

PEI Public Library Service Annual Report 2023





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Director's Message

In 2023, the PEI Public Library Service welcomed record numbers of visitors to libraries in communities across the province. PEI public libraries are welcoming and inclusive community spaces offering resources, programs, and services for everyone.

This year, libraries again collaborated with community partners to offer an array of amazing programs. Among our partners are Literacy Alliance, PEERS Alliance, IRSA, TD Bank, Rotary Clubs, Creative PEI, Black Cultural Society, Women's Institute, and Brilliant Labs. Program highlights include Wiggle Giggle Read, Seniors Cafes, Fix it Fair, Asian Heritage Month, Pop up Art Hives, EAL tutoring, Employment Expo, Community Fridges, Zine Fest, Poet in Residence, Community Volunteer Tax Assistance, Community Clothing Swap, and TD Summer Reading. Library collections continued to grow with lots of new digital and print materials. A shout out to our very popular Library of Things (LOT) collection. This year the LOT added a tool library with gardening, biking, and DIY tools, C-Pens, and noise canceling headphones. All are available to borrow from your local library. We look forward to adding even more things in the year ahead.

Outreach continues to be an important library service to communities. The Community care delivery service and Early Years Centre Delivery Service are much valued by our young and older populations. The successful Home Library Book Delivery Service is supported with assistance of library staff and dedicated volunteers. Talking Book Service for print disabled person remains a staple of our outreach services. Please reach out to your local library to learn more about accessing library outreach services.

In 2024 we will be looking to you for input on library services through a Community Survey. We look forward to hearing from you about how the PEI Public Library Service can best serve you and our communities now and in the future.

Kathleen Simmonds
Director of Libraries & Archives



By the Numbers

Public libraries in PEI continue to thrive! Our annual statistics tell a story of Islanders using libraries to enjoy reading in their preferred format, work and connect with others online, and learn and engage at library programs. More than 700,00 library items were borrowed this year with increased borrowing in both physical and digital items. We helped Islanders bridge the digital divide by providing over 40,000 public computer sessions. And, with the Charlottetown Library Learning Centre being a hub of activity this year, our program attendance has nearly doubled from 2022!

2023

- **529,979** Items Borrowed (up from 498,514 in 2022)
- **174,214** Digital Items Borrowed (up from 163,145 in 2022)
- **44,574** Card Holders (down from 46,684 In 2022)
- **3,886** Library Programs offered attended by **40,830** people. (up from 2,135 programs attended by 21,396 people in 2022)
- **40,364** Computer Sessions (up from 21,698 in 2022)

Charlottetown Library Learning Centre

2023 was our first full open year at the Charlottetown Library Learning Centre and we welcomed over 350,000 people to the library! We offered a wide variety of programming in collaboration with many wonderful local organizations for folks of all ages. This past year featured popular events like our inaugural Fix-It Fair with the City of Charlottetown and the Charlottetown Tool Library. As well as our first Employment Expo with the Employment Journey, and the 2nd annual Zine Fest, with over 400 people in attendance. We worked with many other non-profit and government organizations: PEERS Alliance, Wild Child, PEI Transgender Network, PEI Cannabis, Career Development Services, and Community Legal Information, to name a few. We once again hosted the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program and a series of Virtual Health Care Workshops with the Department of Health and Wellness. The Seniors Navigator continues to hold bi-weekly office hours in one of our popular meeting spaces. The Makerspace continues to be a popular destination with new items being added regularly and popular, hands-on programs like coding workshops and weekly Art Nights with Creative PEI being offered. As always, we continue to offer our regular programming that includes Book Clubs, Craft Programs, and Community Outreach. The library continues to be a community hub and gathering space for all.





Bibliothèque publique d'Abram-Village Reopens

The Bibliothèque publique d'Abram-Village closed in September of 2022 due to damage from Hurricane Fiona. The library was located in École Évangéline, which had significant damage from the storm. After ten months we were excited to reopen in a new, temporary location in July 2023. Our new temporary home is in the former CSLF offices in Abrams Village and we've been so happy to welcome you back to the library!

We would like to thank all our community partners for helping arrange for the temporary location of the library and look forward to the new school, public library, community centre, and daycare centre complex that is planned for the future.





