



# BC Summer Reading Club 2022: Final Community Report

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## Executive Summary

Since 1990, BC Summer Reading Club has been a time-honoured tradition for children and their families, as well as public library workers across the province. In the summer of 2022, the program was successfully delivered to 71 public libraries in British Columbia and registered over 82,000 individual children through our hybrid model. With our theme, *All Together Now*, libraries were able to engage with their participants and support recovery of their communities from the ongoing challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. We saw an increase in library programs, class visits, and community outreach events and received feedback on the various ways BC SRC brings communities together. We are proud of the wonderful work and commitment that libraries demonstrated, especially in the ways that they celebrated and uplifted their participants and their reading achievements this summer.

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*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 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.*

**From Vancouver Island Regional Library**

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BC Summer Reading Club is committed to continually increasing the inclusivity and accessibility of our program for participants and facilitators. Over the years, we have made ongoing improvements to ensure that libraries have the tools and resources to provide a high level of programming that best meets the needs of their individual communities. With the passing of the Accessible British Columbia Act, we are confident that we can create more training opportunities and continue to support accessible programming options that best align with the values of the Province, public libraries, and the BC Library Association. We are thrilled to receive financial support for these ongoing initiatives from the BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Public Libraries Branch and look forward to creating an even better BC SRC experience for the children and families of British Columbia.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs: 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.

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*I loved meeting all of the incredible SRC participants this summer! Each one had something unique about them that really showed me the variety of people in our little community. I noticed the wonderful emphasis on inclusion of all kinds of people, with different family dynamics, cultural backgrounds, learning styles, and so much more. The accommodations and alternative language provided in the manual hit a special place in my heart, especially considering gender-neutral language. I also loved to see encouragement to acknowledge the lands we live on.*

**From Creston Valley Public Library**

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## Our Funders

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

The BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs provided a \$65,000 grant, as well as one additional Learning Grant (\$5,000) to generously fund the print materials, online experience, and operations for the program. In the summer of 2022, BC SRC also received a onetime \$100,000 Accessibility Initiatives grant to continue to broaden and deepen accessibility in all aspects of the BC Summer Reading Club over the next several years. Together over the years, we have created an equitable, accessible, and inclusive program for young readers and their families. We thank the Province for continuing to support this community-based literacy program for children and their families across the province.

### CUPE BC

The British Columbia Library Association is honoured to continue to partner with CUPE BC through their continued support of BC SRC, now entering its fourth year. CUPE BC generously contributed \$50,000 to ensure that BC SRC and public libraries across the province could provide medals to children as they celebrate their BC SRC accomplishments.

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*We are honoured to continue our partnership with the BC Library Association as the lead sponsor of the Summer Reading Club medals. In an ever-changing and increasingly complex world, literacy and reading opens minds to new ideas, and allows us to share knowledge and understanding. We are proud to support this indispensable program that helps young readers improve their reading skills, discover and expand their love for stories and learning, and experience the incredible value libraries offer to our communities. Our members working in libraries across the province are excited to support this program in their community, and we know their work will help make Summer Reading Club 2023 a great success.*

**Karen Ranalletta, CUPE BC President**

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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.

## BC SRC 2022 Theme and Artwork



Image Caption: A sample of this year's artwork featuring all the characters.

In 2020, during the great uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, BC library workers voted for our 2022 theme, *All Together Now*. As the theme suggests, this year we celebrated community and connections. Vancouver-based illustrator

and video game artist, Elaine Chen, was able to bring the theme to life through her beautiful and bright artwork featuring children from diverse backgrounds and with diverse abilities participating in various activities loosely tied to our weekly subthemes. Inspired by a quilt that she was gifted, Elaine wanted to capture the ways we all come together and how our stories can bring comfort and connection.

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*I saw a lot of kids having fun working together on projects, making friends, and getting out to engage with the community. This year's theme was very positive and I think its values were embodied well in how the kids interacted with one another.*

**From Nakusp Public Library**

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## What was New in 2022

### Provincial Assistant Role

In February 2022, BC SRC created a new position to help with the growing needs of the program and hired its first Provincial Assistant, Madeline Ewanyshyn, to an eight-month contract. In their role, Madeline created online content, including activity videos, quizzes, literacy challenges, as well as posted weekly content on our Instagram account. Furthermore, Madeline provided administrative support and oversaw online contests, and helped caregivers navigate any questions or problems throughout the summer. We anticipate the role will continue to evolve with the program, much like the role of the Provincial Coordinator has done.

### BC SRC Online Reading Tracker

While there has been a gradual decrease in online participation as libraries begin to offer pre-pandemic levels of service, the online tracker still provides an accessible option for participants who require an alternative way to participate in the program. With this in mind, as part of our ongoing work expanding the accessibility of BC SRC, new features were added to the online reading tracker to add more functions for participants, caregivers, and library staff. BC SRC worked alongside a developer and interviewed select library systems across the province to better understand what features and functions would benefit their libraries and communities. Alongside the library feedback, the tracker underwent a design update, utilizing the expertise of a UX/UI designer to create a more user-friendly design.

The new public-facing features include:

- New login/sign-up pages and navigation menu



- Announcement page to welcome participants and advertise library events and BC SRC events
- Literacy tips for caregivers, including directing users with print disabilities to CELA and NNELS for resources
- SRC themed booklists and a link to the local library catalogue (based on the information provided at sign-up about the participant's home library)
- Contact page for BC SRC and local library
- French language translation tool

Features were also added for library staff. They now have an administrative area where they can access their registration statistics, including exporting reports and school data to track the reach of their school visits. Furthermore, libraries are able to customize and update their welcome messages and announcements for their local participants and caregivers. This allows libraries to promote programs, contests, and resources that best meet the needs of their individual communities.

### Accessibility Toolkit

With the implementation of the Accessible British Columbia Act, libraries will need to evaluate and ensure the accessibility of their libraries and programs. BC SRC is no exception, and as starting place we have developed an Accessibility Toolkit that features resources and articles on accessibility and inclusion that would be useful to library practitioners, especially those involved with their own SRC programming. Some examples of resources include making accessible graphic design content, creating inclusive SRC/children's programs, and more. The Toolkit is an evolving resource that will serve library staff for years to come.

### BC Library Conference Session

Following in 2021's footsteps, BC SRC hosted a session at this year's virtual BC Library Conference. A conference session is an engaging way for BC SRC to share information and build support in a large audience, including an extended audience of library workers who are not directly involved with SRC.

