCLA Online Forums · Library staff had increased professional development through new additional online resources such as training videos, online

	with information for this year's program · Prepared and facilitated a province-wide Participant Feedback Survey that included demographic information, including accessibility needs, and program benchmarks	glossary, and updates to the Accessibility Toolkit · Libraries were provided with direct feedback and measurable outcomes from the Participant Feedback Survey to better understand the needs of their community and participants

"Our staff love interacting with our SRC club members and their families and vice versa! SRC builds relationships between the library and our community and offers a chance for one-on-one engagement and a shared love and celebration of reading. SRC brings families into all 12 of our branches in big numbers and builds a community of reading and learning in the younger years and beyond."

From Greater Victoria Public Library Staff

Overview of BC SRC Registration

BC SRC is pleased to report a 12% increase in registration numbers, with this year's numbers being the highest ever reported. A total of 89,489 children signed up in-person and 2,607 registered online using the BC SRC Online Reading Tracker, for a total of 92,096 registrants. Registration numbers have returned to and exceeded pre-pandemic totals.

While many libraries reported increased registration numbers, it is important to acknowledge that some library systems had lower than anticipated registrants due to forest fire evacuations. Furthermore, Okanagan Regional Library (ORL) underreported its numbers due to the loss of the North Shuswap branch in a forest fire.

While the Online Reading Tracker was initially introduced as an avenue to continue SRC activities during the early onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, it has since become an alternative mode to participate in the program. Since 2021, the Online Reading Tracker has had a steady number of registered users, but approximately less than one third of those users exclusively use the digital tracker. While 9,794 children registered online, only 2,607 participants indicated that they would exclusively use the Online Reading Tracker. The overwhelming preferred method to

participate in BC SRC is still the physical reading record. However, we recognize the Online Reading Tracker is still an important option, and ensures that more children and families can be a part of BC SRC.

"Our SRC this year had an amazing turnout. The ending to SRC was around the time the West Kelowna, Kelowna, Lake Country and Shuswap forest fires were happening. Families were very appreciative of having the normalcy of SRC to ground them. The medals we handed out at the end of summer took on extra meaning for families experiencing such upheaval."

From Okanagan Regional Library Staff

Registration Numbers Over the Years
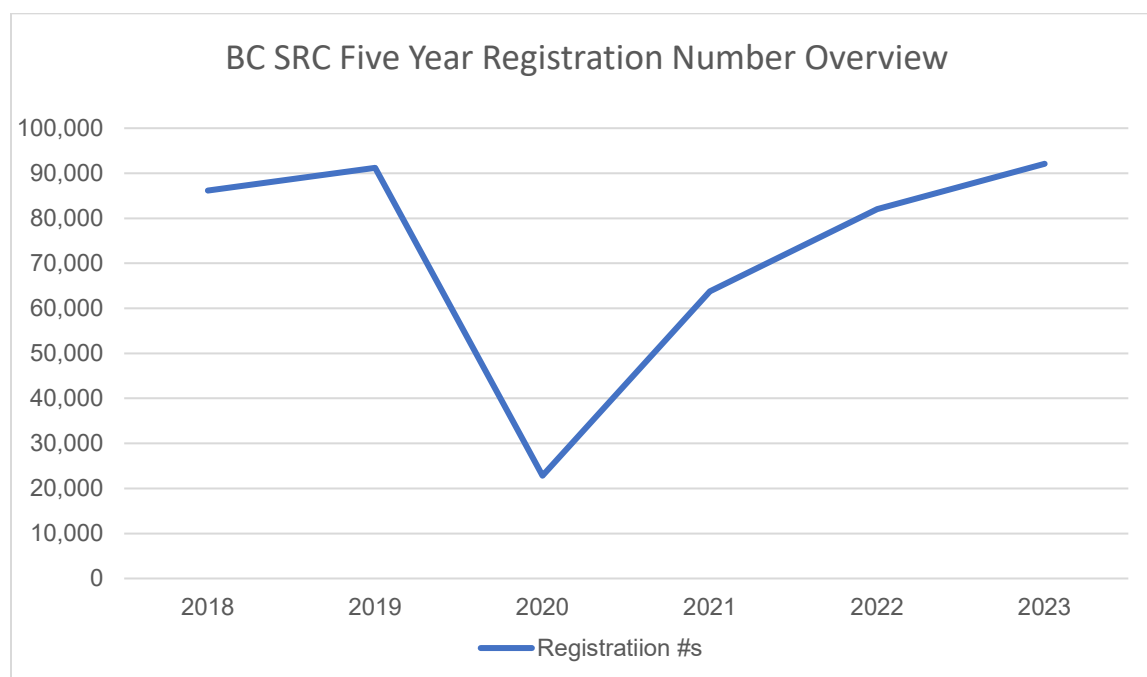
Graph 1: An overview of how BC SRC registration numbers have grown and were impacted by a global pandemic between 2018 to 2023.

