

**GRAND FORKS & DISTRICT
PUBLIC LIBRARY**



Annual Report



2023

Message from the Chair

This time last year, I was hopeful that our Library would continue to recover and grow following the impact of COVID on our operations.

Well, not only did our services, programs and collections rebound, but in 2023 our library circulated a record number of items: just under 100,000 books and materials and over 20,000 e-items. When you consider the limitations of our budget and the size of our population, that number is extraordinary.

So, this is a pretty easy report for me! Really, all I want to do is thank everyone involved in this success.

On behalf of the Board, my sincere thanks to our brilliant Library Director for her leadership, and our stellar Library Staff for their remarkable achievements last year. Indeed, the Library is the heart of our community, and you are the people who ensure that every person who engages with our library is the better for the experience. Our library offers so much to so many.

I have been so lucky to work with our dedicated Board of Trustees. Their leadership and dedication to the library, their understanding of our fiduciary responsibilities, their commitment to intellectual freedom and their advocacy for the library are vital to its success.

In 2023, the Friends of the Library stepped up again with their fundraising. Your support means everything to us. Not only the funds you raise through your sales (and the cookies always sell out!), but also your engagement with local businesses to donate directly have meant that we could purchase many of the improvements in furniture, shelving, collections and technology that we see around us today. Thank you.

I want to thank the City of Grand Forks and the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary for their continued support in 2023. And the Government of British Columbia provided designated grants to our Library as well as maintaining our operating budget. We continue to advocate directly for increased annual provincial operating funding for public libraries, especially in small and rural communities such as ours.

What makes a small library great? All of us! This is how we create opportunities for all people to grow, contribute and thrive. Thank you.

- Mary Kierans





Message from the Library Director

As we take a moment to reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense gratitude. It has been another year of growth, resilience, and remarkable accomplishments.

Libraries are dying to tell you that we are so much more than a place to borrow books (and we are!). However, this year, our greatest accomplishment was surely how many books we lent. I am thrilled to share that in 2023, circulation of physical materials reached an all-time high, with nearly 100,000 physical circulations and over 20,000 digital circulations. These numbers are not just statistics; they are a testament to the enduring and fundamental impact our library has on this community.

In the face of challenges brought about by the pandemic, we have found strength in our ability to adapt and innovate over the past several years. Now, with the support of Enhancement Grant funding from the Province of BC, we seized the opportunity to expand our programming hours, allowing us to better serve the needs of our patrons. This allowed us to reinstate beloved programs like Cook the Books, and is now giving us the opportunity to expand our program offerings, reaffirming our dedication to meeting the evolving needs of our community.

In this vein, I'd like to highlight that last June we were thrilled to participate in Boundary Pride celebrations for the first time. The Library makes a strong commitment to diversity in our policies, and it was both an honour and quite fun to participate in last year's Pride event to remind us of the importance of community and belonging. I hope to have similar opportunities moving forward.

As we celebrate the achievements of 2023, I also want to express my deepest gratitude to our dedicated Staff, Library Board, and the Friends of the Library. Your unwavering support and tireless dedication are what makes us successful.

As we look to the future, let us continue to build upon these strong foundations, and together, let us create a future where the Grand Forks & District Public Library remains a beacon of learning, inspiration, and community for years to come.

- Cari Lynn Gawletz

2023 | YEAR



38,371

In-person visits



27,488

Reference questions
answered

That's more than one every four minutes!



1923

New items were
added to our
collection

83%

Of our circulation is
from physical items



119,917

Items Checked Out

99,689 physical checked out
20,228 digital checked out



425 New Acquisitions

5,575 Total Acquisitions



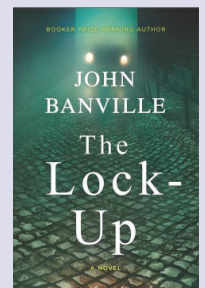
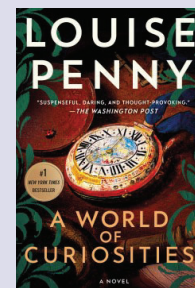
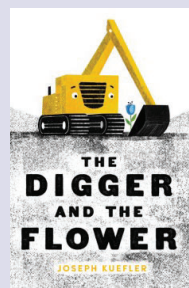
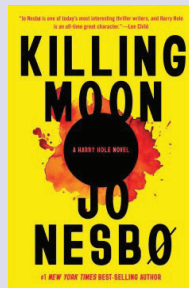
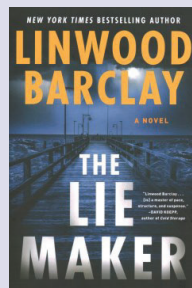
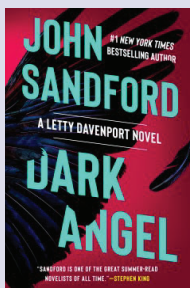
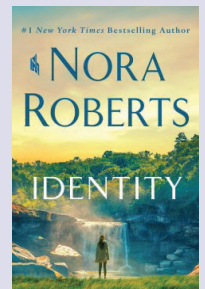
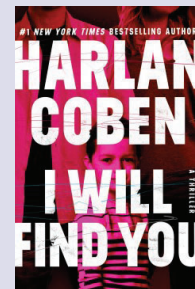
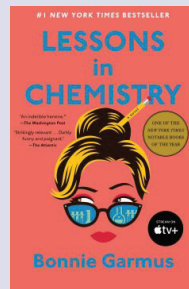
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Computer Resources

DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY

AR IN REVIEW

Top 10 Most Checked Out Books



7
Checked Out

outs
outs

Members

tal Membership

3
uter uses

451

Events were held

4,250

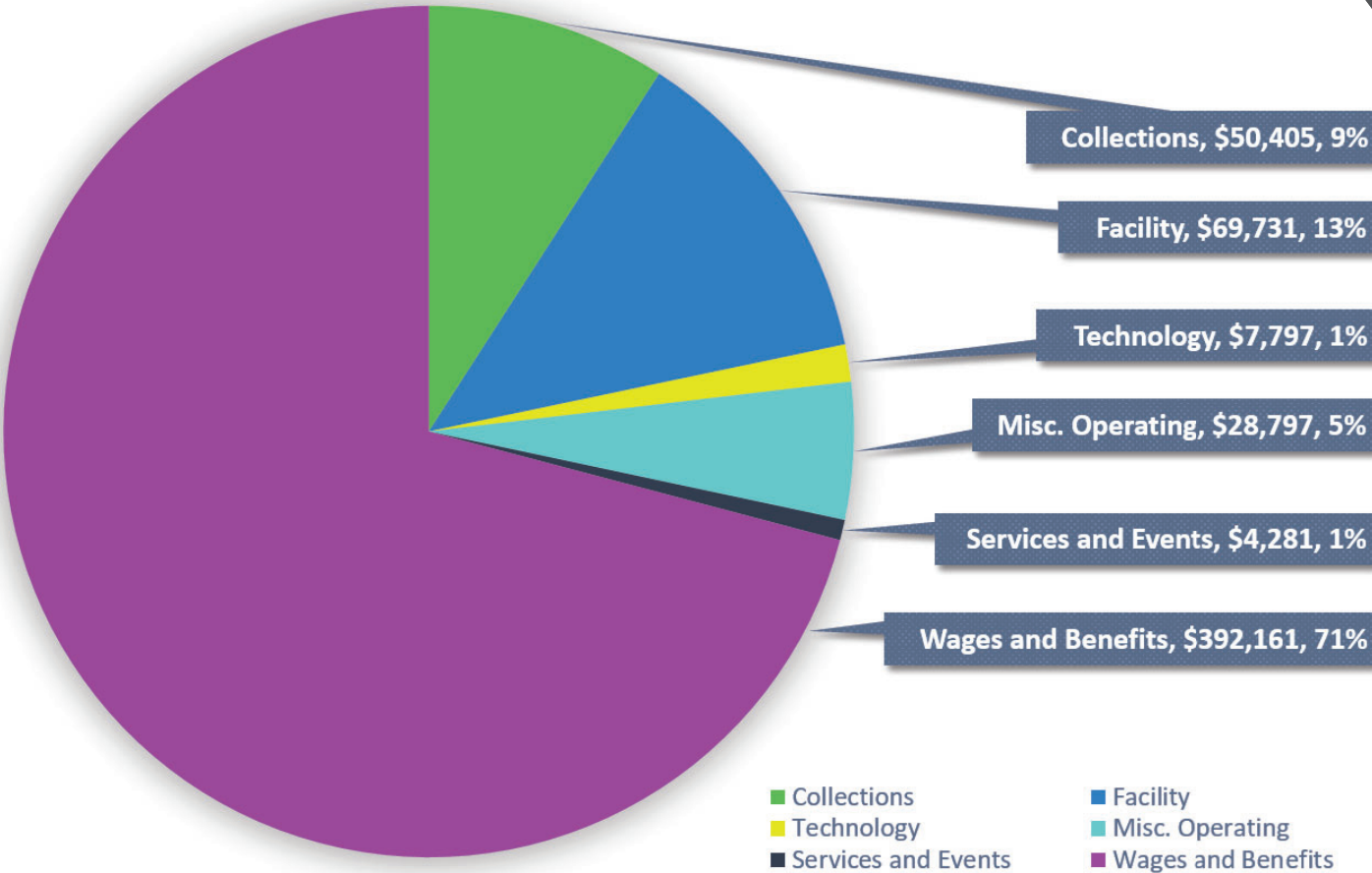
Patrons attended
our events

part of our story in 2023!

