



Community Highlights

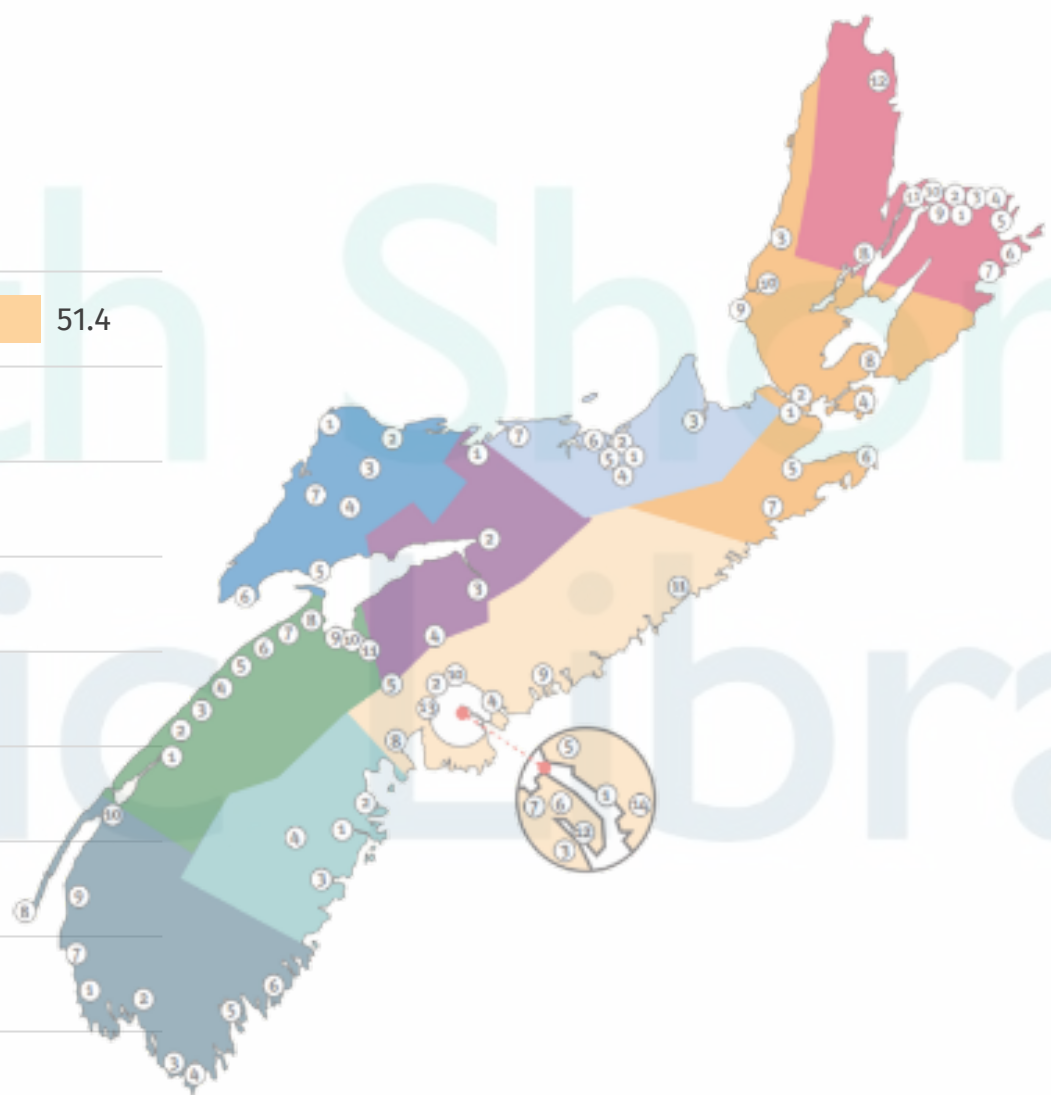
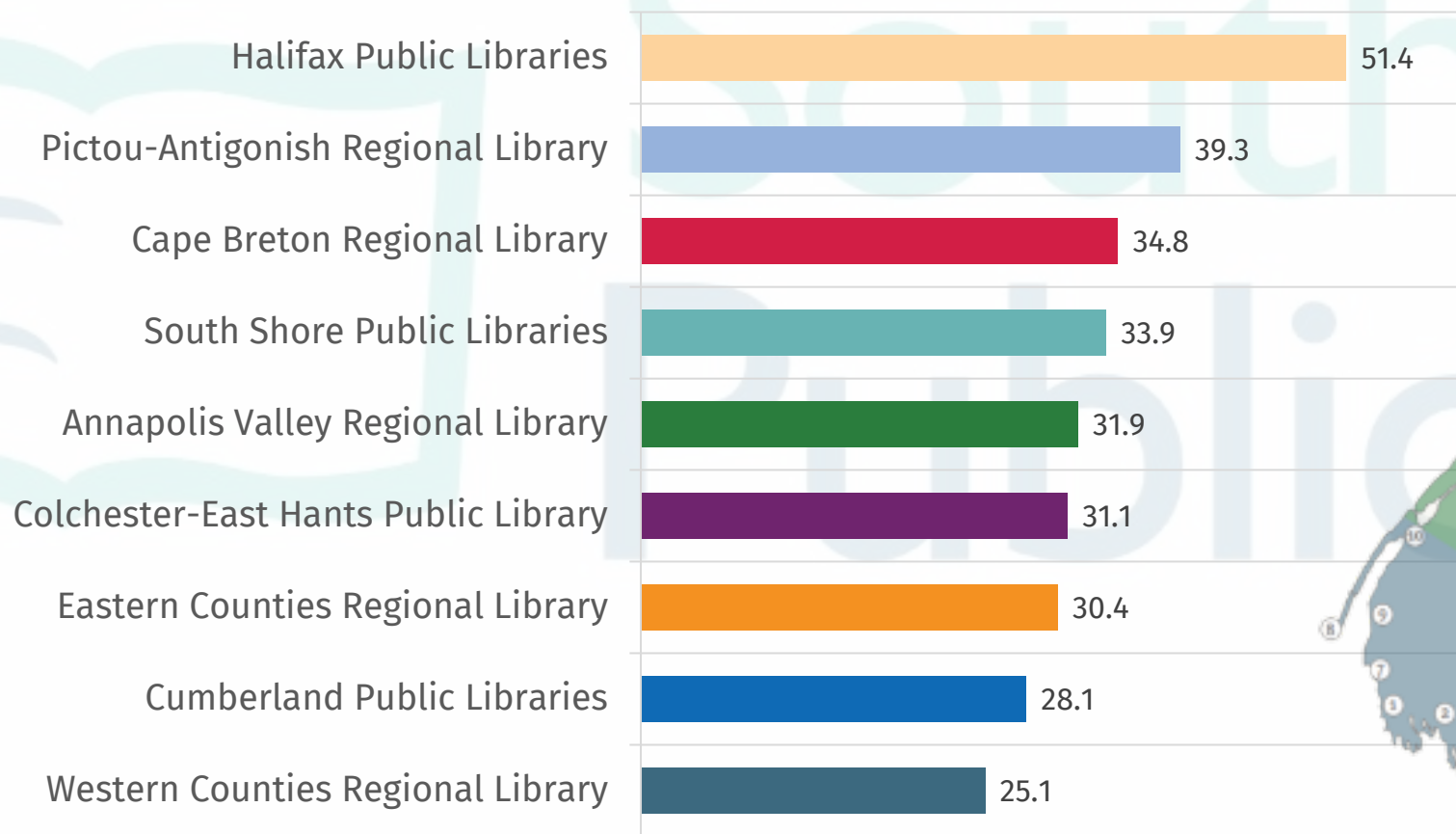
Region of Queens Municipality