- Session Title: *All Together Now: What's New for BC SRC 2022*
- Presented by:
  - BC SRC Provincial Coordinator, Stephanie Usher
  - BC SRC Provincial Assistant, Madeline Ewanyshyn
  - BC SRC Co-Chairs Alicia Dobbs (New Westminster Public Library) and Jennie Castleton (Surrey Libraries)
- Session notes:
  - Promoted this year's BC SRC program and what changes libraries could expect
  - Previewed the changes for the online reading tracker
  - Answered a variety of questions from library staff

## Goals, Metrics, and Outcomes for BC SRC 2022

BC Summer Reading Club is guided by 4 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: <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 club makes it easy to promote reading in our community. Kids are always excited about the materials inside the package and -- of course -- the medals they earn at the end of the summer. BC SRC rewards hard work/determination so that kids feel a real sense of accomplishment if they meet their reading goals. The club also promotes family togetherness in that it encourages parents (and other members of the family) to act in support of children by either reading with them, or reminding them to read, update their booklets, place stickers, etc. In addition, the club is so popular that I think parents and kids enjoy the sense of being connected to a larger community of readers.*

**From Coquitlam Public Library**

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As a note, many of the outputs for this year are continuations from previous years and we hope to see this evolve as we begin to put more funding towards additional accessibility initiatives for the coming years.

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 SRC Manual by Dr. Tess Prendergast, UBC iSchool Instructor</li> <li>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</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></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>82,002 BC children and their families had a free, high-quality, fun summer experience available through local libraries and online at <a href="http://bcsrc.ca">bcsrc.ca</a>, including print materials and online activities</li> <li>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, booklists, and online activities, and the reframing of success by allowing participants to set their own reading goals</li> <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> </ul>

	<p>pamphlet available in 39 languages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Created dyslexia friendly adaptations for some supplemental print materials</li> <li>• Promoted an inclusive program through representational artwork</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, contests, and more, based on the annual theme voted by libraries: All Together Now (community and connection)</li> <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>• Over 82,000 children connected with the BC SRC and their local summer libraries in over 200 communities across BC</li> <li>• 47,519 children participated in 2,651 SRC related programs at their local libraries; 15,127 adults were also reached through these programs</li> <li>• Children logged over 128,000 online reading entries were throughout the summer</li> <li>• 78% of respondents in the Parent and Caregiver Survey indicated their children read more this summer</li> <li>• 84% of respondents in the Parent and Caregiver Survey indicated their children built up their reading confidence this summer</li> <li>• 88% of respondents in the Parent and Caregiver Survey indicated their children completed their reading goals this summer</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 33,500 participants received celebratory/completion medals</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 connect participants and caregivers to their local library</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>• 73% 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>• 86% of respondents to the Parent and Caregiver Survey borrowed materials from their local library</li> <li>• 469 community outreach events and 478 partnerships and community connections were developed through local libraries across the province to help promote BC SRC in their communities, reaching 24,935 children and their families</li> <li>• 85,133 children and 7,089 adults connected with their local public library through 2,547 in-person and virtual class visits</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 the annual manual, report card stuffers, information brochures,</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</li> </ul>

	<p>graphics, and more to successfully run the program, including virtual activities and programming options via the staff website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accommodated and supported one public library system who lost their SRC materials due to flooding</li> <li>• Worked with 5 BC public library systems to create the Annual BC SRC Manual to support library systems all over the province</li> <li>• Created an online tutorial for how to utilize new functions and features of the BC SRC Online Reading Tracker, including the new staff backend dashboard</li> <li>• Hosted a BC Library Conference presentation that captured what to expect for BC SRC 2022</li> <li>• Created an Accessibility Toolkit with resources and articles for library staff</li> <li>• Supported the Community Story Award</li> </ul>	<p>BC SRC Manual and BC SRC staff website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 84,950 reading records were delivered to libraries across BC and to external provinces, including 1,900 additional records for the flooded library system</li> <li>• Libraries exported their online registration data, including school reports, to meet their own needs</li> <li>• Over 100 views for the Online Tracker tutorial</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 session with 119 attendees and 20 resources on the Accessibility Toolkit</li> <li>• Communities shared 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 add to their professional development</li> </ul>
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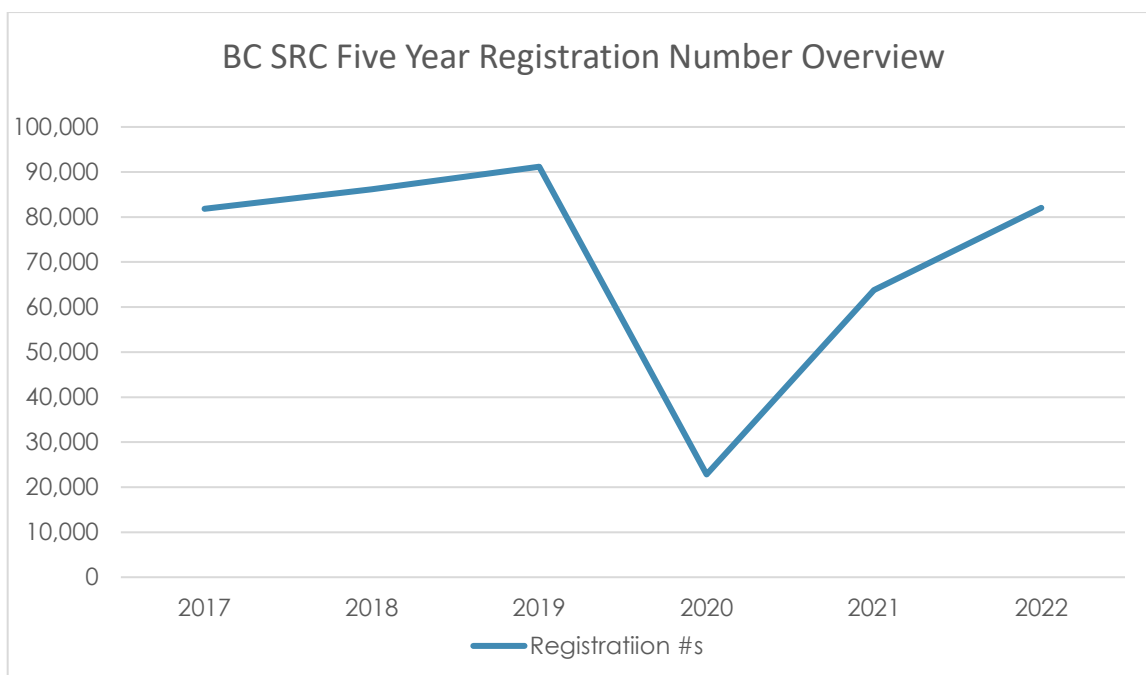
*SRC provides a great way for families to continue a habit of reading throughout the summer. Library programming associated with SRC adds fun and joy, while also providing some structure and programming for many families who don't necessarily have the ability to send their children to paid camps or activities in the summer months. It helps keep reading fun, which is one of the best ways to encourage reading.*

