

DIRECTOR'S

Q1 Report

January 1 – March 31, 2022



Library Director: Stephanie Hall

Library Board: Alastair Nimmons (Chair), Cynthia Garton (Vice-Chair), Petra Cottier, Dieter Diedericks, Richard Fisher, Nora Gambioli (Council Representative), Andrew Krawczyk, Sahar Sanajou, Koichi Ronald Shimoda, Jatinder Sidhu, Tracy Wachmann, Lorena Yu, Felicia Zhu.



INSPIRING STORIES

Katłjà (Catherine) Lafferty was our first-ever Climate Writer in Residence!

Lafferty is a northern Dene novelist from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. Having grown up in Somba K'e (Yellowknife), Lafferty currently splits her time between her northern homeland and the traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples in Esquimalt, British Columbia, where she is in her third year of the Juris Doctor in Common Law and Indigenous Legal Orders with the University of Victoria.

As the Climate Writer in Residence, Lafferty gave voice to the climate emergency with an Indigenous perspective, both through her writing and through planning events and workshops for Library patrons, including youth and seniors.

336 patrons attended her virtual events, **364** viewed the recordings on YouTube, and nearly **400** read her blog posts. During her residency, Lafferty built important community connections, including with Capilano University and Squamish Nation, and even landed her literary agent through Cooke McDermid.

"I just want to say thank you so much to Katłjà. I really enjoyed this (and just went online and ordered her book from a local shop) and thank you to the West Vancouver Memorial Library for this really important initiative. I look forward to getting a chance to support your work this year"



OVERVIEW

Due to changing COVID-19 restrictions and emerging variants, we delayed our return to in-person programs until spring. Our staff continued to offer a wide range of virtual programs, from Booktopia: A Literary Festival for Young People, to Excel Essentials, to English Conversation Online, to Book Club Socials, and more.

"This is the best facility in our community and its staff must be congratulated for creating amazing programs...even through COVID they continued their energy and creativity."

Our Board welcomed four new Trustees:

Dieter Diedericks
Professional Engineer
and Project Management
Professional

Richard Fisher
brevityco.ca
Communications
Consultant, writer,
and speaker

Sahar Sanajou
CIBC Customer Service
Representative

Lorena Yu
Entrepreneur and WVML
Foundation Director

STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

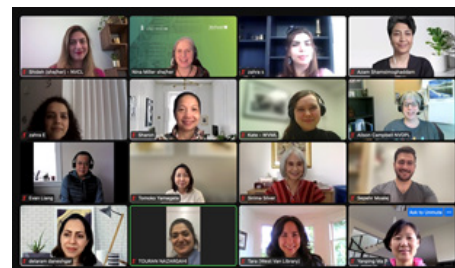
Learning

- Our Youth Department offered a ton of virtual programs over Spring Break, including **Code a Cool Pattern with Python**, **Tell Your Story: Nature as Character**, **Make Music with BeastBox**, and so much more.
- We added **32 Launchpads** (pre-loaded tablets with curated educational videos) to our Youth collection. They were all checked out within the first four days of being on the shelf.
- Our first **adult Mason Bee lecture** and house lending program was a hit. We had **62** people in total joining from Whistler, Quesnel, Williams Lake, 100 Mile, Campbell River, and Burnaby. We have loaned out **20** bee houses to the community.



Inclusion

- We formed an **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) staff committee**, which will work on identifying and addressing barriers and providing advice and recommendations on things like



policy and staff training.

- Our latest cohort of **Library Champions** had their last meeting in January. The Library Champions Project is a three-month volunteer program for new immigrants.

One North Shore Library Champion said:

