



2021 Year in Review

Throughout 2021, the Wood Buffalo Regional Library team continued to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on our services. We offered a wide variety of virtual programs, met our community in our physical space, online, and through outreach, and built our collection of materials and digital resources.

We made key changes to reduce barriers to access our services:

- In August, after 18 long months, we were thrilled to once again open to patrons seven days a week including key evening and weekend hours.
- In January 2022, after extensive research, we permanently eliminated extended use fees! Overdue fines are a thing of the past.

We are extremely hopeful for 2022 and the many exciting plans we have on the horizon. Our team is grateful for our community's continued support as we look to the future.

Melissa Flett
Director

Sharing
stories.

Inspiring
dreams.

Connecting
Wood Buffalo
to limitless
possibilities.





13,772
Active Cardholders



233,985
Circulations
156,500
Physical
77,485
Virtual



11,328
Physical Items Added
to the Collection

3,124
Items Loaned to and
737 Borrowed from
Other Libraries



61,404
In Person Visits
115,224
Virtual Visits

OUR GOAL IS TO PROMOTE CREATIVE EXPRESSION AND FOSTER AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY.

While COVID-19 presented many challenges, it also gave WBRL unique opportunities to extend the reach of our programming – 50,007 participants from throughout the RMWB took part in our virtual programs in 2021. Many programs were offered with take-and-make kits, including paint projects and crafting for all ages. Other highlights included:

- A design contest for a special edition library card. 94 submissions were received across three categories: Diversity, Library, and Wood Buffalo. The top three designs were printed on 250 cards and shared with the community via social media.
- Continued success of our Words in Motion poetry booklet. In 2021, we received 220 poem submissions with 51 local poets selected as winners.

What's coming next: A focus on building connections through programs and services, both in-person and virtually!

OUR GOAL IS TO REDUCE BARRIERS FOR TEENS AND ADULTS TO ACCESS INFORMATION AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.

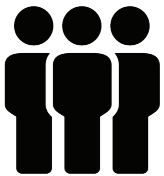
Throughout 2021 and the ongoing pandemic, WBRL collections, digital resources, and programs proved valuable resources for teen and adult learning. Circulation of our digital resources continues to rise year over year, with an increase of 18% from 2020. In 2021, WBRL:

- Replaced and updated all our Public Computer Works stations, for increased speed and a high-performance experience.
- Continued to offer and expand on personalized virtual information services. Our Book Match service connects patrons with new reads to meet their needs and has a 100% satisfaction rate from survey respondents.
- Launched a popular Astronomy kit, complete with telescope and star gazing materials. The kit has been checked out six times since May 2021 and has 22 requests!
- Offered a variety of learning-based programs, including Money Matters, Keyano Lecture Series, Upskills for Work, and book clubs with community collaborators.

What's coming next: A redesigned virtual experience at WBRL.ca!



14,429
Reference
Transactions



450
Programs Offered

50,007
Program Participants



3,772
Computer Works
Sessions

3,294
Computer Works Hours

OUR GOAL IS TO NURTURE AN INCLUSIVE AND INFORMED COMMUNITY.

WBRL continued to offer inclusive programs and services throughout 2021, including 12 sensory story time programs for children ages 0-12 with disabilities. These programs were funded through a grant from Canada Post and reached 300 participants. WBRL also:

- Conducted a diversity audit of our young adult fiction collection. The audit revealed identities that aren't well-represented in our collection and provides a blueprint for future purchasing.
- Collaborated with Markaz-UI-Islam and the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo on a video and poster contest for Islamic Heritage Month.
- Expanded our Junior World Language Collection with the addition of Telegu.

What's coming next: Increased consultation and knowledge sharing with multigenerational Indigenous leaders!

OUR GOAL IS TO EXPAND BEYOND THE PHYSICAL SPACE TO CONNECT WITH THE ENTIRE WOOD BUFFALO REGION.

Outreach in rural areas and with community organizations throughout the RMWB is an important facet of WBRL service. In 2021, we launched a rural marketing plan to better communicate the services we offer throughout the region and continued to make trips to the rural communities to deliver take-and-make kits. Other outreach highlights included:

- Starting homebound delivery in rural communities in September to offer similar services to those Fort McMurray residents enjoy.
- Building supports for Fort McMurray's homeless population through collaborations with Center of Hope and the Salvation Army MAT program. In 2021, we provided 905 take-and-make kits and set up bookshelves for Salvation Army and Center of Hope. We continue to look for opportunities to better serve urban and rural homeless populations.

What's coming next: A return to our rural communities and new supports for literacy and learning!

Thank you to our rural space partners:

- **Regional Recreation Corporation** - Conklin Multiplex & Anzac Recreation Centre
- **Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo** - Janvier Municipal Office & Fort Chipewyan Municipal Office



We thank our funders, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and the Government of Alberta.

We are also grateful to our 2021 sponsors, donors, and grantors for their support.

SPACE MAKING AT WBRL:

Bouchier (Indigenous Cultural Corner)

Canadian Natural (Teen Area)

Syncrude Canada Ltd.

(Syncrude Corner & Program Room)

2021 PROGRAMS & SERVICES:

Enbridge Pipelines (Athabasca) Inc.
(Community Outreach)

Pembina Pipeline (Afternoon Activities)

Suncor Energy Inc. (Indigenous & Rural)

Syncrude Canada Ltd. (Children's)

2021 EVENTS:

**Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival
World Tour**

Northland Forest Products Ltd.
(Presenting Sponsor)

Country 93.3 & 97.9 Rock
(Supporting Sponsor)

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

Canada Post Community Foundation
(Sensory Story Time)

Canada Healthy Communities Initiative
(Circulating Technology Collection)
(Coming in 2022!)