February 11, 2025

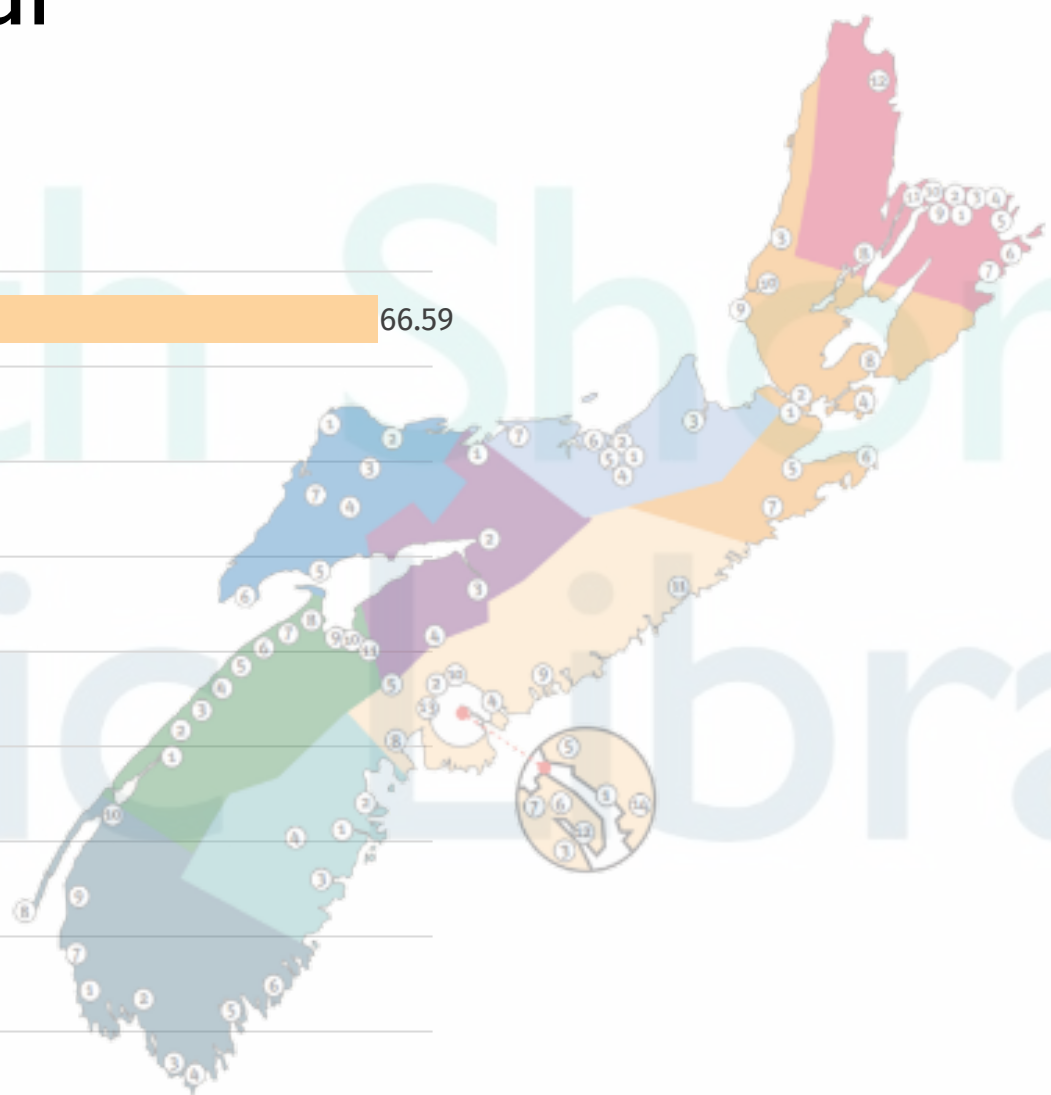
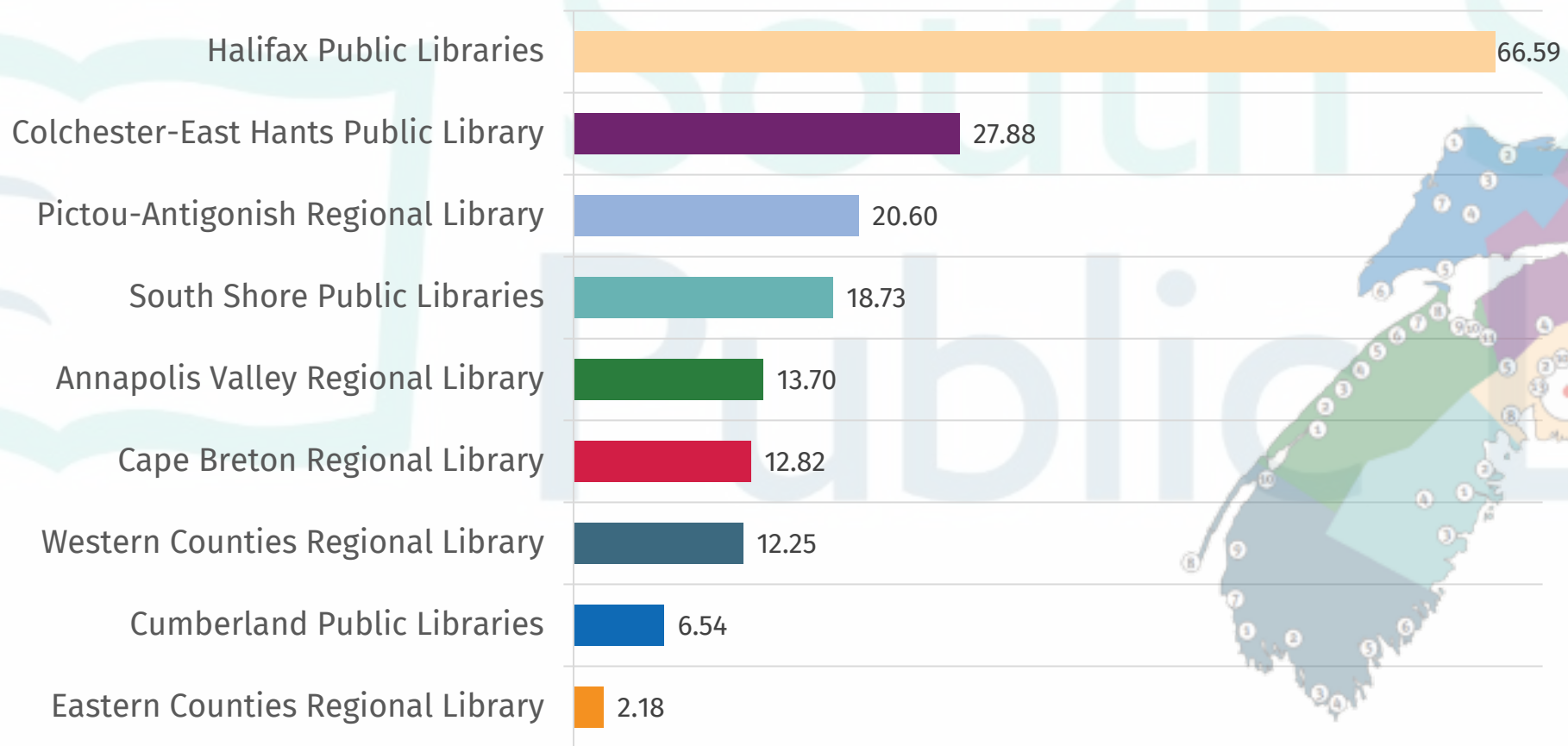