The above graph illustrates how BC Summer Reading Club registration numbers were impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020 and gradually recovered over the last three years. Along with increased registration numbers, libraries increased program promotion through in class visits, community outreach events, and partnerships.

Community

School Visits

Outreach at schools was increased by 53 % this year, with 67 libraries reporting 3,906 in-person and virtual class visits to promote the program. A total of 120,702 children and 14,118 adults were reached at these visits that occurred between May and June. Libraries shared that in-person class visits were likely the reason for the increase in their registration numbers and also provided opportunities to directly connect with teachers in their community.

"School visits provide a valuable opportunity for branch librarians to connect with the majority of the kids who attend school in their catchment. "I saw you at my school!" is a constant refrain in June. These visits also provide a rare opening for librarians to connect with teachers face-to-face."

From Vancouver Public Library Staff

Community Outreach

In 2023, there were 644 community outreach visits where public libraries championed BC SRC at a variety of local events such as at farmer's markets, museums, community days, Indigenous community events, parades, and more. Libraries also reported 497 community partnerships developed through BC SRC that included prize donations and collaborative events.

"The SRC brings families into our library who are not already library members. We also had several families new to the community, and new to Canada, join us this summer. They felt the library was a fun, safe place for their children to spend time this summer. The SRC also provides a way for children from throughout our community to get together and make new friendships and try new activities. They really enjoyed the opportunity to exercise their creative muscles."

From Prince Rupert Public Library Staff

Programs

This year, libraries reported 2,486 in-house library programs and events that reached 57,471 children and 15,749 adults. When compared to last year's numbers, there was a -2% decrease in programs offered, but a 21% increase in participation from children. The decrease in programs offered can be attributed to the ongoing impacts of the climate crisis, where many communities had to follow evacuation orders. In addition, some libraries reported general staffing limitations that impeded their capacity to run programs. While all libraries were able to provide reading records to participants, 8 out of 71 participating BC libraries were unable to run any events and activities this year.

"It is really great to see parents and families supporting children's love of reading. It's great to see children excited about reading and being part of SRC. It was really wonderful to have the community gather together for the medal ceremony and kick-off party. These turned into the biggest community events the library ever does. These opportunities are completely facilitated by the structure of BCSRC and otherwise we wouldn't be able to bring community together in this way around a love of literacy. We love to see the children so excited about joining the club, getting stickers and working toward their goal of reading a little each day. The children are really proud to earn their medal at the end of the summer."

From North Vancouver City Library Staff

Community Visits, Programs, and Partnership Comparison

When comparing SRC-related community events over the last three years, there is a direct correlation with increased participation. Whether in the form of class visits and/or community outreach, these events provide a valuable opportunity to promote the program and library services directly to children and their families, as well as offering opportunities to build partnerships with other neighbourhood services. SRC-related in-library programming is also a way for libraries to increase foot traffic into their buildings and connect with children of all ages through guided literacy-based activities. At its core, BC SRC is a relationship-building tool for libraries, supporting a meaningful cause that brings their communities together.

"The program was fun and exciting for my kids. As a result, we access the library as a family more often than we have in previous years."

From a Participant's Caregiver

Cross Comparison: BC SRC 2021-2023 Visits, Programs, Events, and Partnerships

Graph 2: An overview of the increases in class visits, library programs, community events, and partnerships between 2021 to 2023.