**From Thompson Nicola Regional Library**

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## Overview of BC SRC Registration

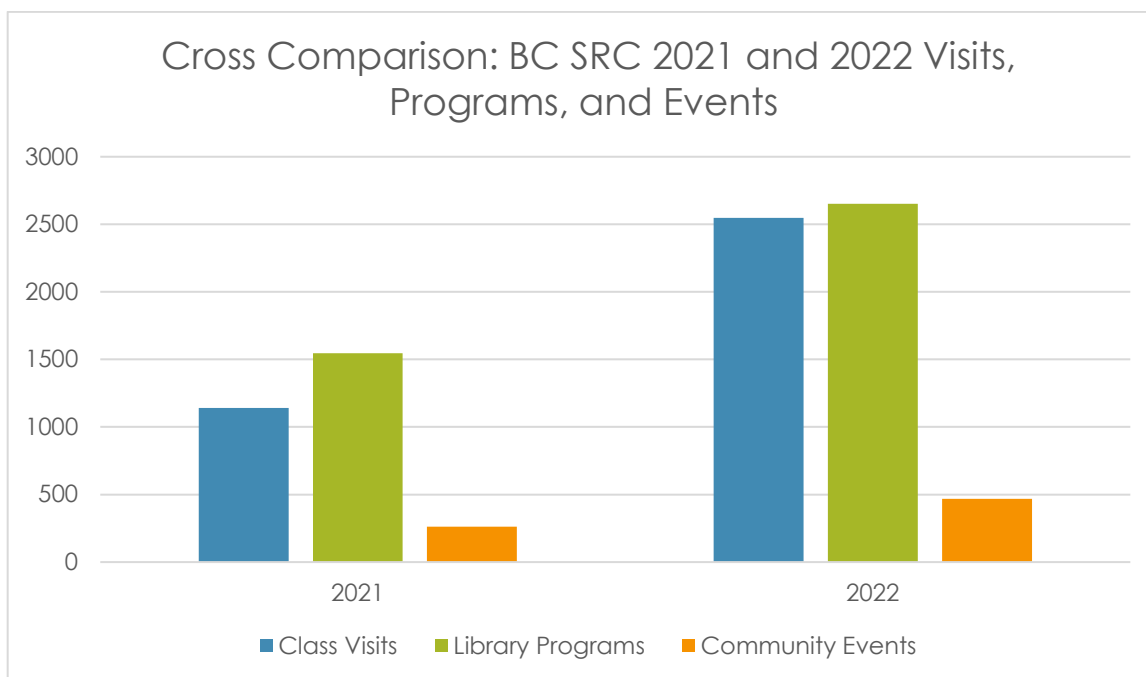
BC SRC's registration numbers continue to rise since 2020, where the programs registration numbers were greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In this year's Annual Staff Survey, more libraries reported to returning back to previous pre-pandemic levels of SRC programs and services, such as school visits and outreach events. While libraries and therefore SRC programming is still recovering from the pandemic, this year's registration numbers were slightly higher than 2017 numbers.



Graph 1: An overview of how BC SRC registration numbers have grown and were impacted by a global pandemic between 2017 to 2022.

In 2019, BC SRC reported its highest registration numbers with 91,169 participants registered across the province. The numbers were reduced by almost 75% with the onset of the pandemic but there has been a gradual restoration of participation with each passing year since then. There was an over 28% increase from 2021, with 82,002 participants registered in 2022; overall 41 libraries reported increases to their registration numbers.

Historically, one of the most effective ways that libraries promote SRC in their communities is through class visits at their local elementary schools. With no class visits in 2020, many kindergarten students would not have received an introduction to SRC, which may have caused a lack of SRC awareness for our target first-time participants and their families. As a result, these families would not have built a connection with the program and their local library if they had not already been regular users. For the past two years, libraries have been working towards building those connections and finding ways to engage with these families. With fewer COVID-19 restrictions in 2021, there was an increase of class visits and library programs, and registration nearly tripled from 2020 numbers. There was an over 55% increase in class visits in 2022, from 1141 mostly virtual visits in 2021 to 2547 visits this year, with many being in-person class visits. Furthermore, there was more than double the library programs and community outreach visits in 2022. The reintroduction of in-person class visits, library programs, and community events demonstrates the impact of these initiatives through the corresponding 28% increase in registration numbers. These are important tools in forming connections with children and families.





Graph 2: An overview of the increases in class visits, library programs, and community events between 2021 and 2022.

For libraries that reported no increases in participation (either decreased registration or numbers staying the same), they attributed it to the following: unable to do school visits, staff turnover/capacity issues, limited programs, high fuel costs, and more families spending time out of town. The limitations on staff capacity, whether caused by turnover or simply a lack of available workers, had a ripple effect and impacted how many programs, class visits, or community events a library system could host. This was most noticeable with smaller library systems if they only have one children's programmer and/or relied on summer student work programs. High fuel costs and inflation has greatly impacted families across the province and the drive to the local library has become too costly for many. Most libraries reporting this as a barrier are serving communities that lack high-speed internet connections and reliable public transportation, making it challenging for kids and families to participate in the program both in-person and online. In contrast, we also heard that, with COVID-19 restrictions lifting, more families spent time away from their communities this summer. We suspect they may not have been aware that they could participate online and/or visit other libraries in the summer for stickers and borrow materials through the BC OneCard.

Although participation is on the rise and we hope to match our registration numbers of 2019 again in future, there may need to be additional efforts such as those outlined below in order to see that level of engagement in 2023:

- Advertising/promotional campaign via social media and other outlets – help build awareness for the programs and directly reach caregivers and families who may not be regular library users
- Encourage school visits – support and encourage libraries to make it back into classrooms and/or ensure libraries are sending backpack flyers home; create opportunities for libraries to share class visit strategies; and promote summer student programs to libraries to ensure staffing is available
- Advocate for more community outreach and partnerships – support libraries in building relationships with their communities to connect with underserved or underrepresented families who could benefit from programs like BC SRC

These initiatives would create more community awareness of BC SRC and allow libraries to utilize a community-led approach by seeking out families and communities of non-library users. Not only would the registration numbers increase, but the program could help create new library users and promote values of lifelong learning and inclusion that are integral in our local public libraries.

## Registration 2022

As aforementioned, BC SRC had an increase in registration numbers for 2022, bringing the program closer to its pre-pandemic numbers. Notably, the overall registration on the online tracker has decreased with more libraries returning to in-person programming.