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE



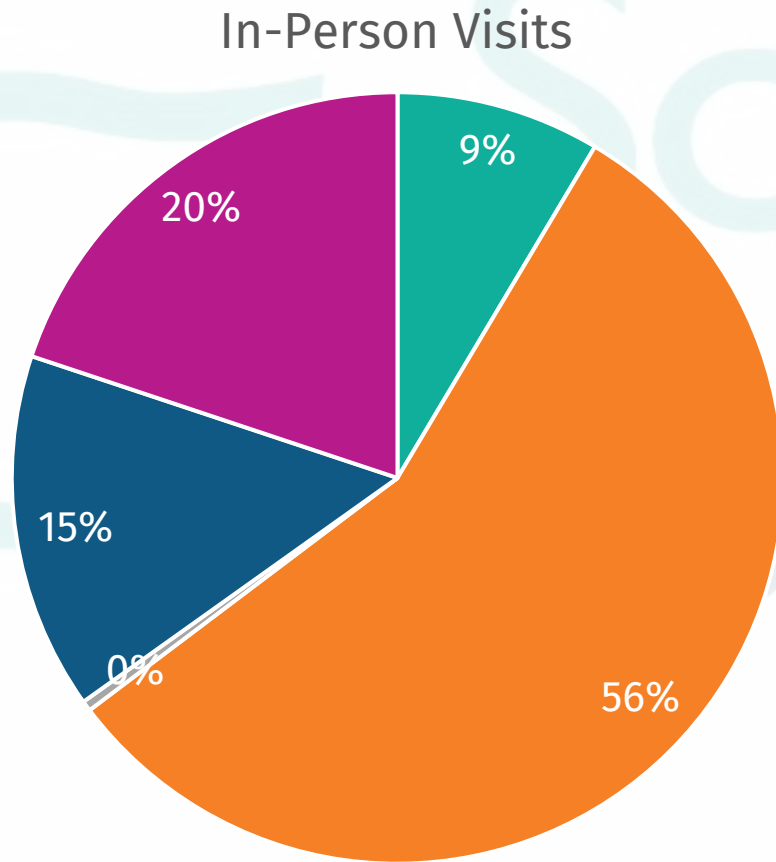
Weekly Open Hours per Location (2023-2024)