"The SRC outreach has been our most successful attempt so far this year to rebuild relationships in the outlying communities we serve."

From Hazelton and District Public Library Staff

Participant Celebrations and Medals

One of the longstanding traditions and most exciting aspects of SRC are the ways that libraries across the BC celebrate their participants. Libraries typically award participants with medals for either completing SRC reading goals or participation, with at least 24 library systems celebrating their participants with medal ceremonies.

In 2023, BC SRC was able to supply libraries with 34,000 medals due to the generous $50,000 donation from CUPE BC. When reviewing the feedback from the Participant Feedback Survey, one of the common threads that appeared was the impact of receiving a medal on a child's reading confidence. The annual BC SRC medal has

become a memento of summer traditions with children collecting them year after year. The continued support from CUPE BC allows children and their families across the province to celebrate their summer reading.

"As a parent, my child built her confidence through reading and a sense of responsibility to finish the tasks. She is so happy receiving her medal. Thank you for doing this yearly."

From a Participant's Caregiver

Evaluation

Between September 2022 and April 2023, BC SRC Provincial Coordinator Stephanie Usher researched the history of summer reading programs (SRPs) in North America as part an independent study course for UBC's School of Information (iSchool). The literature review analyzed the various shifts and trends that have occurred since the first inception of public library summer reading programs in the late 1800s, with a particular interest in how these programs have expanded and evolved in scope throughout history. As part of the research, it was revealed that SRPs have rarely been formally evaluated from the participants' and/or caregivers' perspectives and success is often measured by registration numbers. Many libraries and summer reading programs do not evaluate their programs based on particular outcomes and/or benchmarks.

Since 2020, BC SRC has offered a Caregiver Feedback Survey sent out through the Online Reading Tracker registration list. This year, to expand the survey's reach, BC SRC asked libraries to promote the survey in-house in order to engage more participants. While registration numbers can provide an insight into the general interest in the program, the numbers do not reflect if the program is meeting certain benchmarks and should not be the only measure of success. As a result, the survey includes measurable outcomes that centre on community, reading confidence, and inclusion, including if the program is meeting accessibility needs, as well as an open comment section. The combination of both quantitative and qualitive data allows BC SRC and public libraries across the province to gain a better understanding of participants' experience and make informed changes to the program.

"This was a great goal setting exercise to keep up with reading. We mostly did it independently but even with that my daughter still knew she was part of something bigger in the community that other children were doing."

From a Participant's Caregiver

The survey opens with demographic information such as number of participants in household, school grade(s) in June, local library system, and participation method. As part of the demographic information, the survey asked the following yes/no/uncertain questions:

- Did your child(ren) complete their weekly reading/literacy goals for at least 7 weeks this summer?
- If your child(ren) has a disability, were their accessibility needs were met in the SRC program and/or activities?

A definition from the American Library Association for disability was included to provide context to the accessibility question.

The feedback survey also used the desired outcomes to measure how SRC impacted participants' experience of the program. The following questions were presented with a Likert scale rating from Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree:

- My child(ren) felt connected to a community through SRC or their local library
- My child(ren) built up their confidence in their reading skills this summer
- My child(ren) felt included in the SRC program and/or activities

These outcomes are centred around the guiding values and principles of BC Summer Reading Club as a program that facilitates community connections, a love of reading, and inclusion.

"I really liked how the program wrapped up. After completing 7 weeks, we took the tracking sheet to our local library (Mount Pleasant Branch in Vancouver). The librarians made a very big deal out of presenting my daughter with the medal. It really increased her pride in her accomplishment."

From a Participant's Caregiver

This year, BC SRC received 852 responses for the survey between August 14 until September 15, 2023. This is the most direct feedback we have ever received, and we

hope to see this number grow in future years as the survey provides participants and their caregivers an avenue to share their thoughts on the program directly with their local library. The feedback provides data for not only BC public libraries to better understand their participants needs, but can also help BC SRC on a provincial level make informed changes and/or improvements to the program.

