

**COUNTY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE LIBRARIES**  
**2019-2020 Impact Report**



**Compiled by Serena Boyte-Hawryluk, MLIS**

# 2019

## LIBRARY STATISTICS

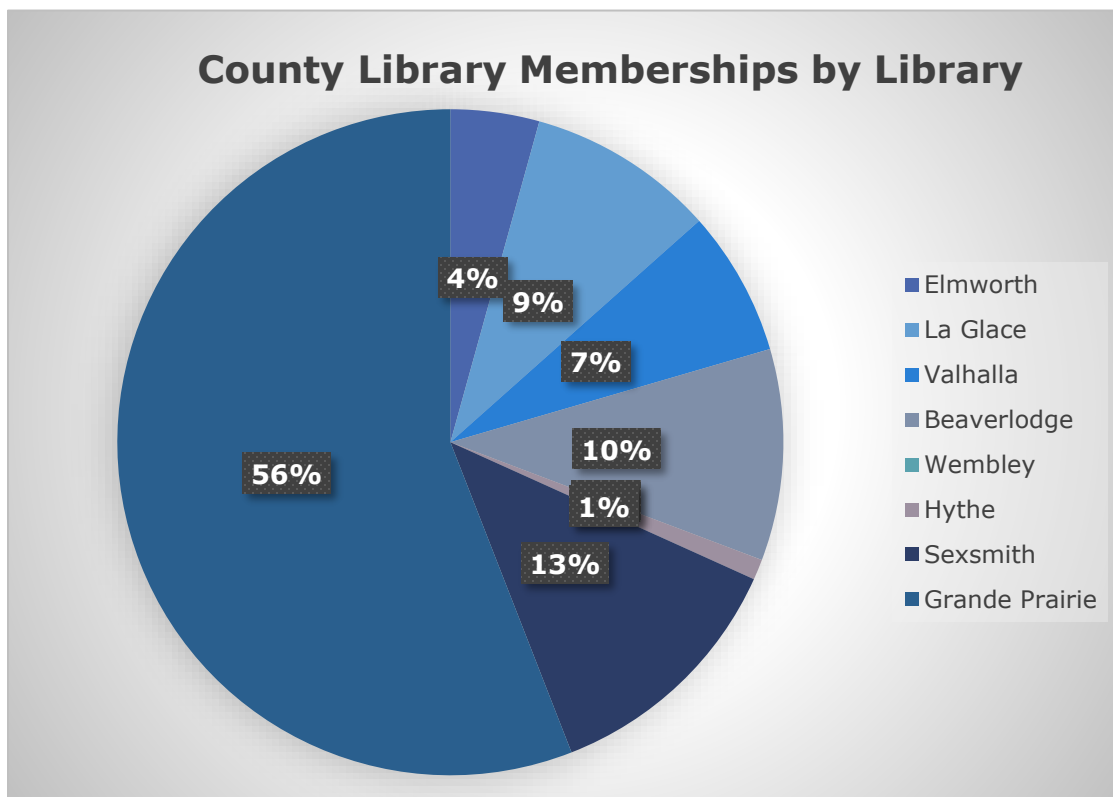
Library Board Mission: *To ensure the provision of comprehensive and efficient library services to the residents of the County of Grande Prairie.*

### LIBRARY MEMBERSHIPS (2019)

Out of 22,502 County residents, at least 5736 have a library membership at one of the 8 libraries in the region.

### 25% of County residents have a library card.

The County Library Board provides financial support to three hamlet libraries and 5 libraries in neighbouring municipalities, all of which provide service to County residents.



\*Data not available for Wembley Public Library, as patrons' municipality has not been collected in the past.

## USE OF COUNTY LIBRARIES (2019)

The County Library Board operates three libraries in County hamlets that are well-used and valued by rural County residents.

