

## News from New Brunswick Public Library Services

**Kate Thompson, Head of Public Services Development, NB Public Library Services**

New Brunswick Public Libraries continued to navigate challenges posed by the pandemic over the winter. In January, New Brunswick went into Level 3 of the Winter Plan for COVID-19. Although the public could still access computers, all other public library services were suspended for two weeks. Staff shifted their focus to providing curbside pickup. Libraries have since reopened, with capacity limits, masking, and proof of vaccination requirements in place.

Staff have also been assisting in the COVID relief effort by accepting deployments to other government departments. Most recently, staff have been asked to help in supply chain management, to support vaccination clinics, and to assist the provincial critical staffing team. Library workers have been highly sought after throughout the pandemic for their customer service and organizational skills.

The Kennebecasis Public Library in Quispamsis was forced to close temporarily at the end of January due to flooding. A sprinkler system pipe ruptured and caused significant water damage to both floors of the building. The extent of the damages needs to be thoroughly assessed and a plan for repairs needs to be developed before the library can reopen to the public. While the Kennebecasis Public Library is closed, other public library branches in Greater Saint John are providing services to Kennebecasis patrons.