Key Findings

- 1,376 children represented in the survey (reflecting that some parents have multiple children)
- 46 out of 71 participating BC public libraries received feedback
- 91% of respondents indicated that their child(ren) completed their SRC reading goals
- When it came to participation methods:
  - 63% of respondents indicated that their child(ren) participated using the print reading record
  - 14% of respondents indicated that their child(ren) participated using the online reading tracker
  - 19% of respondents indicated that their child(ren) participated using a combination of the print reading record and online reading tracker
  - 4% of respondents indicated that they were unsure of which method their child(ren) used to participate in the program
- 77% of respondents indicated that their children did not have a disability and 2.4% of respondents chose not to respond to this question
  - Of the remaining 20.5% of respondents, 43.1% indicated that their child(ren)'s accessibility needs were met and 56.9% indicated that their child(ren)'s accessibility needs were not met
- 78% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed that their child(ren) felt part of a wider community through SRC and/or their local library
- 80% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed that their child(ren) built up their reading confidence this summer
- 80% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed that their child(ren) felt included in the SRC program and/or related activities
- 55% of respondents (469 responses) included qualitative feedback in the form of the additional feedback box, which was directly shared with the identified local library

"This was our first time. Both my kids loved it. And we are excited for next summer break reading club."

From a Participant's Caregiver

Future Plans for Survey

This was the first year we extended the survey to be promoted in-person at libraries, and we hope to see more responses and buy-in from libraries in the future. To better address and understand the accessibility needs of respondents, in future the survey will include an option to provide additional information. In previous years when the survey was only sent to online registrants, it included a question asking if children read more this summer; this question was not asked this year but will be re-added for the following year as an additional quantifiable measure to show the benefits of the program. An additional question that focuses on if children who participated visited their library throughout the summer may also provide insights into how participants and their families are engaging with their local libraries. The long-term goal is to collect data and feedback over several years to track changes and make informed improvements to the program on both a provincial and local level.

"This program and our experience was absolutely wonderful! Our daughter learned of the program in June at her school. She was excited from day one. Colouring in the footsteps for reading accomplishments helped her feel more motivated and confident. She talked about the program (and the much-anticipated medal) all summer. We went away at one point, but still she remembered to keep up with her reading. When the time came to bring her card in, she was so excited the night before. At the library, the staff were so nice to do a little medal presentation and round of applause for her. She jumped around outside because she was so happy. I've told friends and coworkers about this program, and the response is universally positive. I think the positive ripple effects of a program like this that helps cultivate children's literacy and self-efficacy may go farther than we could know. Thank you to everyone who made it happen."

From a Participant's Caregiver

Accessibility

As with previous years, the annual BC SRC manual underwent an internal inclusion review guided by the principles of Dr. Tess Prendergast of UBC's School of Information (iSchool). Content creators were mindful to include ways to scale down/up programs to include children of all ages and abilities. The manual's booklists were also shared with the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) and the National Network for Equitable Library Service (NNELS) to ensure titles were available to their users.

In 2021, BC SRC received a generous one-time COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Grant from the Ministry of Municipal affairs to seek ways to create more inclusive improvements to the program. As part of the ongoing work made possible by this grant, BC SRC has been working on several ways to build library staff capacity and create accessibility related resources. The following are some projects the program has been working on.

For 2023, BC SRC consulted with NNELS to make changes to the website and online reading tracker for users with print disabilities. Furthermore, new resources were created for the staff website that include two introductory training videos to help library workers (past, present, and future) get acquainted with the program, as well as a BC SRC glossary to provide clear explanations and reduce confusion caused by program and library specific jargon.

BC SRC is also excited to share that the organization is playing a leadership role on a national level by collaborating with TD Summer Reading Club (TD SRC), Library and Archives Canada (LAC), and the New Brunswick Public Library Services (NBPLS) to create a series of professional development workshops on accessibility and inclusion, which will be available for library staff involved in summer reading programs across Canada.

Throughout the summer and fall, BC SRC has been laying the groundwork for how these offerings will take shape. Workshops will begin in 2024 before the SRC season begins, to provide library staff with a variety of workshops lead by disability experts and individuals with lived experience. As part of our research into seeing what accessibility resources are currently available for children's library services, it appears most resources are geared towards adult users. Furthermore, the existing services tend to focus primarily on print disabilities. To address the gaps, these workshops will focus on providing services for children with various disabilities, as well as include separate sessions focused on parents and caregivers of children with disabilities. By providing these as free workshops for any and all library staff interested, BC SRC hopes to see more inclusive programming not just in summer reading programs, but in library services overall.

