

Annual Report PTLDC

New Brunswick Public Library Service

2005-2006

Mandate:

The mandate of New Brunswick Public Library Service is to provide public library service to the residents of the province of New Brunswick.

Legislation:

New Brunswick Public Libraries Act (1997)

New Brunswick Public Libraries Foundation Act (1997)

Structure:

PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM OVERVIEW

In New Brunswick, public library services are offered through a partnership between the provincial government and participating municipalities. New Brunswick Public Library Service (NBPLS) is the agency responsible for the management and development of public library services in the province. NBPLS has been part of the New Brunswick Department of Post-Secondary Education and Training since February 14, 2006. It is made up of one provincial office, 5 regional offices, 51 public libraries, 11 public-school libraries and 4 bookmobiles.

Through NBPLS, the Provincial government is responsible for strategic planning, general administration, provision and supervision of programs and services, human resources, collection development, cataloguing and processing of materials, management of the provincial union catalogue, automation, as well as administrative, operational and professional support. Participating municipalities are responsible for providing and maintaining facilities as well as furnishing and equipment required for the provision of quality public library service.

For public-school libraries, school districts are a third partner, contributing half of the cost of salaries, ensuring curriculum-related collection development, and providing and maintaining necessary facilities to serve the school users. In this type of partnership, participating municipalities have the same responsibilities towards the community as in partnership agreements for public libraries.

Overall, the Provincial government provides approximately 70% of the budget allotted to the provision of public library service in the province, while the contributions of participating municipalities represent roughly 30%.

The provincial office of New Brunswick Public Library Service is responsible for ensuring that the intent of the *New Brunswick Public Libraries Act* is carried out. It manages the provincial budget, sets standards, policies and guidelines, and ensures that they are respected.

The regional offices (Albert-Westmorland-Kent (A-W-K), Chaleur, Haut-Saint-Jean (H-S-J), Saint John and York) supervise and coordinate the provision of library services in their individual areas.

Public libraries, public-school libraries, and bookmobiles are responsible for providing direct service to the population. The public library network provides equitable access to a collection of more than 1.9 million items, provides reference and readers advisory service, offers Internet access, literacy initiatives and public programming for all ages. Public library use positively impacts literacy levels and lifelong learning for New Brunswickers.

Each public or public-school library has a library board, with members appointed by the participating municipality or, as with the francophone community centres, by the administrative council. The library board manages the budget allocated by the municipality and ensures that the library facilities are adequate. It also plays a support role by promoting the library in the community and by ensuring that services offered meet the community's needs.

Several times a year, representatives from the public library boards from each region meet in regional forums to discuss common issues. The Regional Directors chair forum meetings. The regional forums elect one representative each to serve on the New Brunswick Public Libraries Board.

Members of the public library boards (trustees) can belong to the New Brunswick Library Trustees Association Inc., an independent organization that advocates for public library service in the province and fosters the education and training of library trustees.

The New Brunswick Public Libraries Board consists of five elected representatives, one from each region, plus up to eight additional members appointed from the public-at-large by the Minister responsible for public library service, and of the Provincial Librarian, who is a non-voting member. The Board provides advice to the Minister responsible for the public library system on provincial issues such as budgets, policies, guidelines, standards and services, and supports the New Brunswick Public Libraries Foundation in fundraising and promotion activities.

The New Brunswick Public Libraries Foundation, consisting of up to ten members appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, conducts fundraising activities and encourages, facilitates and carries out activities to improve collections in public libraries.

Finances/Grants:

The 2005-2006 total annual budget allocated to New Brunswick Public Library Service is \$11,590,000.

The New Brunswick Public Libraries Foundation dedicated \$125,000 to NBPLS collection development efforts. In addition to this, the Foundation contributed financially to collection development efforts thanks to funds they received through partnerships with different organizations for the purchase of collections in subject areas of mutual interest such as mental health, diabetes, epilepsy, and prenatal. The contribution made through these special projects totals \$51,000.

NBPLS received 77 summer student positions from the Department of Training and Employment Development to support the Summer Reading Club.

NBPLS received two grants through the Young Canada Works Program, one from ASTED and one from CLA, totalling \$14,500 to hire two cataloguing librarians to work on a special project to catalogue local history resources. One of the projects was conducted in French, the other in English.

NBPLS Made Grant Contributions to:

Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award - \$3,000. This grant supports the operation of an Atlantic region children's choice book award.

New Brunswick Library Trustees Association - \$6,000. The Association receives an annual operating grant from NBPLS.

Atlantic Provinces Library Association Conference - \$3,000. This grant is awarded to support the annual conference of the association. It is only awarded when the annual conference takes place in New Brunswick.

PTLDC - \$975. Contribution to the costs of research, analysis, and report preparation for the June 2006 meeting of Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Public Libraries.

