

# External Committee Report

## Cumberland Public Libraries

### September 2024

---

#### **Summer Reading Club (SRC) 2024**

SRC is over for another year! We were very excited to be back to a full load of programs this year in all our locations. We received grants from Cumberland Child and Youth Foundation, and the Community Health Boards to help with program supplies and prizes. Programs included Weird Science, LEGO, Family Fun Night, What Goes Up? (a program with flying experiments) and Amazing Astronomy for Teens.

Prizes included a \$100 and 2x \$25 gift cards at each location for kids, and for teens a set of Air Pods, and an Oodie.

Overall 280 kids register for SRC and they submitted a total of 5,253 ballots. At 15 minutes per ballot that is over 1,300 hours read, 610 hours in Amherst alone! 1,800 kids participated in our SRC programs from June-August, 1,100 of those in Amherst.

Teens submitted over 1,800 ballots and adults entered over 900 ballots to win prizes.

#### **Period Underwear Giveaway**

Cumberland Public Libraries will be giving away a free pair of reusable period underwear to patrons this fall. We will be touring around Cumberland County starting October 3<sup>rd</sup> in Parrsboro. The Amherst program will take place November 28<sup>th</sup>. Funding for this initiative is part of the Government of Nova Scotia's support to increase access to menstrual supplies for all Nova Scotian and was provided by Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage.

#### **Statistics**

In the month of July, Cumberland Public Libraries signed out over 15,000 items, 6,051 items in county libraries. This includes books, movies, TV shows, magazines, ebooks and more.

Also, in July Amherst held 20 in-person programs with 322 people in attendance. The Amherst Library had 2,985 in person visits.

#### **Provincial Funding review update**

The Library Funding Review Committee (LFRC) met in person on August 29<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting working groups presented options that prioritize higher wages for library staff, increased investment in library collections and technology, and new investment in cybersecurity. The options are supported by the research and allow for greater sustainability and growth for libraries into the future.

Municipal representatives on the LFRC clearly expressed concerns in terms of the impacts of a new library funding model on municipalities, and the LFRC has taken that feedback into consideration. Moving forward, the library funding review process will shift from the LFRC to government, where department staff will build on the work done by the LFRC and develop library funding recommendations for government consideration.

**Next Board meeting November 19, 2024.**