Library Programs

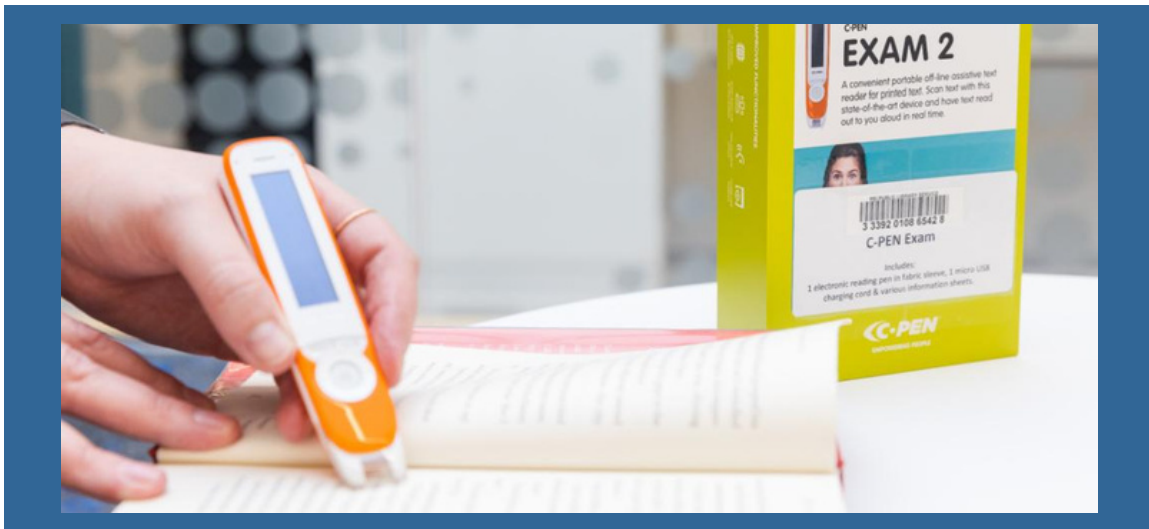
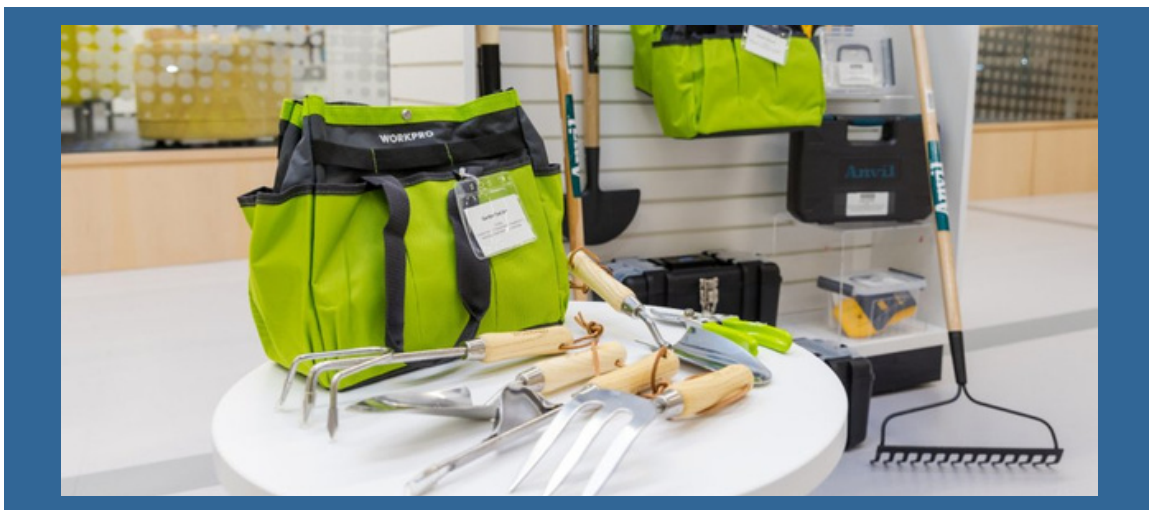
2023 was another busy year with libraries across PEI offering almost 4,000 free programs for all ages. This year we hosted the national launch of the TD Summer Reading Club, offered Virtual Care Information Sessions, Rainbow Youth Clubs, Pop Up Art Hives, Cultural programs, weekly early literacy programs, Zine Fest, Job Seeking Workshops, and so much more!



New Collection Additions

In 2023, our physical collection grew to include over 216,018 items. In addition to all the new books, movies, and music we also introduced some new items to our Special Collections including: Kobo ereaders, Envoy Connect players, Tool Library, new Parenting to Go kits, and C-Pens.

Our digital library continues to be in demand with Islanders. In 2023, 174,214 ebooks and eaudiobooks were borrowed from our digital collection on Overdrive. This year we added the Read Atlantic program to our digital collection. Read Atlantic is a collection of over 50 eBooks and audiobooks that can be accessed by all Atlantic Canadian and public library patrons -with no hold or waitlist.