### Participation Highlights

- 71 BC libraries participated
- 79,218 children registered in-person
- 9,463\* children registered online; 6,689\* also opted to pick up a reading record
- 85,133 children participated in class visits
- 7,823 parents registered online
- 24,935 children participated in community events
- 128,247 reading entries logged online
- 47,519 children attended in-house library events

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*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 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.*

**From Vancouver Island Regional Library**

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LIBRARY SYSTEM	CHILDREN REGISTERED IN-PERSON/ CURBSIDE	CHILDREN REGISTERED IN ONLINE READING TRACKER AND DID NOT PICK UP RR	COMBINED TOTAL
Alert Bay Public Library	2	2	4
Beaver Valley Public Library	11	1	13

Bowen Island Public Library	101	0	101
Burnaby Public	6,397	407	6,804
Burns Lake Public Library	123	0	123
Cariboo Regional District Library	197	1	198
Castlegar & District Public Library	161	5	166
Chetwynd Public Library	87	0	87
Coquitlam Public Library	4,321	64	4,385
Cranbrook Public Library	391	10	401
Creston Valley Public Library	70	0	70
Dawson Creek Municipal Public Library	541	2	543
Elkford	17	3	20
Fernie Heritage Library	61	10	71
Fort Nelson Public Library	50	0	50
Fort St. John Public Library	443	27	470
Fort St. James Public Library	15	0	15
Fraser Lake Public Library Association	25	1	26
Fraser Valley Regional Library	10,832	75	10,907
Gibsons & District Public Library	180	1	181
Grand Forks & District Public Library	120	0	120
Granisle Public Library	26	0	26
Greater Victoria Public Library	7,772	102	7,874

Greenwood Public Library	13	0	13
Hazelton District Public Library	56	0	56
Houston Public Library	57	0	57
Hudson's Hope Public Library	13	6	19
Invermere Public Library	102	1	103
Kaslo & District Public Library	40	1	41
Kimberley Public Library	16	0	16
Kitimat Public Library	63	0	63
Lillooet Area Library Association	83	0	83
Mackenzie Public Library	19	2	21
McBride & District Public Library	27	0	27
Midway Public Library	13	0	13
Nakusp Public Library	35	3	38
Nelson Public Library	98	5	103
New Westminster Public Library	1,542	36	1,578
North Vancouver City Library	608	61	661
North Vancouver District Public Library	3,042	35	3,077
Okanagan Regional Library	6,589	91	6,680
Pemberton & District Public Library	77	0	77
Pender Island Public Library	55	2	57

Penticton Public Library	171	8	179
Port Moody Public Library	1,338	8	1,346
Pouce Coupe Library	26	0	26
Powell River Public Library	98	8	106
Prince George Public Library	600	5	605
Prince Rupert Public Library	95	0	95
Radium Hot Springs Public Library	54	0	54
Richmond Public Library	3,326	166	3,492
Roseland Public Library Association	84	0	84
Salmo Public Library	62	6	68
Salt Spring Island Public Library	52	2	54
Sechelt Public Library	47	0	47
Smithers Public Library	84	1	85
Sparwood Public Library	50	1	51
Squamish Public Library	250	2	252
Stewart Public Library	23	3	26
Surrey Libraries	13,075	486	13,561
Taylor Public Library	21	0	21
Telkwa Reading Centre	28	0	8
Terrace Public Library	273	1	274
Thompson-Nicola Regional Library	1,237	15	1,252
Trail & District Public Library	10	0	10

Valemount Public Library	24	3	27
Vancouver Island Regional Library	4,930	34	4,964
Vancouver Public Library	6,870	1,037	7,907
Vanderhoof Public Library	114	0	114
West Vancouver Memorial Library	1,519	40	1,559
Whistler Public Library	266	4	270
<b>TOTAL REGISTRATIONS:</b>	<b>79,218</b>	<b>2,784</b>	<b>82,002</b>

## Reach

The program is currently run in every public library system in the province with the exception of the Tumbler Ridge Public Library, which participates in the TD Summer Reading Club. BC SRC continues to maintain its relationship with the Yellowknife Public Library and Nunavut Public Library Association, where six branches participated in the program.

Within British Columbia, there were 2,651 SRC related events in public libraries with 47,519 children participating in activities.

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*Parents reported that their children were excited to attend the program to see friends they made outside of their typical schoolmates. They also reported that because of the reading logs and stickers, they were more motivated to read and often took the initiative upon themselves to do so. I would say the most significant value and benefit that the BC SRC brings to our library and community is friendliness and collaboration.*

**From Smithers Public Library**

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## Online Experience

BC SRC continued to offer its online reading tracker and various online activities on the public facing website. The virtual activities included:



- Weekly activity videos for each sub-theme that included adaptations for younger and older participants
- Downloadable activity and colouring sheets
- Weekly quizzes
- Weekly caption contest
- Spot the difference contest
- 49 challenges
- Ask the Artist livestream event with 2022 BC SRC Artist, Elaine Chen

## Community Outreach

Every year, children's librarians head out into their communities to promote BC Summer Reading Club at local schools, events, and more. We saw a dramatic increase in community outreach events as most libraries returned to pre-pandemic levels of service.

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*Our participants were delighted to be together at community events again. Parents and caregivers were really grateful for the programs - for themselves as well as their children. Adults were enthusiastic participants, engaging in activities alongside the kids. This was a great opportunity for us to re-connect with the community and for community members to renew relationships with each other. Kids got to know staff a little better and have seemed more comfortable asking for help when visiting the Library.*

**From Penticton Public Library**

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In 2022, BC libraries made 2,547 class visits that reached 85,133 students and 7,089 adults. We also saw 24,935 children and 12,291 adults reached in 469 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.

## Community Story Award

For almost a decade, BC SRC has been awarding a Community Story Award to honour the different ways that local libraries use the program to connect with their community. While we tend to focus on numbers and statistics to illustrate

the success of the program, it is the stories that truly demonstrate the impact that local libraries have in their communities.

This year, we were thrilled to present this year's award to Mel Edgar and the Powell River Public Library for how they brought the spirit of *Crack the Case* to their community through a summer long mystery. While the pandemic has changed the ways libraries share Summer Reading Club with their communities, so many libraries have gone outdoors to ensure that children and families could still find ways to safely connect and participate in the program. Mel's story exemplifies how PRPL truly ran with the mystery theme and took it to the next level. Through their "Plant Your Undies" program, the PRPL team incorporated *Crack the Case* with the outdoors and STEM programming, all with a delightful sense of humour and curiosity to enrich the community's summer. Through this program, they were able to engage participants throughout the summer and incorporated the local community garden on this entertaining science experiment.