Our goals for these workshops include:
- build library staff capacity by creating free professional development opportunities and resources

- provide more inclusive and informed library services through summer reading programs
- collaborate and partner with other library organizations to share resources

BC SRC acknowledges that the work surrounding accessibility is ongoing and we will continue to focus on and support this work for years to come.

Ongoing Challenges

While there are a number of accomplishments in 2023 that we are incredibly proud of, there are also a number of ongoing challenges that have impacted BC SRC over the years. One of the largest challenges involves the rising costs to run the program due to inflation and growing interest/participation. Due to inflation, the costs for program materials supplied to libraries has gone up by 5-10% and will continue to go up. Furthermore, as demonstrated by the 12% increase in registration numbers this year, more program materials are needed to support BC libraries.

"The importance of a FREE activity during the summer cannot be overstated. We saw a lot more parents coming in this year who were just desperate for something to keep the kids occupied that didn't cost money. We also received many comments from caregivers about how the stickers and medal motivated their children to read every day when that wasn't something that they were usually interested in doing or were struggling with."

From New Westminster Public Library Staff

Another ongoing challenge has been communicating with 71 different public library systems across the province that all have varying needs and resources. As a program striving to create equity amongst BC's public libraries, our goal is always to support and empower libraries to run the program to best meet the needs of their communities without trying to lead their programs on their behalf. With that said, some library systems struggle to run BC SRC due to limited staff capacity and resources. While we aim to provide as many free and accessible resources for the program as possible, some library systems have requested more support (such as doing school visits on their behalf, prizes, or additional materials) that we are unable to provide. Furthermore, with limited staff capacities, some libraries opt to not promote additional services that BC SRC offers such as the online reading tracker or the participant feedback survey.

These are challenges that we hope to address in the coming years, while also highlighting that BC SRC is run by a limited core team and has already had additional projects added to its scope over recent years.

Conclusion

For more than 30 years, BC Summer Reading Club has provided public libraries and communities across province with a way for young people and their families to celebrate a love of reading through a welcoming and fun program. We are committed more than ever to continue to provide this high quality, engaging, and free hybrid program that is equitable, accessible, and inclusive for all community members and library workers. As more libraries and communities face challenges caused by inflation, the climate crisis, and staffing limitations, we will continue to work alongside our public libraries and their communities to ensure all children and their families are able to continue to read for fun, engage with their peers, and build lasting connections with their libraries. And lastly, BC SRC continues to review and analyze our work through evidence-based evaluative practices, seek ways to meaningfully lead the program, support library staff, and meet the needs of families and communities across British Columbia.