Library Branches

2023 Usage Statistics



Bibliothèque publique d'Abram-Village

1596 Route 124, Abrams Village

Located in the former CSLF offices, the library is open to the public 3 days a week for a total of 15 hours. The library reopened in July following damage from Hurricane Fiona.

- 453 active library card holders
- 54 new library memberships
- 7 programs offered, with 14 attendees
- 2,567 items checked out
- 0 public computer sessions
- New library memberships more than doubled from the previous year



Alberton Public Library

11 Railway Street, Alberton

The library is open 4 days a week for a total of 21 hours.

- 585 active library card holders
- 117 new library memberships
- 69 programs offered, with 629 attendees
- 7,983 items checked out
- 356 public computer sessions
- Public computer sessions are up 27% this year



Borden-Carleton Public Library

244 Borden Avenue, Borden-Carleton

Located in the G.C. Bell Civic Building, the library is open 3 days a week for a total of 12 hours.

- 185 active library card holders
- 33 new library memberships
- 84 programs, with 368 attendees
- 3,373 items checked out
- 198 public computer sessions
- Program attendance was up by 71% this year

Library Branches

2023 Usage Statistics



Breadalbane Public Library

4023 Dixon Road, Breadalbane

The library is open 3 days a week for a total of 12 hours.

- 102 active library card holders
- 17 new library memberships
- 38 programs offered, with 234 attendees
- 1,316 items checked out
- 12 public computer sessions
- Over 200 more people attended library programs this year



Charlottetown Library Learning Centre

97 Queen Street, Charlottetown

Located in the Dominion building, the Charlottetown Library Learning Centre is open 7 days a week for a total of 63.5 hours.

- 18,927 active library card holders
- 5,100 new library memberships
- 998 programs offered, with 17,081 attendees
- 145,289 items checked out
- 30,844 public computer sessions
- 312,722 people visited the library in 2023
- CLLC saw increases in all usage categories this year



Bibliothèque publique Dr.-J.-Edmond-Arsenault

5 Acadian Drive, Charlottetown

Located next to the Carrefour de L'isle St-Jean, the library is open to the public 3 days a week for a total of 18 hours.

- 734 active library card holders
- 104 new library memberships
- 81 programs, with 1,953 attendees
- 20,908 items checked out
- 49 public computer sessions
- Over 13,000 more items were borrowed this year

Library Branches

2023 Usage Statistics



Cornwall Public Library

115 Mercedes Drive, Cornwall

Located inside the Town Hall building, the library is open 5 days a week for a total of 37.5 hours.

- 3,411 active library card holders
- 437 new library memberships
- 464 programs offered, with 3,474 attendees
- 41,461 items checked out
- 556 public computer sessions
- Added over 100 more new library members this year over previous year



Crapaud Public Library

20424 Trans Canada Highway, Crapaud

Located inside the Fire Department building, the library is open 3 days a week for a total of 12 hours.

- 297 active library card holders
- 28 new library memberships
- 69 programs offered, with 214 attendees
- 5,034 items checked out
- 98 public computer sessions
- Computer usage was up 36% over the previous year



Georgetown Genevieve Soloman Memorial Library

47 Kent Street, Georgetown

Located inside the Georgetown Elementary School, the library is open 4 days a week for a total of 16 hours.

- 169 active library card holders
- 21 new library memberships
- 106 programs offered, with 881 attendees
- 1,410 items checked out
- 11 public computer sessions
- Program attendance was up 5% this year over previous year

Library Branches

2023 Usage Statistics



Hunter River Memorial Library

19816 Route 2, Hunter River

Located inside the Town Hall building, the library is open 4 days a week for a total of 17 hours.

- 704 active library card holders
- 130 new library memberships
- 39 programs offered, with 224 attendees
- 14,191 items checked out
- 94 public computer sessions
- Check outs increased by 3% this year



Kensington Heritage Library

16 Commercial Street, Kensington

With additional hours added in 2022, the library is open 5 days a week for a total of 36 hours.

- 1,052 active library card holders
- 184 new library memberships
- 84 programs offered, with 406 attendees
- 39,078 items checked out
- 98 public computer sessions
- Check outs increased by 56% this year



Kinkora Public Library

45 Anderson Road, Kinkora

Located inside the Kinkora Place building, the library is open 3 days a week for a total of 12 hours.

- 147 active library card holders
- 26 new library memberships
- 80 programs offered, with 998 attendees
- 889 items checked out
- 41 public computer sessions
- Almost 500 more people attended programs this year

Library Branches

2023 Usage Statistics



Montague Rotary Library

21 Sullivan Drive, Montague

Located in the Cavendish Farms Wellness Centre building, the Montague Rotary Library is open 6 days a week for a total of 45 hours.