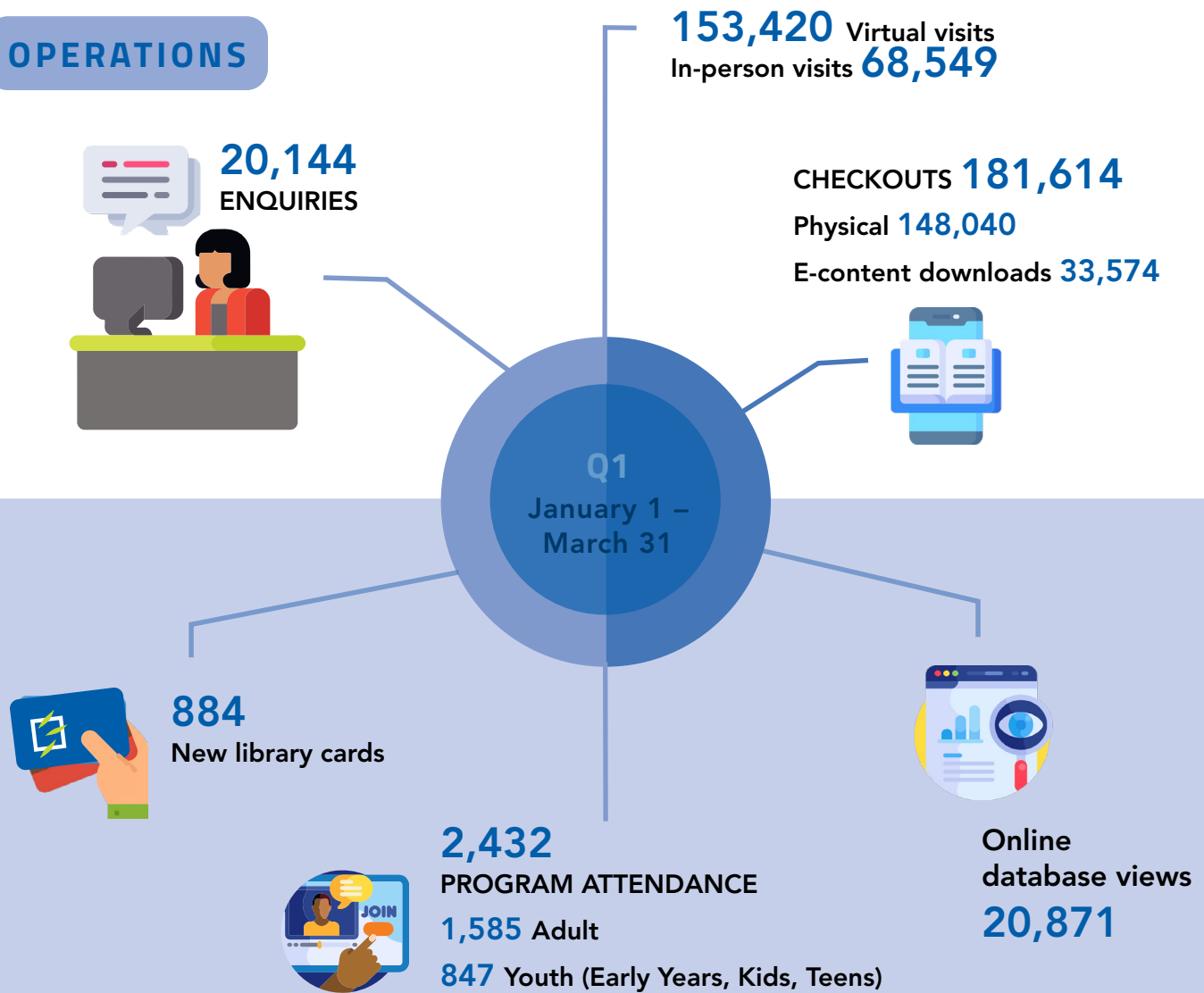
"This program makes me feel like I am part of the community."

- We launched a new **Welcome email campaign**, with translations in Farsi and Chinese, to showcase what new cardholders can do with their WVML card. So far, this email has an open rate of **58%**. Studies have shown the average email open rate to be around **21%** across all industries.

Community

- Staff and community volunteers decorated the Library for **Lunar New Year** and **Norooz**. We also presented musical offerings, storytimes, and book displays for both holidays.
- **70** people joined a **Story Walk** in partnership with **Strengthening Early Years to Kindergarten Transitions (SEY2K)**.
- Youth and Customer & Community Experience librarians met with the **Squamish Nation Grades K-4 Advocate** to learn about the needs of the youth and their families. The Advocate had no idea WVML offered things like lendable technology and immediately thought of two families for whom this would be life changing.

OPERATIONS



- In February, we hosted our most popular virtual concert yet: **Queer as Funk**. There were **180** viewers for the livestream, and over **1,000** views of the recording.

"Such uplifting, toe-tapping, sing-along music fronted by two incredible vocalists and backed by a lively talented band. We loved it. Many thanks for arranging this wonderful opportunity."

Integrity

- Work has begun to replace our cooling tower and chiller with air-cooled heat pumps. This reduction in natural gas usage will save approximately **29.4** tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually.
- We **renovated** the 2nd floor **East Wing washrooms**

to update fixtures and countertops and make the washrooms fully accessible.

- On January 18, we combined both desks on the Main Floor into one: the new **Help Desk**. Now, patrons can have all their questions answered from one place on the Main Floor.





WVML FOUNDATION

In 2020, West Vancouver Schools teacher-librarians asked if the Library could offer support in lending sets of books for teachers to use for Literature Circles in their classrooms, as there was no longer funding available for schools to purchase these sets.

Thanks to funding from the WVML Foundation, our Youth Department is circulating **Lit Circle Kits**! The titles for these sets were chosen in consultation with teacher-librarians from SD45.

While these book sets were developed with teacher-librarians, they are also available to the public to borrow, including families, home learning groups, and book clubs.

FRIENDS



The Friends of the Library have been busy preparing for another Shred-It fundraiser!

Saturday, May 14, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Library Parking Lot, Rain or Shine

Suggested donation: \$5/bag, \$10/box (cash only)

All proceeds support Library programs like the **North Shore Writers Festival**, **Summer Reading Club**, and more.