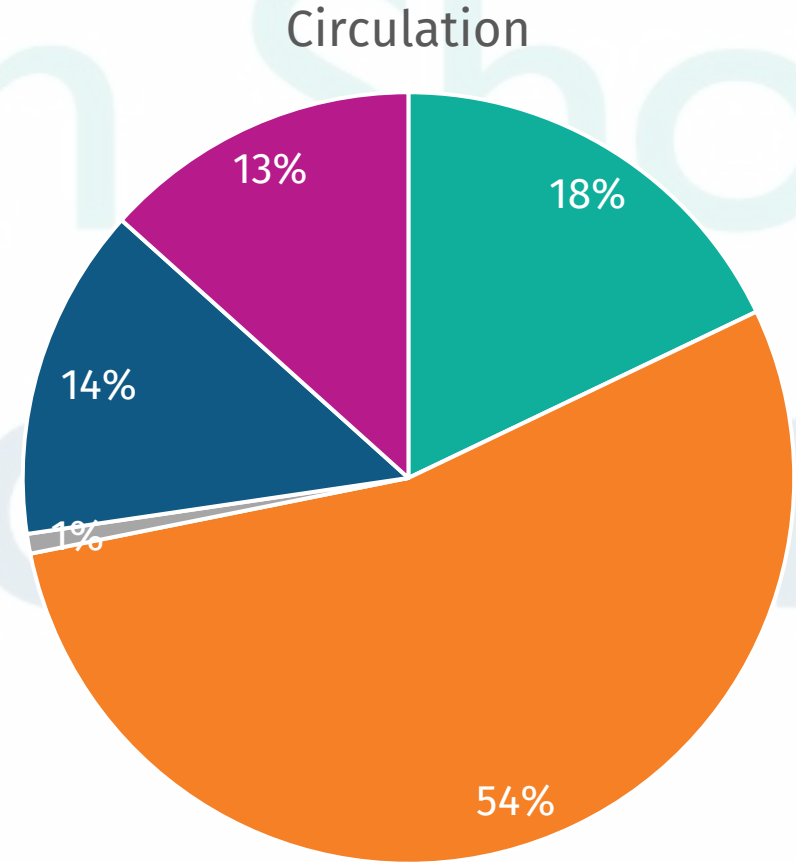
In-Person Visits per Open Hour (2023-2024)



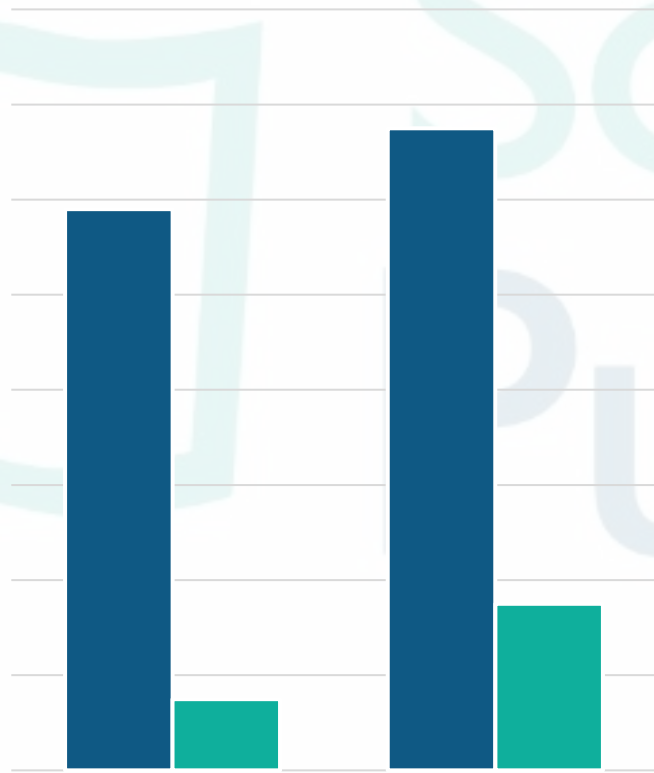
Branch Comparison (2023-2024)



- Bookmobile
- Bridgewater
- Greenfield
- Liverpool
- Lunenburg



RQM Branch Locations (2023-2024)