"The kids really enjoyed the activities and that translated into happier and more active children. We saw a lot of children striving hard to fill up their reading log so they could receive their stickers and prizes, and there were hundreds of books taken out by our summer reading club participants throughout the program. We are seeing a lot more patrons visiting our library when they find out that we offer so much more than just books. Word of mouth is a huge part of our community and very often we will see that people are curious to see our library and are surprised to find out that we are a very unique literary establishment."
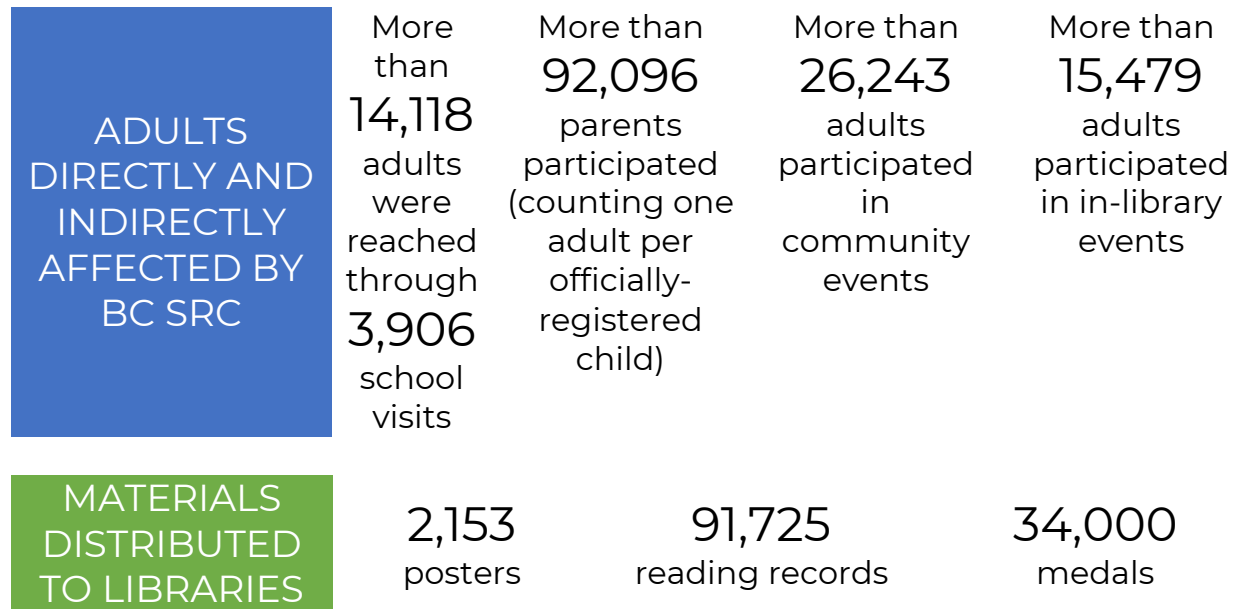
From Chetwynd Public Library Staff

The BC SRC 2023 Report was prepared by:

Rina Hadziev, BCLA Executive Director
Stephanie Usher, BC SRC, Provincial Coordinator

Appendix A: BC Summer Reading Club 2023 by the Numbers

PARTICIPATION

71
BC libraries participated

9,794*
children registered online
7,154 also opted to pick up a Reading Record

7,873
parents registered online

133,684
reading entries logged online

89,489
children registered in-person

120,702
children participated in class visits

39,253
children participated in community events

57,471
children attended in-house library events

92,096
children registered in the BC SRC (online & in-person)

PARENT & CAREGIVER SURVEY RESPONSES

91%
of respondents indicated their children completed their SRC reading goals

80%
of respondents *strongly agree* and *agree* that their children felt included in the program and/or library-related events

80%
of respondents *strongly agree* and *agree* that their children built up their reading confidence this summer

78%
of respondents *strongly agree* or *agree* that their children felt connected to a reading community this summer through SRC

ADULTS DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY AFFECTED BY BC SRC	More than 14,118 adults were reached through 3,906 school visits	More than 92,096 parents participated (counting one adult per officially-registered child)	More than 26,243 adults participated in community events	More than 15,479 adults participated in in-library events
MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED TO LIBRARIES	2,153 posters	91,725 reading records	34,000 medals	

Appendix B: Registration Numbers by Library System

LIBRARY SYSTEM	CHILDREN REGISTERED IN-PERSON	CHILDREN REGISTERED THROUGH ONLINE READING TRACKER AND DID NOT PICK UP RR	COMBINED TOTAL
Alert Bay Public Library	0	1	1
Beaver Valley Public LIbrary	39	1	40
Bowen Island Public Library	124	2	126
Burnaby Public	7,279	264	7,543
Burns Lake Public Library	88	0	88
Cariboo Regional District Library	196	14	210
Castlegar & District Public Library	180	6	186
Chetwynd Public Library	44	5	49
Coquitlam Public Library	4,370	52	4,422
Cranbrook Public Library	456	20	476
Creston Valley Public Library	92	3	95
Dawson Creek Municipal Public Library	550	0	550
Elkford Public Library	44	2	46
Fernie Heritage Library	20	10	30
Fort Nelson Public Library	101	0	101
Fort St. John Public Library	358	11	369
Fort St. James Public Library	20	0	20
Fraser Lake Public Library Association	70	0	70

