

# LIBRARY REPORT



North Vancouver District  
Public Library

February 19 to March 18

Highlights for February and March include programming that supports the Library's strategic framework. We held two events that strengthened our political partnerships, two events supporting digital literacy and creativity, and two events that highlight how the library is working to provide engaging spaces to create knowledge and share stories.

## STRENGTHENING POLITICAL PARTNERSHIPS

In March, NVDPL hosted two political partnership events: a funding announcement event in partnership with the government of Canada, and a Transportation Referendum Public Information Session in partnership with the District of North Vancouver and the Mayor's Council of BC.

### Government of Canada Grant Funding Announcement

On Monday, March 16, the Government of Canada hosted an event at our Lynn Valley Library, announcing a new call for proposals for the Enabling Accessibility Fund. In 2011, NVDPL benefitted from a grant of over \$70,000 from this fund. This grant was applied for and received by the Friends of the North Vancouver District Public Library and went toward accessibility improvements at all three NVDPL branches. The Honourable Candice Bergen, Minister of State for Social Development launched the grant, and she was accompanied by North Vancouver MP Andrew Saxton. Trustee Frank Sullivan represented the Board and emceed the event, which was also attended by North Vancouver Councillor and acting Mayor Jim Hanson, who was formally recognized by Frank during his presentation.



*Acting Mayor Jim Hanson, North Vancouver MP Andrew Saxton, the Honourable Candice Bergen, Minister of State for Social Development and NVDPL Trustee Frank Sullivan pose for a photo following the grant announcement.*

### Transportation Referendum Public Information Session

On Wednesday, March 11, the Library held a transportation referendum public information session at Lynn Valley Library. The event was presented by the Mayors' Council of BC. North Vancouver District Mayor Richard Walton, Mike Buda from the Mayors Council, Dr. Mark Lysyshyn from Vancouver Coastal Health and Brittany Barnes from Capilano University all spoke at the event.



The Transportation Referendum Public Information Session took place at Lynn Valley Library on March 11.

## SUPPORTING DIGITAL LITERACY AND CREATIVITY

Digital skills are increasingly more important in today's world. That's why in February and March the Library held two digital literacy and creativity programs for kids. These programs help establish digital competencies in children by giving them hands-on experience working with technology. Teamwork is also an important focus of these programs. Kids enrolled learn about technology and teamwork, and have fun in the process!

### **Lego Robotics**

In February and March, Parkgate Library held a five-week Lego Robotics program. David Jones, a local Lego Robotics expert, led the sessions with Lego Mindstorms EV3 kits supplied by North Shore Community Resources. Seven enthusiastic roboteurs dug in with the help Javier, a teen volunteer, and librarian Layla Naquin. Over the course of the program, participants made several robots, including the robot Track3r, which featured a bi-blade blender and a blasting bazooka, a programmable brick, several motors, and an infrared sensor, as well as the more challenging robot, Ev3rstorm, which introduced participants to programming through the Lego Mindstorms' icon-based programming software. In the program feedback, the kids remarked how they not only learned digital literacy skill, but also learned how to work together, how to keep going in the face of difficulty, and how to be creative (the kids created some awesome, customized remote controls).



Two program participants show off their robot creations!

### **Young Writers' Workshop: Create Your Own Ebook**

On February 21, 28, and March 7, six youth ages 10-15 met in the Lynn Valley Library to transform a piece of their writing into an ebook. The budding young authors first had the opportunity to work with local author and creative writing teacher, Lindsay Glauser Kwan, to workshop their writing and learn about the creative writing process. In the second session, the youth worked with iPads to create digital illustrations to complement their writing. Finally, in the last session, the images and texts were used to create a personalized ebook for each one of the participants. Feedback on this program from both parents and participants has been extremely enthusiastic and positive, and there have been several requests for more of this type of program for youth.



Youth learning to create their own ebook.

## PROVIDING ENGAGING SPACES TO CREATE KNOWLEDGE AND SHARE STORIES

Two library programs in February and March really stand out in highlighting how the library is working to provide engaging spaces for our patrons to create knowledge and share stories: our TED livestreaming and our Freedom to Read Week event, the Banned Book Café.

### TED Livestreaming

The week of March 16 to 20 the Library livestreamed the TED 2015 Conference, providing a venue for community members to watch the live web cast and to discuss the talks with others. We streamed the entire conference at our Lynn Valley Library, with additional streaming times and locations at our Capilano and Parkgate Libraries. Each of our three branches hosted TED Discussion Lounges where event attendees share their thoughts and reflections on TED 2015, and the theme Truth or Dare. During the first three days, over 200 people attended our TED events. (Final numbers are not available at the time of this report.) Extra care was taken for this event to make sure the library provided a welcoming environment. We offered refreshments, provided beautiful TED signage and informational pamphlets, and our systems department worked diligently to make sure the web stream displayed seamlessly. Attendees were also invited to co-create a display board by writing their responses to the question “What’s one thing you learned today that you can’t wait to share?” Finally, one fun bit of feedback we heard from a patron about the TED livestreaming was, “I just can’t get enough! It’s like brain candy!”



*A photo of TED Livestreaming in our Lynn Valley program room. Livestreaming and TED Discussion Lounges took place at each of our three locations.*

### Freedom to Read Week and the Banned Book Café

Freedom to Read Week, which takes place each year in February, is an event that encourages Canadians to think about and reaffirm their commitment to intellectual freedom. As a library, it’s important we create spaces where community members can feel free to explore all topics, subject and books, and that is why we celebrate this event each year. This year, we celebrated with banned book displays at each of our branches, through social media, and with a Banned Book Café event at Parkgate Library. At the event, participants had the opportunity to read passages from banned or challenged materials and to chat and connect. Conversation at the event flowed freely around topics related to censorship and intellectual freedom.



*Capilano Library’s Freedom to Read Week display. We had displays at each of our three locations.*

## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS – MONTH OF FEBRUARY

- **Adult Programs:** Our average attendance per adult program offered in February 2015 increased by 16.7 per cent as compared with January 2015.
- **Newcomer/ELL Programs:** In February 2015, we held a total of seven newcomer and English Language Learning (ELL) programs with an average attendance of nine people. (No newcomer programming stats are available for January 2014.)
- **Teen Programs:** We held a total of five teen programs in February 2015 with an average attendance of nine teens per session. (No teen programming stats available for February 2014.)
- **Children’s Programs:** In February 2015, our average attendance per children’s program dropped by 10 per cent from the previous February. This decrease represents an average attendance of 27 attendees per event in 2015 vs. 30 attendees per event in 2014. Plus, our overall attendance increased with 2515 attendees in February 2015 vs. 2036 attendees in February 2014. So while we are statistically down in average attendance, our children’s programs are still attended at a very high level.
- **Traffic:** Traffic (measured by gate counts) went up by 5.4 per cent in February 2015 as compared with February 2014.
- **Circulation and Holds:** Year-over-year print circulation and holds statistics have remained by and large the same in February.
- **Digital Circulation:** Digital circulation increased in February by 15 per cent as compared to the previous year.
- **Virtual Visits:** Overall virtual visits have remained by and large the same in February 2015 as in 2014.