### About Mel Edgar



Mel Edgar is the Teen Services Coordinator at the Powell River Public Library on the traditional territory of the Tla'amin Nation. She has many degrees, including a PhD in archaeology, and soon an MLIS from the University of Alberta. A life-long learner, Mel is curious about the how and why of things, and looks forward to bringing yet more inventive STEM activities into the library.

Image caption: Mel Edgar looking afar to *Crack the Case*!

### Plant Your Undies at the Powell River Public Library

By Mel Edgar, Powell River Public Library

I would hazard a guess that many kids (and adults) think the word "undies" is pretty funny – but did you know underwear could be an important part of scientific discovery, community connection, AND Summer Reading Club fun?!

#### **"Plant Your Undies?"**

In 2021, PRPL was still planning for their second remote delivery of SRC. In planning for our program of remote activities, we were searching for something special, something engaging that would set the tone for the entire Summer

Reading Club. We were also looking for a fun AND attainable STEM activity for the wide age range of youth who attend Summer Reading Club. “Plant your Undies” involved more than just underwear – it met so many elements of the 2021 theme *Crack the Case!*, as well as, the goals of BC Summer Reading Club, which is to get kids excited about books are reading! Not only that, but it incorporated an ACTUAL science experiment inspired by the Soil Conservation Council of Canada (SCCC).

### **Tell Me More About “Plant Your Undies”!**

- **STEM:** [“Plant your Undies” combines patience with science](#), a necessary component of detective work and science!
- **Outside & Active:** “Plant your Undies” got kids outside and doing something physical with their families, and in connection with the community—in a safe way. This was a crucial component after so much isolation during the pandemic.
- **Funny & An Instant Hit:** A humorous first activity also set an energetic tone for Summer Reading Club. Chloe Gruenhage, our Summer Reading Club Assistant, hit it out of the park with her [pre-recorded “undie planting” video](#), which she screened at our Summer Reading Club virtual launch. We had so many positive comments about Chloe’s work and her inclusion of her dog Shiloh as her assistant!
- **Maintaining Interest:** We also found that the introduction of a “bookmark” activity at the beginning of Summer Reading Club that is then revisited seven weeks later at the end of SRC worked fantastically. Interest remained high throughout in what was happening to everyone’s undies!
- **Community Connection:** Community gardens loved being asked to participate in a library activity, this created fertile ground for further library-garden cooperation. An early response to a first query returned “TOO FUNNY! Of course, we have room at both Commons’ for soiled undies! As one of my colleagues said, ‘If we plant them under a fruit tree then we’d have ‘Fruit of the Loom’.”
- **Marketable & Attention Getting:** The underwear activity attracted some local news attention, with a local community gardener speculating on the possibility of “underwear trees.”



Image Caption: Chloe Gruenhage goes over the soil science with her assistant Shiloh in the final week's SRC Activity, Dig Up Your Undies! (Source: [PRPL YouTube](#))

### Take Note

- **Soil Conservation Council of Canada (SCCC):** [Jim Tokarchuk](#), the Executive Director of SCCC and is a FANTASTIC PERSON to connect with. He is accessible via email or phone and since the activity has corporate sponsorship at the SCCC (Stanfield's) he can also connect you with size XL Cotton Y-Fronts if needed. He'd also like feedback on how the experiment went!
- **Sourcing Undies:** PRPL decided that XL cotton Y-Fronts might not be the right look for SRC, and set about sourcing 100 pairs of (affordable!) 100% cotton undies. What a fun challenge and doable!
- **White Undies for Science:** PRPL didn't succeed on finding all white undies, but the differential rate of decomposition of varying colours proved to be an interesting additional scientific variable.
- **Prepping the Undies:** All undies must be washed (unscented laundry detergent) before burial. Fold and count those undies!

Undies were planted at the start of Summer Reading Club, hypotheses developed, and then explored seven weeks later at the end of SRC when the undies were [dug up](#) ... with intriguing results! Side note: PRPL's teen coordinator Mel Edgar also became known as the "underwear lady" around town for her enthusiastic coordination of community connection in relation to this activity. As official underwear lady, I would like to nominate Powell River Public Library (PRPL) for the SRC Community Story Award for 2022, for their "Plant your Undies" Summer Reading Club activity inspired by the Soil Conservation Council of Canada.

## Planning Committee

Every year, BC SRC is made possible by a dedicated team of library workers across the province. This year's co-chairs, Alicia Dobbs (New Westminster Public Library) and Jennie Castleton (Surrey Libraries) are seasoned SRC veterans and they were able to lend their expertise for this year's program. Together with four other library systems as content creators, the team created this year's annual BC SRC manual. Dr. Tess Prendergast (UBC's School of Information) continued to work with BC SRC and conducted an annual inclusion review to ensure that this year's programs were welcoming to all.

The Manual is an incredible tool for many of library staff across the province and it helps build capacity for those libraries with limited resources. It continues to be an invaluable resource that helps support BC libraries and the Summer Reading Club.

## The Full BC Summer Reading Club 2022 Team

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to these individuals for helping making BC SRC 2022 possible:

Stephanie Usher, [BC SRC](#), Provincial Coordinator  
Madeline Ewanyshyn, [BC SRC](#), Provincial Assistant  
Alicia Dobbs and [New Westminster Public Library](#), Committee Co-Chair and Content Creator  
Jennie Castleton and [Surrey Libraries](#), Committee Co-Chair  
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  
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](#)  
Michael Burris and the staff, [InterLINK](#)  
Angie Ayupova, [BCLA](#), Manager  
Cynthia Ford, [BCLA](#), Project Coordinator  
Rina Hadziev, [BCLA](#), Executive Director

## Conclusion

BC Summer Reading Club remains committed to creating a high quality and engaging hybrid program that is equitable, accessible, and inclusive for all community members and library workers. We will continue to work alongside 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. Finally, BC SRC continues to review and analyze our work, seeking ways to meaningfully lead the program, support library staff, and meet the needs of participants and communities across British Columbia.