	Visits per Hour	Checkouts per Hour
■ Liverpool	11.8	13.5
■ Greenfield	1.5	3.5

Core & Innovative Library Service

Supporting Family Literacy

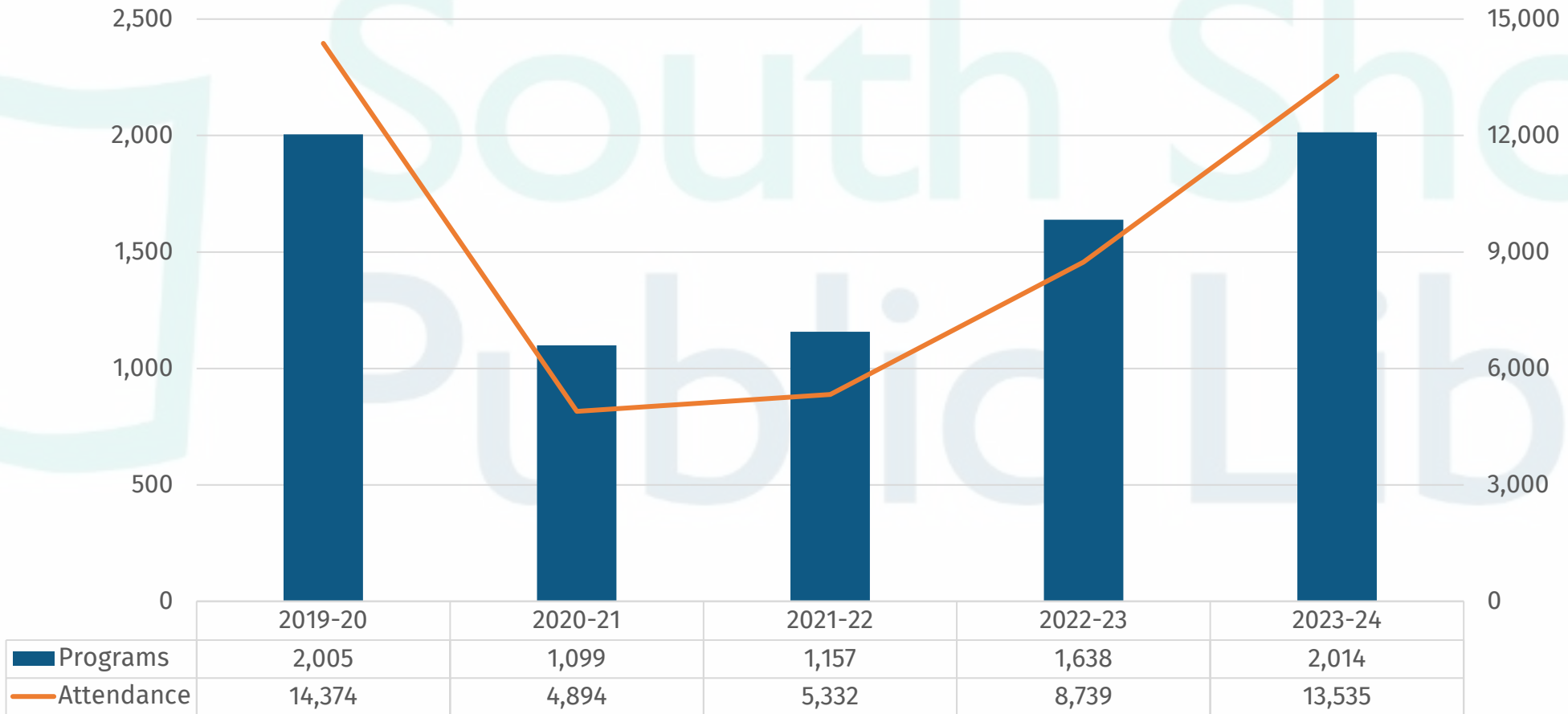
- Picture books, toys and games
- Reading together as a family contributes to early literacy
- Sets kids up for success in school and beyond



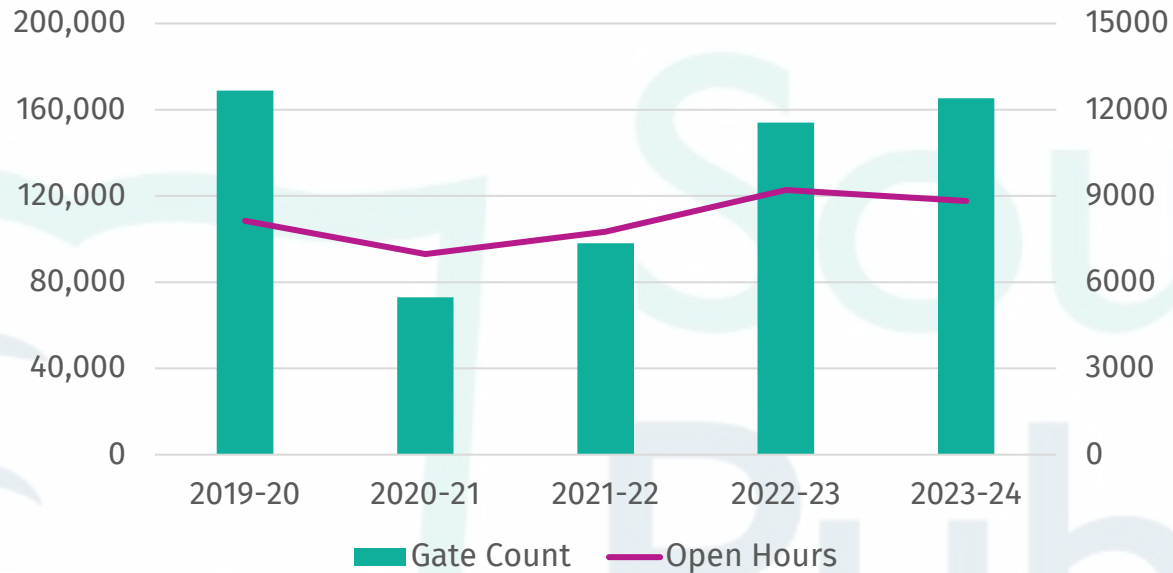
Imagination & Play



Program Attendance (5-year trend)