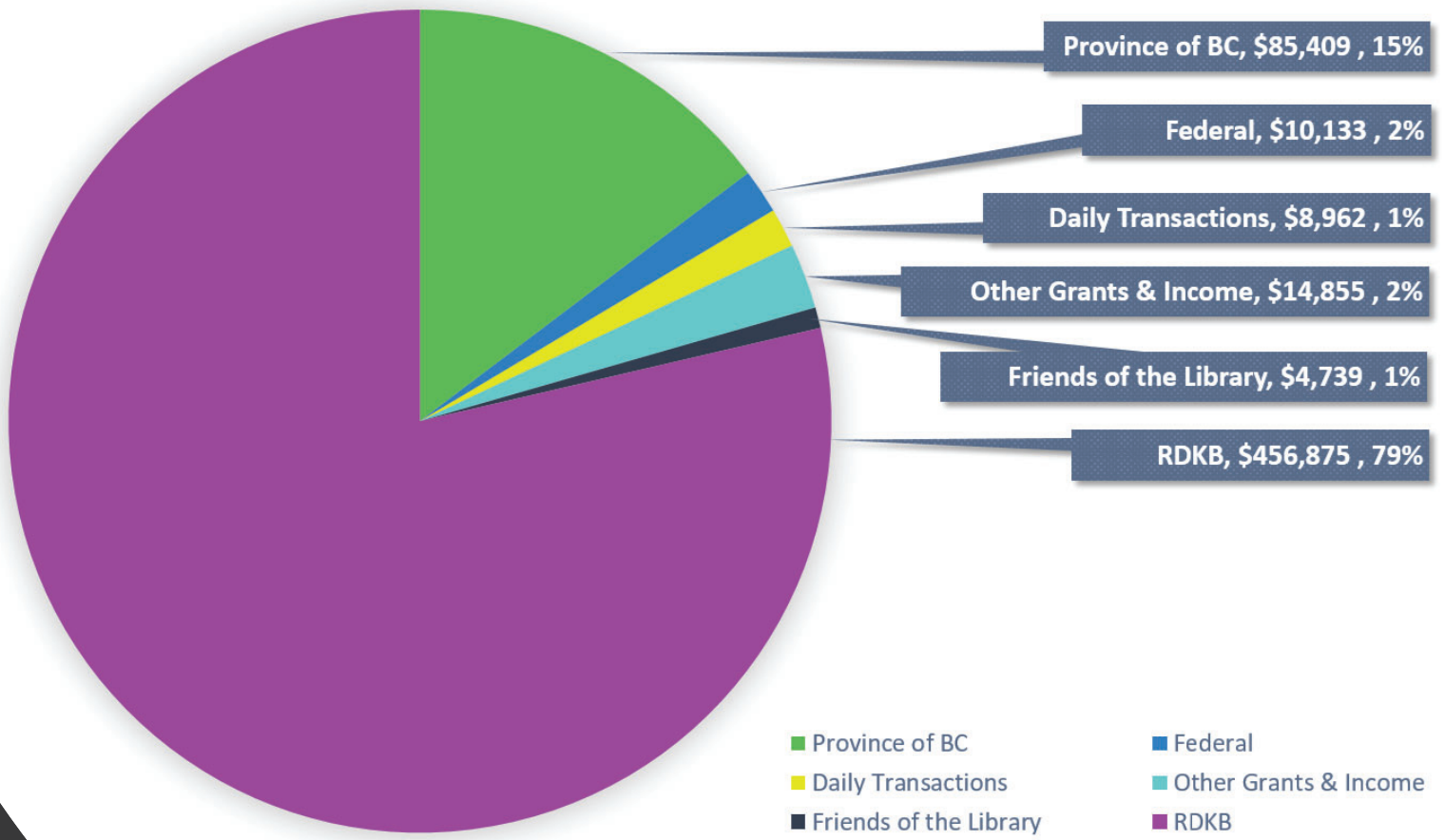
2023 Finances

(preliminary unaudited figures)

Expenses



Income



Donors

Thank you to those who donated \$100 or more to the Library in 2023:

Camilla Glittenberg
Courtenay Jewitt
Diane and Gerhardt Hinz
Eva Glittenberg
Grand Forks Flooring
Jean MacDonald
Kootenay Boundary Homes LTD



Board Members

- Mary Kierans (Chair)
- Ellen McDonnell (Vice Chair)
- Chris Jonat (Treasurer)
- Cheryl Ahrens
- Sandra Shore
- Alice Webb
- Deborah Lafleur (City of Grand Forks)