Activities - Network and Automation:

Recent improvements in networking and automation include:

- Upgraded public internet access to high speed as it became commercially available in rural communities.
- Implemented a Virtual Private Network over high speed Internet solution for library automation and staff communications wherever high speed service was available. At the end of the 2005-6 fiscal year only one library remained without high speed access for staff. This library is scheduled to be upgraded early in 2006-7.
- Completed a major upgrade of the library automation system, including data conversion and migration, staff training and public relations.
- Redesigned the interface to the web based catalogue to take advantage of the system upgrade including new and faster searches and extended hours of availability.

Activities - Other Developments:

NB Public Library Service Recent Achievements

As you can see, NBPLS is responding to people's needs and moving forward. Here's what we've done over the past year.

A Library Card for Every Public School Student

- Gave every child entering Kindergarten in New Brunswick a public library card for a second year in a row as part of the Quality Learning Agenda, the province's development plan for the education system.

Canadian Library Week

- Participated in the Canadian Library Week and contributed to the development of the week by sitting on the national planning committee.
- Aired a television commercial during Canadian Libraries Week to promote public library service.

Library Programs

- Offered the Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award Program across New Brunswick in French and in English. 49 individual book clubs were established in public libraries. The program is a reader's choice book award similar to the Silver Birch Award. It is coordinated among the four Atlantic provinces.
- Offered the 2005 edition of the Summer Reading Club with the assistance of 77 summer students hired through the Priority Employment Project. The theme of the 2005 Summer Reading Club was *Let's Go on a Safa-Read / Partons en safa-lire*. More than 10,000 young people participated in the Summer Reading Club and read more than 240,000 books.
- Distributed library cards to pre-school children attending registered daycares and to parents of newborns through the Born to Read / Le goût de lire program in partnership with the Department of Family and Community Services and the New Brunswick Public Libraries Foundation.
- Completed program development and staff training for a library program entitled Babies in the Library aimed at helping parents to learn activities to do their infants that will help them to acquire language skills. The program includes rhymes, songs, bounces, etc. and is aimed at parents and infants under two years of age. Program implementation will begin in 2006-2007.

New Bookmobile

- A new concept wheel chair accessible bookmobile, constructed as a truck and chassis, with interior heat, air conditioning and lights was completed in March 2006 and began service in April in the York Library Region. The new bookmobile was built entirely by New Brunswick companies. In the past, bookmobiles were modified buses.

Feasibility Studies / Needs Analysis

- Conducted and presented needs analysis for the following libraries: Bas-Caraquet, Caraquet, Le Cormoran, Fredericton, Kennebecasis, Lamèque, Petit Rocher, Port Elgin, and St. Andrews. Needs analysis are conducted for the purpose of assessing needs for moving, building or expanding library facilities.

Provincial Structure

- Completed an additional phase of the standardization of the provincial structure of the library system by standardizing the public services unit at the provincial office.

Virtual Reference Service Pilot Project

- Launched a virtual reference service via e-mail that is jointly staffed by employees from across the public library system.

Intranet

- Developed an Intranet for information sharing within the public library system.

NB Public Library Statistics

- Published the 2004-2005 Annual Statistics Report.

Youth Apprenticeship Program

- Promoted librarianship as a profession by participating in the Youth Apprenticeship Program. NBPLS hired two bilingual high school students selected for their interest in investigating the possibility of pursuing a career in library and information science to work in public libraries over the summer. The students were given an overview of the profession and of the field of study required in order to become a librarian.

Library Book Rate

- New Brunswick developed an advocacy tool kit to support the national campaign to maintain Library Book Rate and provided the kit to other provinces and territories for their use.

Community Analysis Pilot Projects

- Five libraries participated in pilot project to develop community profiles that will give them a better understanding of the demographic and social make up of the communities they serve in order to better plan library programs and services to meet community needs. Each library was supplied with a provincially developed profile guide. The results of these five pilot projects will be used to further refine the profile guide and to present the project to the rest of the public library system for implementation in 2006-2007.

@ Your Library Guidelines for Staff

- A power point presentation and instructions were prepared for staff to encourage and assist them in using the ALA's @ your library trademark in their local promotional activities.

Current Issues

Library Mail Rate

- New Brunswick relies heavily on Library Mail Rate in order to share book collections between libraries. The estimated traffic of loans that are shipped using Library Mail is roughly 125,000 annually. New Brunswick has volunteered to continue to lead the national campaign to save Library Mail Rate.

Implementation of the *Lifelong Learning: Quality Adult Learning Opportunities* policy statement

- In December 2005, a policy statement on Adult and Lifelong Learning was issued by the province of New Brunswick that contains an objective entitled *Improve Access to Public Library Services to Support Lifelong Learning* that deals exclusively with the public library system. The objective contains commitments in three main areas in order to build and enhance: public library collections, public library services and e-library services. NBPLS will focus on the implementation of the initiatives outlined in the policy statement, and on initiatives outlined in other corollary provincial policy statements that relate to public libraries, in the development of its next operational plan.