Study & Work Space



- With the rise of remote work, many rely on the library as a neutral “third place”
- Safe, weather-controlled space with no cost of entry
- Wifi connections and computer terminal use address the digital divide

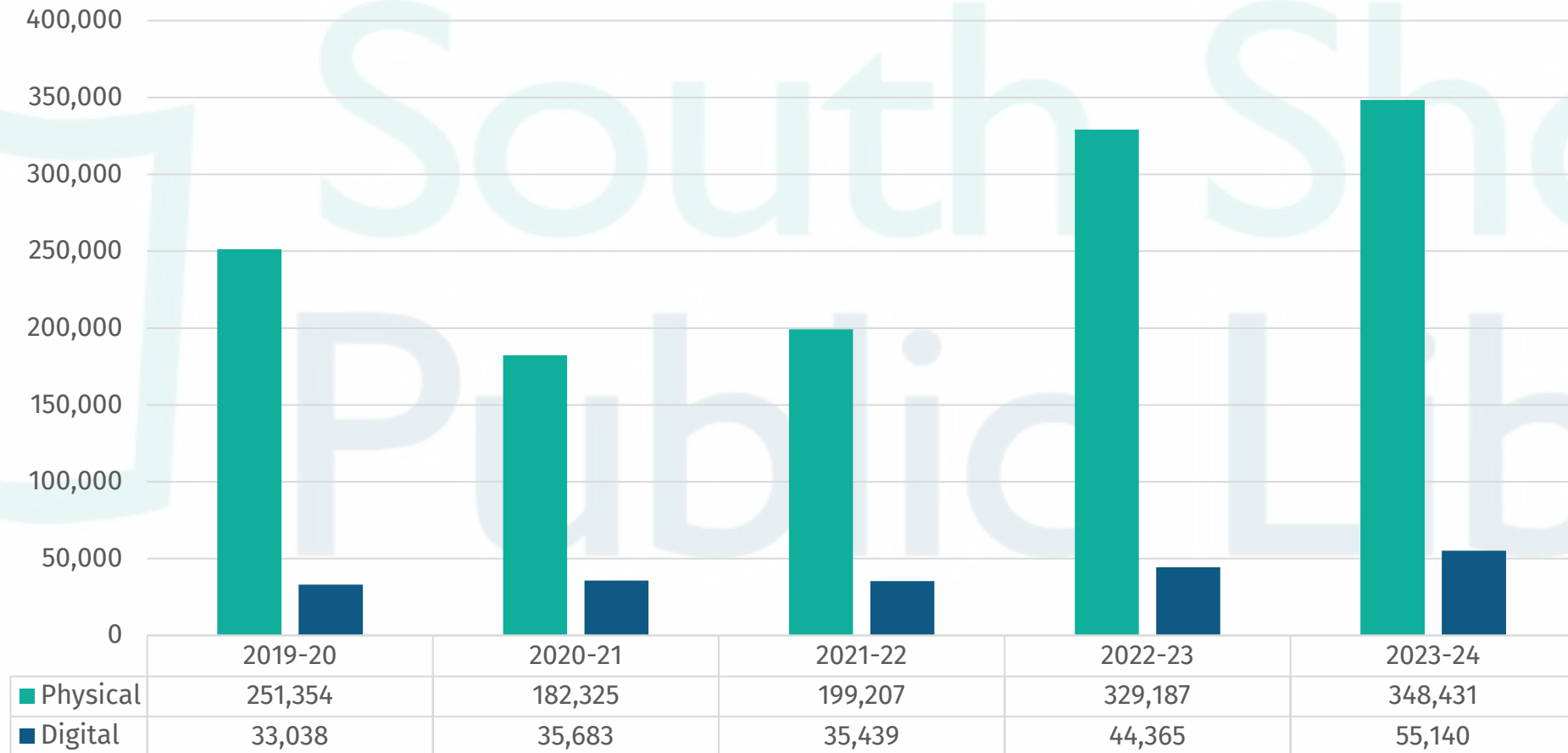


Same Page

- Same Page launched in January 2022
- Consortia catalogue of 8 regional NS library systems
- 1,000,000+ items to borrow
- Increase of nearly **13x** more material shipping between regions
 - Pre-Same Page, 37,210 outgoing items passed between the regions (5-year average, 2015-2020)
 - In 2023, this reached more than *half a million items* (500,729) an increase of 1245% in just three years

