

2018 Report to our Community



The North Vancouver City Library is grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow on the traditional, ancestral and unceded lands of the Coast Salish Peoples including the territories of the Squamish (Skwxwú7mesh) and Tsleil-Waututh (səlílwataʔt) Nations.



// A NOTE FROM THE CHIEF LIBRARIAN & BOARD CHAIR

We opened 2018 with the adoption of a new strategic plan. We are pleased and proud to share our work on key priorities that were developed in consultation with our community.

In committing to **honour Indigenous perspectives**, we began by learning and listening. This past year was one of discovery for the library family through workshops, self-study, new relationships and experiences.

In June, we opened our newest **Creation Station** — an audio and video recording studio and editing station — inspiring City Library visitors to stretch their creativity and tell their stories in innovative ways.

Spokes 'n' Words, our brand new book bike, brought the City Library to the community all summer long, contributing to a vibrant atmosphere at each of its stops across the North Shore.

And in September, we celebrated our continuing commitment to access and inclusion by hosting a neighbourhood party to celebrate the **10th anniversary** of our bright, beautiful library building in Central Lonsdale.

Year-round, the City Library delivers on its mission to foster the love of learning and strengthen community connections by making stories and knowledge in all their forms accessible to everyone who passes through our doors.

We could not do this work without the foundational support of the City of North Vancouver and the many generous gifts from donors that enable us to go above and beyond. We are also grateful for our community partners, who work with us to strengthen literacy, well-being and services for youth, seniors, newcomers and families.



Stephen Smith
BOARD CHAIR

A blue ink signature of Stephen Smith.

Deb Hutchison Koep
CHIEF LIBRARIAN

A blue ink signature of Deb Hutchison Koep.



Truth is the first step on the journey to reconciliation. In acknowledgment of our commitment to honour Indigenous perspectives, this was a year of learning and discovery for the City Library. Staff spent much of the year making connections, building relationships and opening dialogue with Indigenous leaders and community members.

It is our aim in the coming year to be honest, inclusive and deliberate in weaving Indigenous perspectives and history into library community programming and collections.

 **Our reading list**



Squamish Nation storyteller, Rebecca Duncan, whose ancestral name is Tsitsayxemaat, regales visitors to Civic Plaza with stories and songs.

Bright notes



The opening of the recording studio is a big step in the library's goal to inspire learning, discovery and creation. Video and audio recording and production are now accessible at the library for anyone with a story to tell.

North Vancouver is a hotbed for downhill and cross country mountain biking. The trails attract outdoor enthusiasts the world over to experience Mount Fromme's thrills. With the sport growing exponentially, Brent Hillier, local rider and trail builder, saw an opportunity.

"I was looking for a podcast for mountain bikers and couldn't really find one to listen to," he said. "So why not make one?"

The podcast's audience has grown with the sport, he said. Since its inception in 2016, Hillier has recorded 64 weekly episodes of *Front Lines* with a handful of contributors and panelists focused on mountain biking trail building and advocacy.

"I started recording in my apartment, but it was so hard to just find a nice, quiet space to record audio," he said.

The podcast is now created inside City Library's recording studio.

Since the recording studio's opening in 2018, Hillier has been a regular. Not having to worry about startup costs associated with expensive sound equipment means Hillier can focus on his content and growing his audience.