### **The BC SRC 2022 Report was prepared by:**

Rina Hadziev, BCLA Executive Director

Stephanie Usher, BC SRC, Provincial Coordinator



## Appendix A: BC Summer Reading Club 2022 by the Numbers

### PARTICIPATION

71	9,463*	7,823	128,291
BC libraries participated	children registered online <i>*6,689 also opted to pick up a Reading Record</i>	parents registered online	reading entries logged online
79,118	85,133	24,935	47,519
children registered in-person	children participated in class visits	children participated in community events	children attended in-house library events
82,002			
children registered in the BC SRC (online & in-person)			

### PARENT & CAREGIVER SURVEY RESPONSES

88%	78%	84%	73%
of respondents indicated their children completed their SRC reading goals	of respondents <i>strongly</i> agree and agree that their children read more this summer	of respondents <i>strongly</i> agree and agree that their children built up their reading confidence this summer	of respondents <i>strongly</i> 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  
**7,089**  
adults  
were  
reached  
through  
**2,547**  
school  
visits

More than  
**81,902**  
parents  
participated  
(counting one  
adult per  
officially-  
registered  
child)

More than  
**12,291**  
adults  
participated  
in community  
events

More than  
**15,127**  
adults  
participated  
in in-library  
events

MATERIALS  
DISTRIBUTED  
TO LIBRARIES

**2,097**  
posters

**84,950**  
reading records

**33,500**  
medals

## Appendix B: Feedback from Libraries

Library System	Please describe what you've observed to be the most significant values and benefits the BC SRC brings to your library and your community:
Beaver Valley Public Library	<p>Since the advent of the pandemic and because of our small indoor (and no outdoor space), we opted to promote the online registration and to do a to-go craft bag (themed to the theme of the week in the manual) for all ages. In addition, we also did a book display with the craft bags to encourage additional materials circulation. Over the 7 weeks, we gave out 77 to-go craft bags. It is not ideal, I know but safe distancing indoors would have reduced our numbers to maybe five (5) children at a time, at most...we felt that this was a better way to go and served more children. Fingers crossed we can go back to in-person SRC next summer.</p>
Burns Lake Public Library	<p>I think it is great to bring families in to the library. A number of our participants use the time before the session to pick out books together. Also, having Clive at the sessions was a great way to introduce him to the children since he is part of our "Reading to a Dog" program during the school year.</p>
Cariboo Regional District Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It provides a network for families new to our communities, and new parents, to meet other young parents</li> <li>• Children can continue to work on social and listening skills throughout the summer break</li> <li>• Homeschool children can meet and socialize with other kids their age</li> <li>• The program promotes literacy within the community</li> </ul>
Castlegar & District Public Library	<p>Respect, active listening, patience, personal space, creativity, friends, community</p>
Chetwynd Public Library	<p>The BC SRC brought the kids together especially after the pandemic. They socialized and were very excited to be in the program this year. We had parents tell us that their kids couldn't wait to come to our program every week.</p>

<b>Coquitlam Public Library</b>	<p>The club makes it easy to promote reading in our community. Kids are always excited about the materials inside the package and -- of course -- the medals they earn at the end of the summer. BC SRC rewards hard work / determination so that kids feel a real sense of accomplishment if they meet their reading goals. The club also promotes family togetherness in that it encourages parents (and other members of the family) to act in support of children by either reading with them, or reminding them to read, update their booklets, place stickers, etc. In addition, the club is so popular that I think parents and kids enjoy the sense of being connected to a larger community of readers.</p> <p>From a personal standpoint, I am thankful that the club remains neutral, independent and unaffiliated with business.</p>
<b>Cranbrook Public Library</b>	Brings more kids to the library over the summer months, some for the first time.
<b>Creston Valley Public Library</b>	<p>I loved meeting all of the incredible SRC participants this summer! Each one had something unique about them that really showed me the variety of people in our little community. I noticed the wonderful emphasis on inclusion of all kinds of people, with different family dynamics, cultural backgrounds, learning styles, and so much more. The accommodations and alternative language provided in the manual hit a special place in my heart, especially considering gender-neutral language. I also loved to see encouragement to acknowledge the lands we live on.</p>
<b>Dawson Creek Municipal Public Library</b>	<p>The main observation was that everyone was happy to be back to normal. We did get a few sponsors who wanted to come and help out with the event days, this way they saw how much the community enjoys the SRC. Many parents and teachers told us that they were happy to see the kids reading. The kids were very happy to come in and get their reading booklet stamped. Some kids</p>

	came every week and we were able to call them by name and have fun with them.
<b>Elkford Public Library</b>	Participants meet others in their community, engage in different activities, and discover new reading material through SRC. Having a province-wide theme as well as print materials and activity ideas takes some of the burden off of our staff who are coordinating summer reading club.
<b>Fort St John Public Library</b>	It promotes engagement in library programs, literacy, and community connections throughout the summer. We get out in the community for programs and SRC participants engage in new environments, ideas, and activities. A routine built through regular reporting and meeting reading goals allows us to get to know our families more, we can see them often and form a closer relationship through the SRC. Patrons love it, and we love having a general theme and framework to offer programming and events around. It makes it easier to plan, and be consistent in what we offer.
<b>Fort St. James Public Library</b>	<p>Summer Reading Club is a wonderful way to engage with children throughout the summer and promote reading in a fun way. All of our participants this year had such a wonderful time, they were sad it has ended for this year.</p> <p>We had an amazing turn out to the Mary Lambert concert, thank you for everything you do to enhance the Summer Reading Club for our communities.</p>
<b>Fraser Lake Public Library Association</b>	It is a great starting point for building SRC. Having a theme helps student create programmes that incorporate them.
<b>Fraser Valley Regional Library</b>	This year was really positive. The (almost complete) return to in-person was a positive factor for both customers and staff. For staff, we've been able to streamline the club because this was our 'restart' from the behemoth it was pre-covid. I received feedback from both staff and customers that in-person is more meaningful and interactive than online.

<b>Gibsons &amp; District Public Library</b>	Getting kids excited about reading through the summer months.
<b>Grand Forks and District Public Library</b>	A sense of excitement about coming to the library. The thrill of signing up for library cards and being able to check books out. The sense of accomplishment in finishing their reading records and earning stickers and a medal.
<b>Granisle Public Library</b>	BC SRC brings activities to the library for the youth to attend in a community with no other entertainment available. As an added benefit they read for the opportunity to earn ballots for prizes chosen by themselves and their peers as well as "Grand Prize" at the end of the summer. Develops habits of reading and reading to those that cannot yet read themselves.
<b>Greenwood Public Library</b>	<p>Brings the children into the library, a few kids only read books at school and were shocked to find out their town has a library (parents signed them up and are not regular library patrons)</p> <p>Brings the homeschooling community together with the traditional school kids!</p>
<b>Hazleton District Public Library</b>	<p>We were unsure how to count the hundreds of people who attended community events such as Pioneer Day. We instead only counted people who came by our craft table (Pride Day) or face-painting booth. The children who came into the library to claim their Treasure Hunt prize would already have been counted at the Face-painting booth, so we did not count them again.</p> <p>At our medal ceremony, we put up a comment board and asked facilitators, children and adults to tell us what they liked about our Summer Reading Clubs and what they would like to see in the future. It is a simple, non-threatening way to collect feedback.</p> <p>Several people chose to simply talk to us rather than write things down. Some adults said providing the clubs in various communities was the best thing we did.</p>