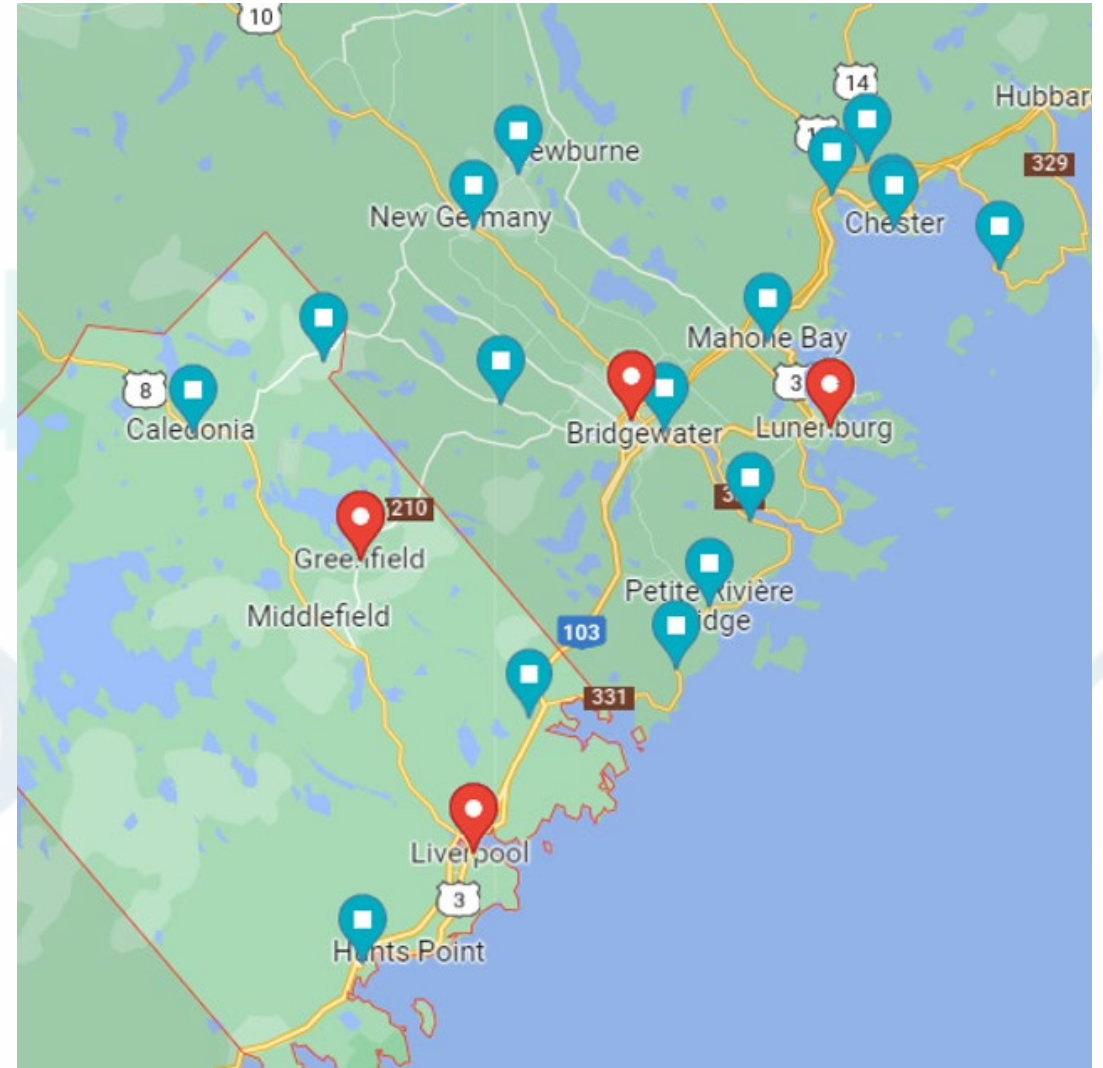


Physical & Digital Borrowing (5-year trend)



Bookmobile

- New bookmobile launched 2021
- 8 weekly stops and 10 tri-weekly stops
- RQM stops: Caledonia, Pleasant River, Mill Village, Port Mouton
- In-person visits and circulation remain high, as does public sentiment
- Operational vehicle costs are expensive, yet lower than operating a similar number of brick-and-mortar locations



