



Yellowhead Regional Library

March 7, 2018

Rudolf Liebenberg  
Summer Village of Sunset Point  
Box 596  
Alberta Beach, AB T0E 0A0

Dear Rudolf:

On behalf of everyone at Yellowhead Regional Library (YRL), I am pleased to present our 2017 Annual Report. This report showcases our commitment to adapting to the needs of our member libraries and seeking creative ways to provide quality service to our region.

Please take a moment to look at the highlights from 2017 that demonstrate how YRL is working toward being a leader in library service. For additional copies of the report, please contact Laurie Haak at [lhaak@yrl.ab.ca](mailto:lhaak@yrl.ab.ca).

Also of note, the YRL Board approved the 2017 Audited Financial Statements at their meeting on March 5. The financial statements are available on the YRL website ([www.yrl.ab.ca](http://www.yrl.ab.ca)) by going to About Us, Board, Financial Information.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact me at [kdodds@yrl.ab.ca](mailto:kdodds@yrl.ab.ca) or 780-962-2003 (toll free 1-877-962-2003) extension 226.

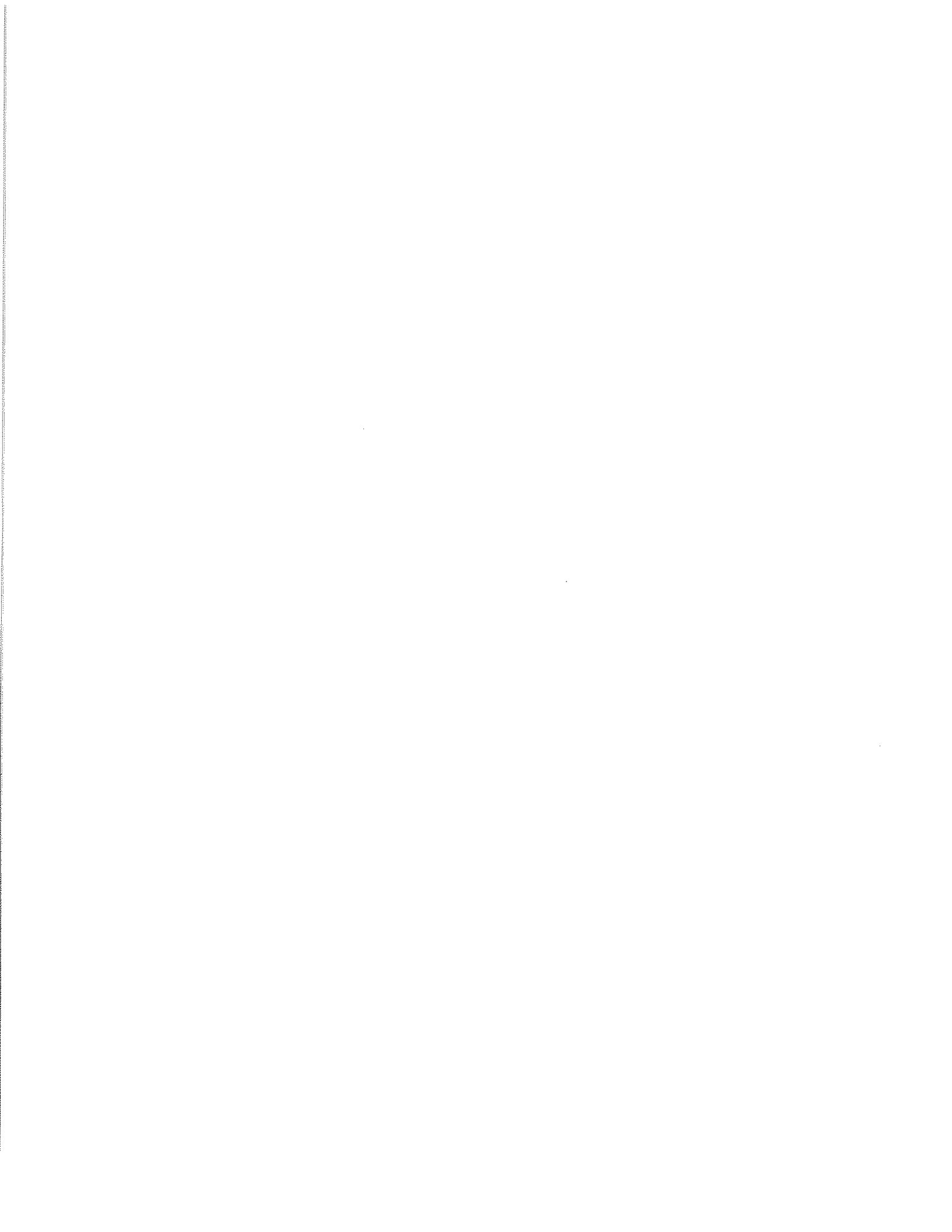
We appreciate your ongoing support and dedication to the libraries of Alberta.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kevin Dodds'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kevin Dodds  
Director  
Yellowhead Regional Library

Enclosure



# 2017 YRL ANNUAL REPORT

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Libraries are constantly evolving and I'm always impressed by the diverse services our member public and school libraries provide their communities. YRL's 2017 highlights reflect these changing needs and trends. To enhance our member public libraries' virtual presence, we deployed new, responsive-design websites. We increased bandwidth to satiate the data demands of staff and patrons. We supported programming by creating makerspace kits and distributing Public Library Services Branch funding to extend services to Indigenous communities. Most excitingly, we received a one-time grant from Alberta Municipal Affairs for upgrades and renovations to our building; resource-sharing continues to grow and this will allow us to accommodate the increased amount of materials that flow through headquarters.