	<p>I spoke to one mother of a 13 year old boy who said he was interested in our library programs, and used to participate in SRC and other programs, especially our STEM programming, She said lately his friends often dissuaded him from participating. We agreed to talk again to determine special areas of interest for boys his age. I believe this shows an enduring impact of our SRCs, Having direct conversations about teens' programming preferences will help us offer the right kind of programs for them. This conversation Probably would not have happened without the SRC events. The son comes into the library far more often than the mom. SRCs give us a chance to get to know our families better, making it easier to get suggestions for future outreach.</p> <p>Another benefit of SRC comes from reaching children at a young age. We have a better chance of retaining them as library users than we have of recruiting them at a later age.</p> <p>By purposefully using local suppliers as often as possible, we support our community which in return supports us.</p> <p>The Hazelton area is experiencing a large number of newcomers to the community -- not only immigrant families, but families that are relocating from the cities as well. More than one family has said our SRCs have given their children a chance to meet other kids and make friends, hopefully making the transition to a new school easier for them. One family who moved to the area last year came back to say how helpful SRC was to their children and how much they enjoyed the opportunity to go to different clubs throughout the summer this year. As still relatively new to the community, they particularly appreciated the Gitanmaax club that introduced their kids to local Indigenous culture.</p>
Hudson's Hope Public Library	BCSRC really helps with younger engagement in our library and helps kids connect in our

	community, Our SRC clubs provided a platform for kids to connect with others they may not have been able/willing to interact with.
<b>Invermere Public Library</b>	Keeping kids excited to read throughout the summer & having a free, social event each week to meet up & have fun!
<b>Kimberley Public Library</b>	Continuity of a connection to the library and the chance to engage in a fun, sociable and free program during the summer - some children in our community do not have the means to access costly summer camps and activities in the area.
<b>Kitimat Public Library Association</b>	Helped to bridge the gap between the youngest kids and the oldest kids as they got more comfortable with one another
<b>Lillooet Area Library Association</b>	The summer students have an excellent employment experience. The kids really enjoy the programming. We receive a lot of appreciation directly from the kids, and from parents. Our community relies on this free, fun, quality program.
<b>Mackenzie Public Library</b>	Seeing the kids scurry around at the end of each program when it was time to pick out book. I had one child who often would come up as ask to take out one of the books read to them that day in hopes of reading it herself which never failed to put a smile on my face knowing the struggle reading can be to kids how much a book can make a difference
<b>McBride &amp; District Public Library</b>	We have had fewer children participate this year than ever before, but those that did participate loved the reading journey and milestones.
<b>Midway Public Library</b>	This year we were very excited about the amount of reading that happened and how excited the kids were to get together, talk about books and just have fun. There was a great sense of social confidence that developed over our time with them. This also gives kids another interactive activity for them to participate in during the summer where it is sorely needed.
<b>Nakusp Public Library</b>	I saw a lot of kids having fun working together on projects, making friends, and getting out to engage with the community. This year's theme was very positive and I think its values were

	embodied well in how the kids interacted with one another.
<b>Nelson Public Library</b>	Those that participated gave very positive feedback. It is great to provide a FREE service to people in our community!
<b>North Vancouver City Library</b>	This has been a wonderful year, in which we've brought back in person events to our SRC program. We held kick-off and medal ceremonies which were well attended. We held both outdoors on our Civic Plaza, which worked well and we were really lucky with the weather.
<b>North Vancouver District Public Library</b>	It's a real tradition in North Vancouver and it helps us solidify our relationships with schools.
<b>Okanagan Regional Library</b>	<p>We surveyed SRC participants and they maintained or increased their frequency and joy of reading. That's what it's all about!!</p> <p>Caregivers liked incorporating library visits and reading into their summer routine. Almost all surveyed reported SRC increased their visits to the library "a lot more".</p> <p>This summer was really about reconnecting with our communities.</p>
<b>Pemberton &amp; District Public Library</b>	Families commented that it was a fun family based program that encouraged children to read over the summer and helped to foster love of reading.
<b>Penticton Public Library</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our participants were delighted to be together at community events again. Parents and caregivers were really grateful for the programs - for themselves as well as their children. Adults were enthusiastic participants, engaging in activities alongside the kids.</li> <li>• This was a great opportunity for us to re-connect with the community and for community members to renew relationships with each other.</li> <li>• Kids were really proud of their reading achievements and eager to talk about their reading.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kids got to know staff a little better and have seemed more comfortable asking for help when visiting the Library.</li> <li>• Kids had the opportunity to engage and participate with others they didn't know before the program. It was really great to see their social skills, kindness and care for others at play during activities.</li> <li>• We had the opportunity to support some local businesses by purchasing prizes.</li> </ul>
<b>Port Moody Public Library</b>	Ability to engage with students over the summer and bring them into the library. Perfect way to encourage literacy in the summer. Provides an invaluable connection with schools/teachers/administrators that leads to further partnerships in the school year.
<b>Pouce Coupe Library</b>	Over all I think the SRC is an amazing program the the families look forward to it each year.
<b>Powell River Public Library</b>	BC SRC gives our summer reading programs a theme, a focus and framework on which to build our summer program offerings. PRPL offers 6 weeks of continuous summertime programming, with book clubs, workshops and themed get-togethers happening four days a week, Tuesday to Friday. The addition of BC SRC Reading Records, design elements, medals, book marks and more gives our library's SRC a polished and cohesive look that presents well to our community as well as connecting us visually and thematically to libraries throughout the province.
<b>Prince George Public Library</b>	Opportunities to come together, learn from each other, and to be creative. Children frequently forge lasting friendships at SRC events.
<b>Prince Rupert Public Library</b>	The great quality of the artwork and the materials always helps us promote the program, and our patrons are always impressed with the 'kits' we are able to distribute every year. We look forward to getting back to in-house programs where we can use more of the program ideas that are published in the manual. This year we were thrilled to be included in the lovely post-card making event at the Gibson's library, and it lead to us offering a drop-in program here at our library one afternoon,

