

Bowen Island Public Library Strategic Plan 2014 – 2016

*Strengthening our Foundation, Cultivating our Strengths,
and Building Community for the Future*



Introduction

In 2009, the Bowen Island Library Board developed a five-year strategic plan that addressed four priority areas and provided a comprehensive action plan. Our priority areas were: 1. Enhance the library as a community gathering place; 2. Develop the library as a centre for literacy; 3. Build a professional organizational structure; and 4. Increase access, advocacy, and the library's profile.

We are proud of our accomplishments over the past five years. They include: becoming a municipal library; establishing board standing committees; developing staff, volunteer, and library board manuals; reviewing, revising, and developing library policy; improving library space with additional seating, improved shelving, expanded study space, and a refurnished children's area; opening on Sundays in response to community demands; increasing our electronic collections and providing technology education and support; increasing collaborations to provide literary events and a community book club; taking over the management of a medical equipment lending program (renamed the Med Shed); publishing an e-newsletter that is circulated every two months; and strengthening our working relationship with the municipality.

The Board's success is the result of commitment to a vision and an action plan—our blueprint for planning and decision-making - and so to guide us over the next three years, the Board held a visioning session on April 6, 2013 and a strategic planning session on June 29, 2013.

Strengthening Our Foundation

In response to rapid changes in technology, to our community's growth, and to an expanding and changing role for libraries, the visioning session reviewed our mission and reflected on the values and principles that guide our work. The ensuing discussion and deliberations led to the creation of a vision statement, a revision of our mission statement, and the development of a comprehensive set of guiding principles which will shape our planning, goals, and actions for the next three years.

Cultivating Our Strengths

While the majority of our objectives from 2009 – 2014 were accomplished, the Board recognized that several goals could not be achieved in our current space. The library as a gathering place and as a centre for literacy required more space for programs, events, study, classes and meetings, and more space for technological growth. The Board also agreed that ongoing technology planning and development was imperative to our services and to our public communication and advocacy.

Building Community for the Future

The Bowen Island Library is changing. It is increasingly a community hub offering a range of classes, cultural events, and shared resources beyond books. It is a collaborative organization partnering with other groups and organizations to connect islanders to each other and to the resources they need. Computers, Wi-Fi, e-readers, technology training, medical equipment and electricity usage monitors are some of the non-traditional resources currently available to the community. A final priority for the next three years is to establish the "Library as a Centre for Sharing" through collaboration, openness, respect, and service.

Vision

Connecting islanders to each other and to the world

Mission

Bowen Island Public Library nurtures discovery and learning for all ages, through the sharing of ideas, knowledge, skills, and resources.

Guiding Principles*A Place for Everyone*

We provide a safe, welcoming, and accessible gathering space that responds to the community's needs.

Respect

We respect the privacy, confidentiality, and diversity of all people, and welcome everyone in an atmosphere that is non-judgmental and courteous.

Reading, Literacy, and Lifelong Learning

We support lifelong learning and the achievement of literacy in all its forms, and we encourage reading as a pleasurable and worthwhile experience.

Knowledge and Culture

We encourage and facilitate an active cultural and intellectual life in the community, where ideas are shared to create and sustain an informed and knowledgeable society.

Intellectual Freedom

We support the Canadian Library Association's position statement on intellectual freedom, and we support equitable access to expressions of knowledge and creativity.

Service

We provide free and equitable access to library materials, programs, and services with professionalism and excellent customer service.

Collaborations

We are a place for sharing and we work collaboratively with local residents and groups as well as the wider community.

Responsive and Accountable

We are responsive to community expectations and make decisions that are fiscally prudent and transparent.

Meeting the Future

We respond to new technologies, to the expanding knowledge base, and to changes within our community.

Preserving the Past

We preserve our library history and stories, and value those things the community cherishes about the library.

Strategic Priorities

1. Enhancing the library as a community gathering place

Goal - Increase space and collaborations**Objectives:**

- Build an annex to increase space for programs, and community use
- Work with the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation to develop a fundraising strategy
- Work with the municipality in the planning for annex construction
- Revitalize our current library space concurrently with annex development
- Grow community and library collaborations to develop programming, services, and use of new annex space

2. Developing the library as a centre for literacy

Goal - Focus on technology and reading readiness**Objectives:**

- Develop a long-term technology plan
- Continue investments in technology infrastructure and support
- Develop technology resources, services, and programs to support learning in the community.
- Improve access to the library's electronic resources
- Continue and expand early literacy and early learner programs

3. Building a professional organization

Goal - Focus on communication, accountability, and transparency**Objectives:**

- Redesign the library website
- Post board minutes, agenda, initiatives, and progress reports to the library website
- Continue e-newsletter and examine social media options for community connections
- Review the library logo and ensure it reflects the new vision and mandate

4. Expanding the library's role as a place for collaboration and community sharing

Goal - Develop a centre for sharing**Objectives:**

- Enhance current space for Med Shed
- Collaborate with and engage the community to assess community needs
- Develop other community sharing opportunities as appropriate (e.g. a seed bank, a centre for small business development and support)