"It's so nice to have something here on the North Shore for people to use." ■



Listen to Hillier's podcast at frontlinesmtb.com



SPOKES 'n' WORDS

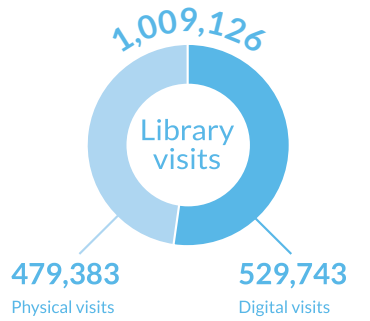
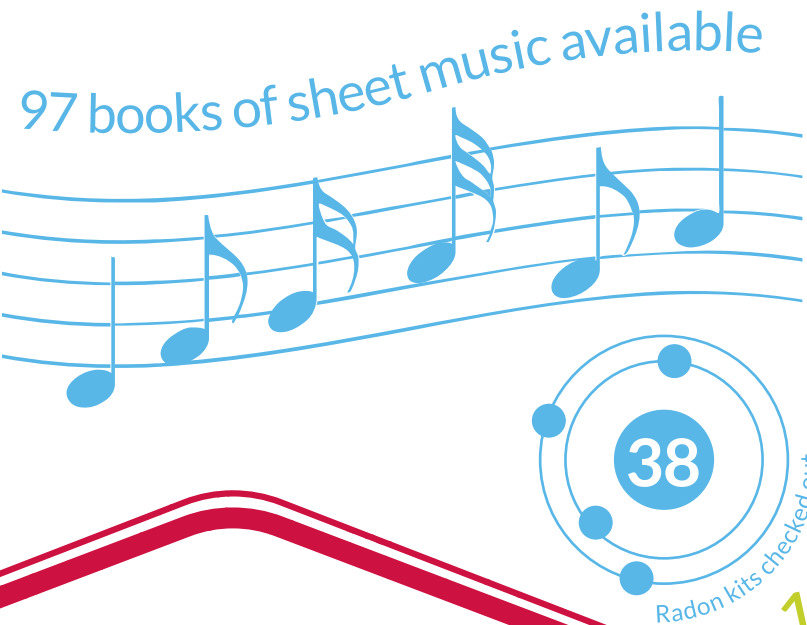
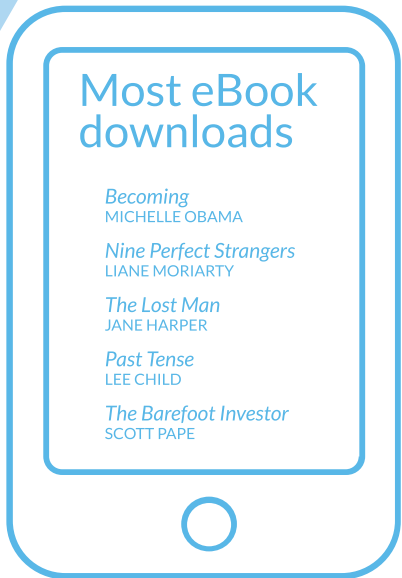
The City Library's new book bike, Spokes 'n' Words, celebrated its inaugural summer season zipping to 17 community and school events. The book bike was imagined in partnership with the City of North Vancouver's PLAY program — an initiative designed to activate public city spaces. To each book bike stop, librarians bring a selection of books, DVDs and audiobooks specially curated for the event. People can sign up for library cards, check out materials, use the bike's public Wi-Fi hotspot, and join in on story times.

-  **700** COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
-  **30** NEW LIBRARY CARDS
-  **42** KMs RIDDEN

"This library is really great at creative ideas and services. Well done to all our library staff — we love them!"

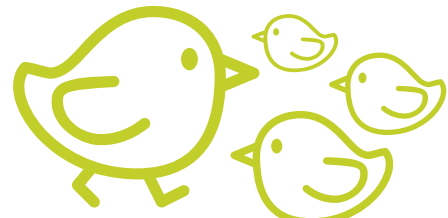
— Spokes 'n' Words patron





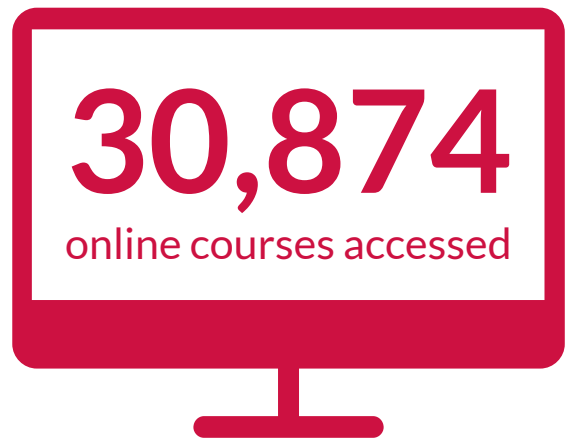
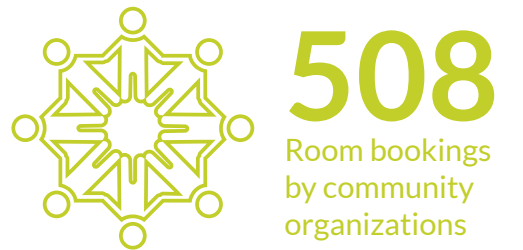
YOUR
Library
~ IN NUMBERS ~
2018

183 story times



300
books read to babies

?? **40,697**
questions answered



X marks the spot

// ENHANCE ACCESS & INCLUSION

// 2018 DONORS

Celebrating 10 years in our building

The City Library hosted a pirate party to celebrate 10 years in our bright, beautiful building in Central Lonsdale. The event coincided with our annual Summer Reading Club medal presentation and included a pirate photo booth, book sale, ice cream in the plaza, face painting, outdoor story time and crafts. More than 4,000 community members joined in the celebrations.



Thank you

We gratefully acknowledge the people and organizations who have financially contributed to the many successes of the City Library in the last year.