Fraser Valley Regional Library	11,721	38	11,759
Gibsons & District Public Library	225	7	232
Grand Forks & District Public Library	85	0	85
Granisle Public Library	21	0	21
Greater Victoria Public Library	9,567	44	9,611
Greenwood Public Library	16	0	16
Hazelton District Public Library	92	0	92
Houston Public Library	56	0	56
Hudson's Hope Public Library	44	0	44
Invermere Public Library	150	0	150
Kaslo & District Public Library	61	0	61
Kimberley Public Library	82	4	86
Kitimat Public Library	54	7	61
Lillooet Area Library Association	28	1	29
Mackenzie Public Library	15	0	15
McBride & District Public Library	49	0	49
Midway Public Library	11	0	11
Nakusp Public Library	50	0	50
Nelson Public Library	156	1	157
New Westminster Public Library	1,513	26	1,539
North Vancouver City Library	979	53	1,032
North Vancouver District Public Library	3,766	24	3,790
Okanagan Regional Library	7,013	134	7,147
Pemberton & District Public Library	150	0	150

Pender Island Public Library	66	0	66
Penticton Public Library	173	4	177
Port Moody Public Library	1,208	1	1,209
Pouce Coupe Library	23	0	23
Powell River Public Library	122	2	124
Prince George Public Library	750	0	750
Prince Rupert Public Library	96	0	96
Radium Hot Springs Public Library	77	0	77
Richmond Public Library	3,397	117	3,514
Rossland Public Library Association	29	0	29
Salmo Public Library	42	4	46
Salt Spring Island Public Library	117	8	125
Sechelt Public Library	125	1	126
Smithers Public Library	130	0	130
Sparwood Public Library	63	0	63
Squamish Public Library	475	1	476
Stewart Public Library	12	0	12
Surrey Libraries	15,835	422	16,257
Taylor Public Library	28	0	28
Telkwa Reading Centre	35	0	35
Terrace Public Library	362	1	363
Thompson-Nicola Regional Library	1377	35	1,412
Trail & District Public Library	20	0	20
Valemount Public Library	10	0	10
Vancouver Island Regional Library	4,923	373	5,296

Vancouver Public Library	8,052	895	8,947
Vanderhoof Public Library	183	1	184
West Vancouver Memorial Library	1,535	9	1,544
Whistler Public Library	289	3	292
TOTAL REGISTRATIONS:	**89,489**	**2,607**	**92,096**

Appendix C: Financial Summary 2023 BC Summer Reading Club

Statement of Expenses

Artist, Graphic Design	$8,320
Online Reading Tracker/Website	$3,000
Coordinator Salary	$10,500
Assistant Salary	$2,100
Website and Online Tracker Hosting	$2,000
Merchandise (t-shirts, hats, tattoos)	$1,500
Print Materials & Distribution	$45,200
BC Library Conference	$2,500
Evaluation and Survey	$2,500
TOTAL	**$77,620**

Statement of Revenue

Ministry of Municipal Affairs	$65,000
Province of British Columbia Covid-19 Relief and Recovery Grant*	$100,000
BC Library Association (salary in-kind)	$5,000
TOTAL	**$170,000**

*This grant is to be spent over the course of several years

Appendix D: The Full BC Summer Reading Club 2023 Team

Our heartfelt thanks go out to these individuals for helping making BC SRC 2023 possible:

Stephanie Usher, BC SRC, Provincial Coordinator
Sabrina Gurniak, BC SRC, Provincial Assistant
Jennie Castleton and Surrey Libraries, Committee Co-Chair
Kate Wood, Committee Co-Chair
Mehjabeen Ali and Surrey Libraries, Content Creator
Kelly Savage and Vancouver Public Library, Content Creator
Erin Crowley 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
Lauren Achtem, Graphic Designer
James Matsuba, Online Reading Tracker App Developer
Mari Martin, Director, Public Libraries Branch, Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Adrienne Wass, Library Consultant, Public Libraries Branch, Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Karen Ranalletta, CUPE BC, President
Leigh Anne Palmer and the staff, InterLINK
Angie Ayupova, BCLA, Manager
Cynthia Ford, BCLA, Project Coordinator
Rina Hadziev, BCLA, Executive Director