- 2,539 active library card holders
- 487 new library memberships
- 238 programs offered, with 1,882 attendees
- 33,723 items checked out
- 564 public computer sessions
- New library memberships up 53% over previous year



Morell Public Library

89 Red Head Road, Morell

Sharing a building with the PEI Public Library Service Headquarters, the library is open 4 days a week for a total of 15 hours.

- 425 active library card holders
- 90 new library memberships
- 35 programs, with 154 attendees
- 6,370 items checked out
- 22 public computer sessions
- New library memberships almost doubled over previous year



Mount Stewart Public Library

104 Main Street, Mount Stewart

Located in the Hillsborough River Eco-Centre building, the library is open 3 days a week for a total of 12 hours.

- 220 active library card holders
- 44 new library memberships
- 28 programs, with 26 attendees
- 1,626 items checked out
- 13 public computer sessions
- The library was closed for building maintenance in December

Library Branches

2023 Usage Statistics



Murray Harbour Public Library

27 Faye Fraser Drive, Murray Harbour

Located in the Murray Harbour Community Centre, the library is open 4 days a week for a total of 16 hours.

- 251 active library card holders
- 41 new library memberships
- 56 programs, with 243 attendees
- 4,605 items checked out
- 32 public computer sessions
- New library memberships almost doubled over previous year



Murray River Leona Giddings Memorial Library

1066 MacInnis Street, Murray River

The Murray River library is open 3 days a week for a total of 12 hours.

- 224 active library card holders
- 44 new library memberships
- 75 programs, with 301 attendees
- 3,061 items checked out
- 34 public computer sessions
- Check outs increased by 79% over previous year



O'Leary Public Library

18 Community Street, O'Leary

Located in the O'Leary Community Complex, the library is open 4 days a week for a total of 18 hours.

- 630 active library card holders
- 120 new library memberships
- 106 programs, with 1,118 attendees
- 6,389 items checked out
- 643 public computer sessions
- Computer sessions increased by 45% over previous year

Library Branches

2023 Usage Statistics



Souris Public Library

75 Main Street, Souris

Located in the Souris Town Hall building, the library is open 4 days a week for a total of 19 hours.

- 709 active library card holders
- 180 new library members
- 77 programs, with 620 attendees
- 6,390 items checked out
- 22 public computer sessions
- Over 300 more people attended programs this year, up from previous year



St. Peters Public Library

1968 Cardigan Road, St. Peters Bay

Located in the St. Peters Community Centre, the library is open 3 days a week for a total of 12 hours.

- 170 active library card holders
- 26 new library memberships
- 85 programs, with 310 attendees
- 2,308 items checked out
- 10 public computer sessions
- Program attendance increased by 77% over previous year



Stratford Public Library

25 Hopeton Road, Stratford

The library is open 5 days a week for a total of 45.5 hours.

- 3,691 active library card holders
- 495 new library memberships
- 316 programs, with 2,323 attendees
- 64,187 items checked out
- 999 public computer sessions
- Over 900 more people attended programs this year, up from previous year

Library Branches

2023 Usage Statistics



Summerside Rotary Library

57 Central Street, Summerside

Located in the Inspire Learning Centre, the Summerside Rotary Library is open 7 days a week for a total of 54 hours.

- 6,781 active library card holders
- 1,305 new library memberships
- 437 programs, with 5,042 attendees
- 69,851 items checked out
- 5,226 public computer sessions
- 112,177 people visited the library in 2023
- Almost 30,000 more people visited the library this year, up from the previous year



Bibliothèque publique J.-Henri-Blanchard

5 Maris Stella Avenue, Summerside

Located next to Centre Belle-Alliance, the library is open to the public 3 days a week for a total of 13 hours.

- 406 active library card holders
- 91 new library memberships
- 48 programs, with 1,066 attendees
- 9,321 items checked out
- 0 public computer sessions
- Check outs increased by 31%, up from the previous year



Tignish Public Library

103 School Street, Tignish

The library is open 3 days a week for a total of 15 hours.

- 456 active library card holders
- 103 new library memberships
- 84 programs, with 517 attendees
- 5,956 items checked out
- 223 public computer sessions
- Over 350 more people attended programs this year

Library Branches

2023 Usage Statistics



Tyne Valley Public Library 19 Allen Road, Tyne Valley

The library is open 3 days a week for a total of 12 hours.

- 249 active library card holders
- 27 new library memberships
- 198 programs, with 784 attendees
- 2,590 items checked out
- 43 public computer sessions
- Almost 500 more people attended programs this year, up from previous year