\$1,000+

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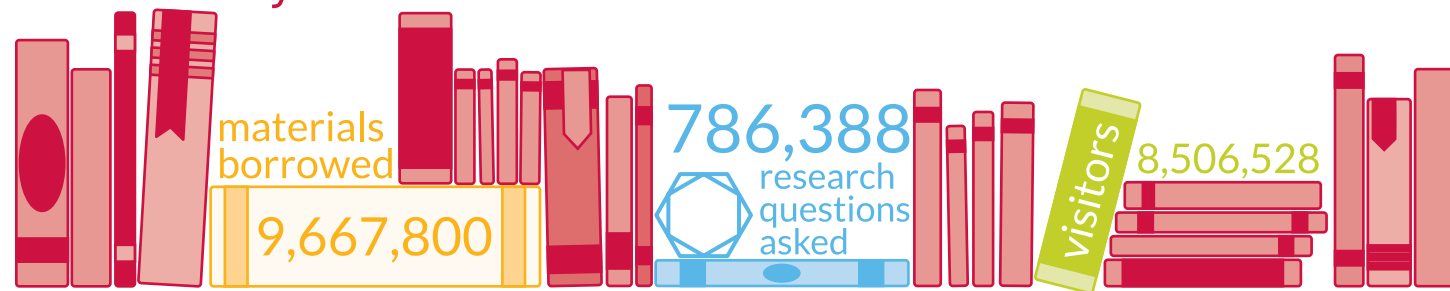
GIFTS IN MEMORIAM

Estate of Audrey Rothwell
 In memory of William Lewis

SUSTAINING SUPPORT

City of North Vancouver
 Province of British Columbia

In 10 years,





A spark of wonder

Longtime donor reflects on the magic of the library and why books are to be treasured

Jean Hamilton is a dreamer. At 96, her unwavering enthusiasm and annual financial support for the City Library reflect her hope that books and stories will inspire the imagination of its youngest patrons, as they did for her.

Growing up in Vancouver, she always had a book in hand and several more to keep her company during train trips to Chilliwack, vacations to the Oregon coast, and travels throughout the U.S. Her favourites now line the bookshelves in her North Vancouver apartment.

“Books were where I could go, and libraries — they’re a place of solace for me,” she said.

Her childhood librarians first noticed the signs of a voracious reader in her when she started borrowing classics like *The Scarlet Pimpernel* and volumes of Dickens week after week.

But there’s something she still has to do — after all, that’s why she’s still here, she says.

“My life has been very serendipitous, and I think I have a responsibility to give back,” she said. “The library has given me and the community so much.”

In 2018, Hamilton dedicated weeks to create handmade doll garments for a library fundraiser. Her initiative helped raise more than \$1,000 to purchase e-readers and audiobooks for library patrons who have print disabilities such as vision impairment and dyslexia.

“There’s still more I can do,” she said. “Books are what I treasure and value. I hope I can give others that same spark of wonder I feel when I’m in the library.” ■

Jean's reading list

Ape House
SARA GRUEN

Lost Girls
MARTHA HALL KELLY

Sisters of Heart and Snow
MARGARET DILLOWAY

The Victory Garden
RHYS BOWEN

Partner spotlight

The City Library and the North Shore Immigrant Inclusion Partnership work together to foster a sense of belonging for all people

About 2,100 immigrants move to the North Shore every year. Together with more than 20 other agencies on the North Shore — including libraries, schools, health and employment services, chambers of commerce and other key community organizations — the North Vancouver City Library is a partner in the North Shore Immigrant Inclusion Partnership, NSIIP.

NSIIP members work collaboratively to support an inclusive community on the North Shore where immigrants have opportunities to participate economically, socially and civically.

In 2018, the City Library participated in North Shore Community Conversations. Newcomers, multigenerational, and Indigenous North Shore residents considered the idea of “place” in a series of conversation circles.



Residents come together to share what “place” means to them at a community conversation circle. (Photo courtesy of NSIIP)

Participants acknowledged that feeling connected to a place — having a sense of belonging to the place where you live — is deeply important. Many people in our community have experienced displacement due to colonialism, political strife and discrimination, or through having to start over in a new place.

Place can be a point of connection and a basis for shared experience, learning, mutual trust and respect. With trust comes safety and the ability to come together to explore the difficult questions and complex problems faced by our community.

The City Library is proud to be a member in this transformative partnership, building on our unique strengths while working toward common goals and collective impact. ■

92%
of the library's community partners say that connecting with the library amplifies their impact

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Shiqi Xu, a City Library Teen Advisory Council member, organizes and leads a rally for climate change in Civic Plaza.

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City librarians Karen Coyne and Shideh Taleban help schoolchildren at Ridgeway Elementary check out materials from the library's book bike, Spokes 'n' Words.



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