	<b>ELMWORTH*</b>	<b>LAGLACE</b>	<b>VALHALLA</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Memberships</b>	201	301	398	<b>900</b>
<b>Collection Size</b>	9,405	20,639	11,894	<b>41,938</b>
<b>Check-outs</b>	2,586	7,739	7,518	<b>17,843</b>
<b>ILL</b>	448	1,331	1,858	<b>3,637</b>
<b>Computer Use</b>	200	400	550	<b>1,150</b>
<b>Wifi Use</b>	581	786	559	<b>1,926</b>
<b>Program Participants</b>	264	1,459	959	<b>2,682</b>
<b>Visits</b>	--	5,795	6,216	<b>12,011</b>

\*The Elmworth Library was understaffed for part of 2019, resulting in reduced hours and programming opportunities.

## **SAVINGS FOR COUNTY RESIDENTS**

Though the pandemic closures affected library use significantly, County library cardholders still borrowed **\$472,931** worth of library materials in the first 6 months of 2020.

In 2016-2019, library users in the County borrowed approximately **\$1,525,000** worth of library materials per year.

Libraries also provide free access to:

- ***internet and computers***
- ***literacy and leisure programming***
- ***community space***

# 2020 PANDEMIC LIBRARY STATISTICS

All Alberta libraries were mandated to close to the public during the period of March 17 to June 12, 2020. Peace Library System has provided statistics on check-outs of physical items (curbside service) and virtual items during that time.

The following numbers represent totals for all libraries funded by the County Library Board: Beaverlodge Public Library, Hythe Municipal Library, Wembley Public Library, Sexsmith Shannon Municipal Library, Grande Prairie Public Library, Elmworth Community Library, La Glace Community Library, and Valhalla Community Library.

## CIRCULATION (MARCH 17 TO JUNE 12, 2020)

<b>Ebooks</b>	13,137
<b>Other Virtual Items</b>	11,247
<b>Physical Items (Curbside)</b>	14,605

Starting in late July, our libraries in Elmworth, Valhalla, and La Glace will be distributing free non-medical masks to the public as part of the “Masks for Albertans” program.

# COMPARABLES

## INFORMATION ABOUT SIMILAR LIBRARY BOARDS

### MUNICIPAL LIBRARY FUNDING IN ALBERTA

Municipalities provide a wide range of funding to their library boards, with the County's funding of \$31.50 per capita falling close to the average.

### PER CAPITA MUNICIPAL FUNDING (2016)\*

<b>Mean</b>	\$38.91
<b>Median</b>	\$22.82
<b>Lowest</b>	\$1.40
<b>Highest</b>	\$101.31

\*Data from <https://www.alberta.ca/public-library-statistics.aspx>

## COUNTY LIBRARY BOARDS IN ALBERTA

There are two other library boards in the province that are similar to the County of Grande Prairie Library Board: Parkland County Library Board and Yellowhead County Library Board. Both employ a full-time graduate librarian to manage library service in the County and both operate a number of library branches in hamlets while providing funds to partner libraries in neighbouring municipalities.

	<b>COUNTY FUNDING PER CAPITA (2016)*</b>	<b>POP.</b>	<b>BRANCHES</b>	<b>PARTNER LIBRARIES</b>
<b>County of Grande Prairie</b>	\$31.50	22,305	3	5
<b>Parkland County</b>	\$17.90	32,097	4	6
<b>Yellowhead County</b>	\$57.30	10,995	3	2

\*Data from <https://www.alberta.ca/public-library-statistics.aspx>

# THE FUTURE PLANS FOR LIBRARY SERVICE

The County Library Board is preparing a new Plan of Service that will guide library service decisions in 2021 and beyond.

As the long-term effects of the pandemic on our communities become clear, libraries will be working hard to identify and meet new demands, which could include:

- ***resume assistance***
- ***job skills training***
- ***exam proctoring***
- ***tutoring and literacy programs***

Though the past few months have provided many challenges, the Board, staff, and partners remain committed to providing high quality, equitable library service to all County residents.