After the fall elections we said thank you and farewell to many long-serving YRL Board Trustees. For those who are new, we look forward to working with you in 2018. We are grateful to all of our stakeholders for their commitment to have – and financially support – our library system. Given the accomplishments of this past year, we are energized for the future.

- Kevin Dodds

## WEBSITES

**39** WEBSITES LAUNCHED **194** HOURS ON SET-UP AND TRAINING

### POLARIS FEATURES

Patrons can search the catalogue, place holds, view their account and renew materials all on their library's website.

### MOBILE FRIENDLY AND SECURE

Built with responsive design, these websites look great on any device; SSL certificates maximize patron privacy.

### FACEBOOK CONNECTIONS

Facebook posts are integrated as a low-maintenance way to keep content fresh.

## HOOPLA

Cost-per-circulation eResource offering digital video, music, audiobooks, eBooks and comics to patrons.

**\$93,549** SPENT ON CHECKOUTS  
52% INCREASE FROM 2016

## OVERDRIVE

Downloadable eBooks and audiobooks.

**↑ 6%** INCREASE FROM 2016  
133,407 CHECKOUTS

## MAKERSPACE KITS

These kits enable our members to offer non-traditional technology programs while avoiding development and maintenance costs. Available beginning in September, they were fully booked until December.

**6** CIRCUITRY KIT LITTLE MAKERS KIT  
RECORDING KIT BUTTON MAKING KIT  
TOOL KIT ROBOTICS AND CODING KIT

“The makerspace kits are great! I wouldn't have the time (or money) to build them on my own. A side benefit is all the relationships that have developed. I love how the teens naturally help out the younger kids – and me too!”

## PRESSREADER

Current issues of newspapers and magazines from around the world.

**↑ 37%** INCREASE FROM 2016  
52,841 ISSUES READ

## NEW eRESOURCES

ALBERTA EBOOKS

FRONTIER LIFE

GALE PRIMARY RESOURCES

## TECHNOLOGY

### POLARIS UPGRADES

Two software upgrades introduced a new mobile-friendly catalogue and enhancements to LEAP.

### BANDWIDTH CHANGES

Increased from 150 Mbps to 260 Mbps.

 **775,577** PUBLIC WI-FI SESSIONS

## CLIENT SERVICES

### CONSULTING VISITS

 **54**

### TRAINING VIDEO VIEWS

 **1,661**

### SCHOOLQ

 **87%** INCREASE IN REQUESTS FROM 2016

### COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Coordinator position was eliminated, yet we put out **50** issues of The Loop, **42** issues of The Scoop and had a **71%** increase in Twitter engagement from 2016.

## BIBLIOGRAPHIC SERVICES

### STAFFING

Two staff retired and we welcomed two new members – including a library technician – to the team. We also hired an intern to help during the summer.

**862,650**

ITEMS HANDLED BY YRL CIRCULATION STAFF

**\$411,613**

SPENT BY ACQUISITIONS  
**1%** INCREASE FROM 2016

### PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL ILL REQUESTS

 **7,395** **18%** INCREASE FROM 2016

### DELIVERIES TO MEMBER PUBLIC AND SCHOOL LIBRARIES

 **2,679** **0.3%** DECREASE FROM 2016

## STRONG AND FREE: THE POWER OF LIBRARIES

 **175**  
REGISTRANTS

 **5%** FROM 2016

### SURVEY RESULTS (109 RESPONSES)

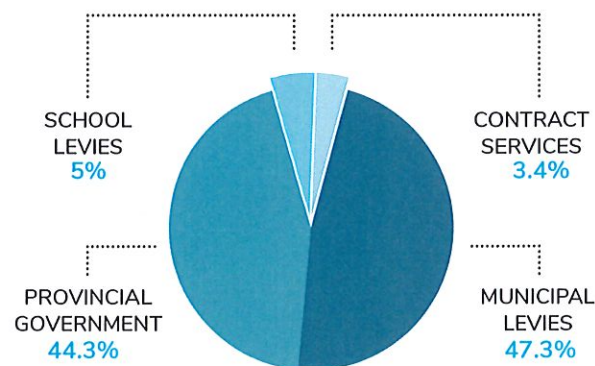
**27%** WERE FIRST TIME ATTENDEES

**100%** RATED THE CONFERENCE AS GOOD OR EXCELLENT

“ I always like seeing other people from small libraries. It's so nice to see what other people do for their patrons. It gives you ideas on how you could improve your service. ”

## FINANCIALS

### REVENUES



### EXPENSES