	with the resulting postcards being sent back to the Gibson's Library.
<b>Radium Hot Springs Public Library</b>	Connecting children live here either full or part-time. Fostering engagement with the library and providing an affordable (free) weekly program.
<b>Richmond Public Library</b>	<p>Summer Reading Club continues to be a great way to promote reading with kids. We had several caregivers comment that the small incentive of getting a sticker and entering a prize draw really worked for their child/ren to encourage them to read throughout the summer and had a big impact on their reading confidence.</p> <p>Kids really like the idea that children throughout the province are all participating in the program as well.</p> <p>The promotional assets created by BCSRC are really high quality, and beyond what the library system could put together on our own. Having the ready-built assets to draw from helps ease some of the planning work that goes into the program as well.</p>
<b>Rossland Public Library Association</b>	Families love having a reason to come to the library and many children enjoy the challenge of filling their reading booklets! Our patrons ask about summer reading club before school is even out and we are looking forward to more community partnerships next year.
<b>Salmo Public Library</b>	Great FREE activities for the children in our community! We received one grant this year, I think it is wonderful that we gave an employment opportunity to a student who was returning to college in the fall.
<b>Salt Spring Island Public Library Association</b>	Enthusiasm for reading, nostalgic warm fuzzies, positive views of infants, children, youths and young adults. Value of literacy. Shared values.
<b>Sechelt Public Library</b>	We had many positive comments from parents who said the reading logs were very motivating for their kids.
<b>Smithers Public Library</b>	Parents reported that their children were excited to attend the program to see friends they made

	outside of their typical schoolmates. They also reported that because of the reading logs and stickers, they were more motivated to read and often took the initiative upon themselves to do so. I would say the most significant value and benefit that the BC SRC brings to our library and community is friendliness and collaboration.
<b>Squamish Public Library</b>	The SRC is a great way to bring children into the library. This summer we were able to connect with our community by having the police, fire department, recycling and garbage department, plus other community members do a presentation. It was a great summer.
<b>Stewart Public Library</b>	It brings the children together and introduces them to the various services that the library provides.
<b>Surrey Libraries</b>	<p>SRC encourages library visits and exposes families to everything the library can provide at no cost. It also promotes reading for leisure and the continuation of reading throughout the summer. It often gives us a chance to connect with families who wouldn't necessarily think about coming to the library and letting them know what we can do for them.</p> <p>Also the smiles it brings to the faces of both the children and their families AND onlookers when they get excited about receiving their medal.</p>
<b>Taylor Public Library</b>	The SRC program has helped kids counteract the summer slump and has even helped get the younger participants ahead of the curve according to some of the parents that we talked to.
<b>Thompson Nicola Regional Library</b>	SRC provides a great way for families to continue a habit of reading throughout the summer. Library programming associated with SRC adds fun and joy, while also providing some structure and programming for many families who don't necessarily have the ability to send their children to paid camps or activities in the summer months. It helps keep reading fun, which is one of the best ways to encourage reading.

<b>Trail &amp; District Public Library</b>	<p>Creating a space for friends and neighbours to come together in our beautiful library.</p> <p>Promoting literacy is extremely valuable.</p> <p>Keeping kids busy this summer- busy with constructive and educational activities.</p>
<b>Valemount Public Library</b>	<p>The summer program promotes the library and raises awareness of its resources. Kids are encouraged to read and socialize during the summer months.</p>
<b>Vancouver Island Regional Library</b>	<p>From our staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "I think the most significant value BC SRC brings to library and community is as a "bridging" program for June to September that makes reading fun. I also think it's great that the SRC artist is encouraged and supported to get out and present to children. I know from my years with Bookfest how effective a live presentation can be to encourage children to engage with reading, writing, and art."</li> <li>• "The most significant value is that it also brings new families to the library and makes them more aware of the services and materials we have, every year I have families wandering in the door because their child brought home some information about SRC and they had no idea what it was, I've seen many of these families transform into frequent and enthusiastic readers and library users."</li> <li>• "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 entertainment for all ages of children. SRC was additionally valued this summer as it was something familiar in these uncertain times. Families</li> </ul>



	look forward to participating each year and this summer was no different."
<b>Vancouver Public Library</b>	<p>Child Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourages goal setting and skill improvement</li> <li>• Earning a medal creates pride in achievement. Lots of excitement over "collecting them all!"</li> <li>• Over coming self-perceptions of who is a "reader" and who isn't. Kids who self-described as non-readers at the beginning of the school visit said things like, "I want to try that!" by the end of the visit</li> <li>• Regular library visits builds connections with library staff and gives kids a sense of community</li> </ul> <p>Programming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allows system-wide focus on MY programming (an area that often takes a back seat to Early Years programming)</li> <li>• Encourages and inspires love of reading. Motivates kids to read throughout the summer</li> <li>• Builds community amongst a diverse range of kids, who are able to learn from one another, build friendships, and practice social skills across age groups. Children were most receptive and enthusiastic in programs that allowed them to socialize and make connections with other kids in their community</li> <li>• Opens opportunities for kids to have new experiences</li> </ul> <p>Community engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to visit schools and make connections with teachers, support staff, and students and raise awareness about library programs and collections</li> <li>• Creates pathways to engage and connect with families and children in the community</li> </ul>



#### Supporting Families:

- Provides resources for parents and caregivers to encourage consistent reading and goal setting
- Eases parent anxiety over “summer Slump” and increases confidence in children’s academic performance for the following year
- Free programs offer support to families who may not otherwise be able to travel or participate in other extra-curricular activities
- Facilitates caregivers pride in kids achievement
- Provides opportunities for reading and literacy to be a family bonding activity (Audio books in the car on summer road trips and siblings reading to each other)

#### Promotion of Library:

- Centers the library as a resource for reading and academic achievement in the minds of parents and caregivers
- Promotes the library as a fun destination for activities
- Kids excited about visiting library & attending programs. Some kids became regulars by the end of the summer
- Gives a concrete and tangible example of library programming for donors and stakeholders (especially given the longevity of the program. Many donors participated in SRC themselves)

#### Noted increase in circulation

- Gives opportunity for active and direct promotion of alternative formats and results in increased use of eBooks and Audiobooks
- Many non-SRC library patrons enjoy the energy and enthusiasm permeating branches during the SRC season

#### Supporting literacy

- Encourages reading as a daily routine

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kids get excited about reading for fun</li></ul>
<b>West Vancouver Memorial Library</b>	The weekly SRC check-ins with SRC participants give the families an excuse to visit the library on a regular basis during the summer. The SRC Medal Ceremony is one of the best events we have every year, in regards to bringing together a diverse range of ages and participation from stakeholders in the community (in the form of volunteers and dignitaries).
<b>Whistler Public Library</b>	Summer programming this year went really well - we always enjoy the BC SRC component as it helps us make programming decisions, and is easy to promote and engage kids with. We have also noticed that consistently the illustrator workshop is one of our best attended programs - kids seem to really love them!