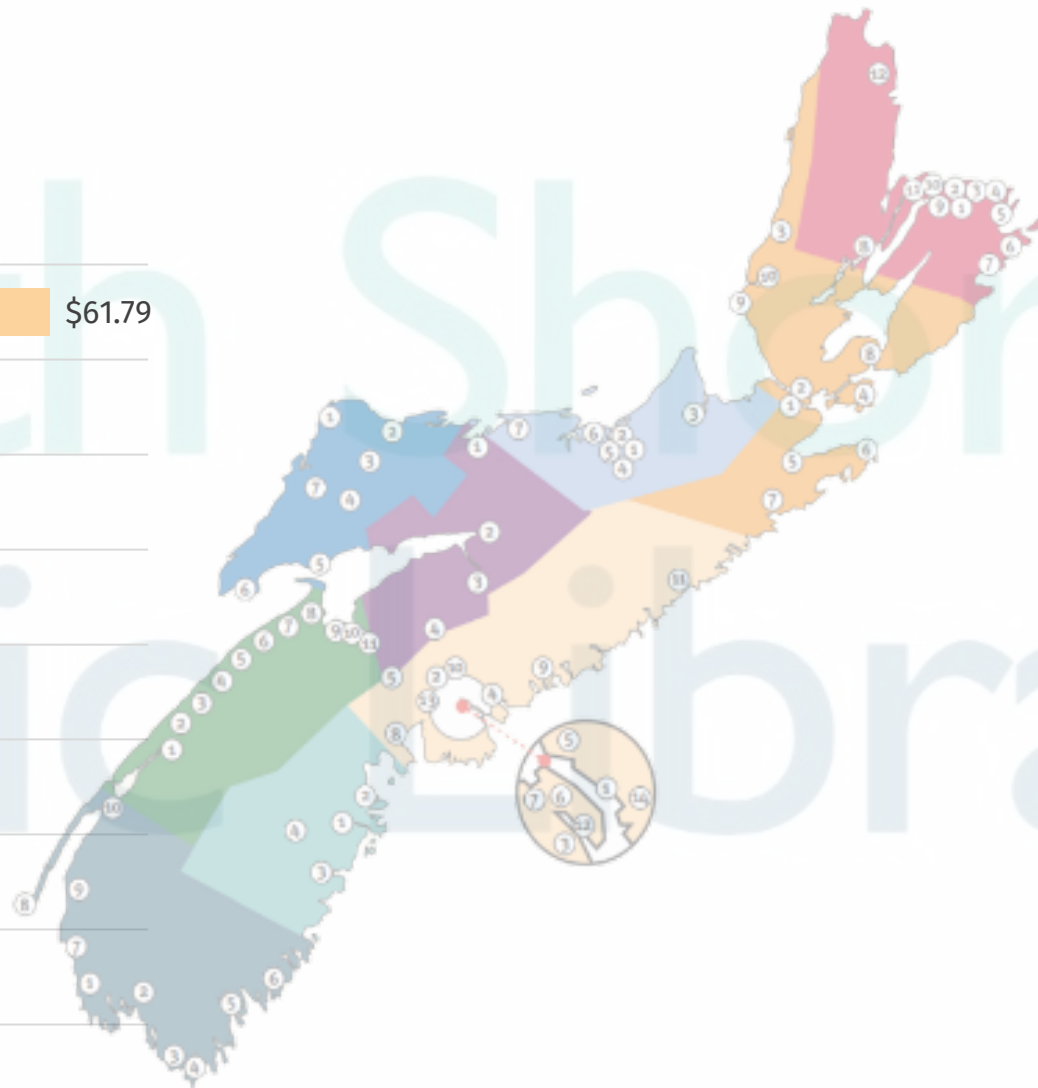
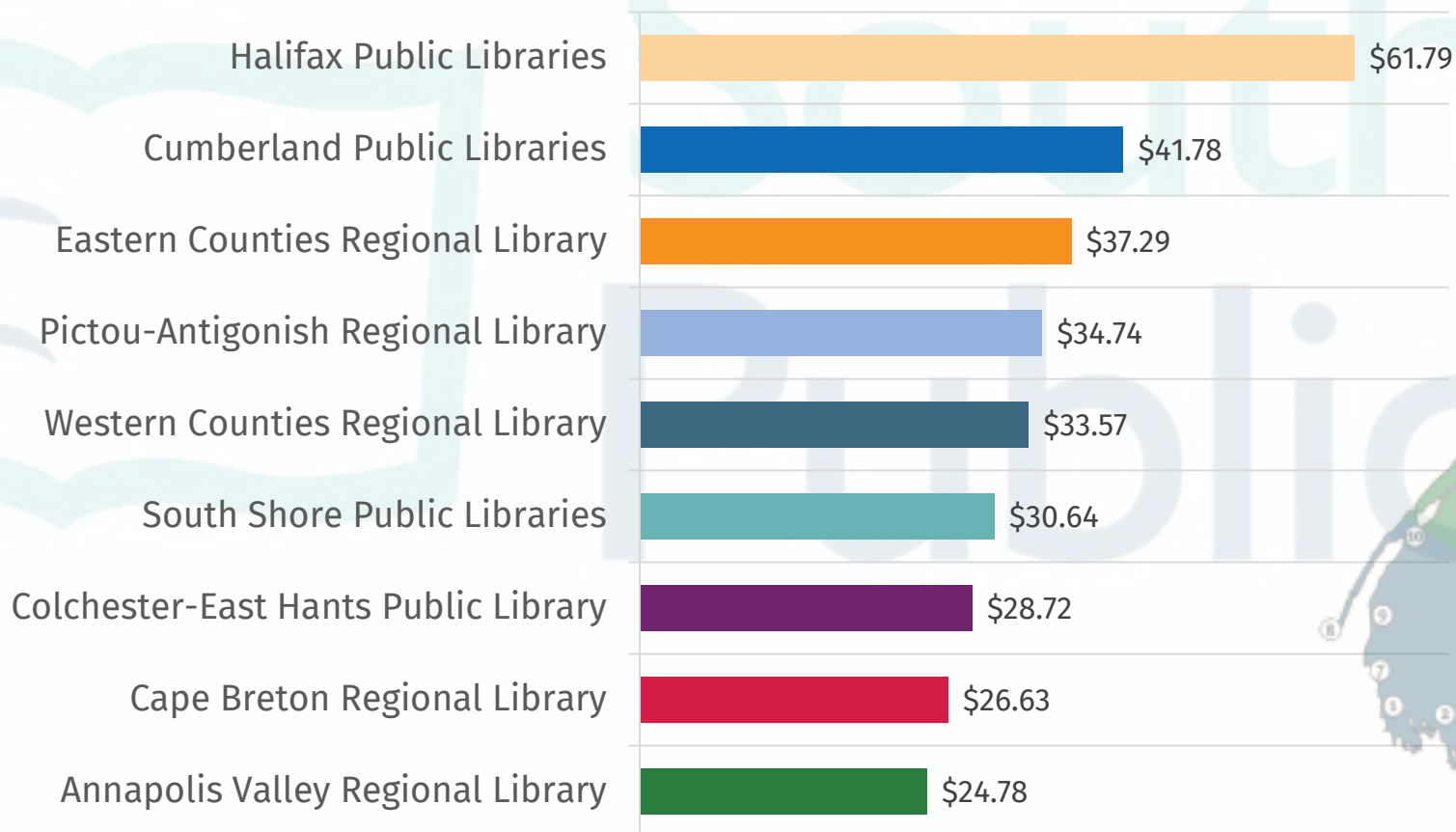
COVID-19 Rapid Test Distribution

- Over 2 million tests distributed
- Vaccine Appointment Booking assistance, Maple Virtual Health
- ALA award-winning *Caring Calls*

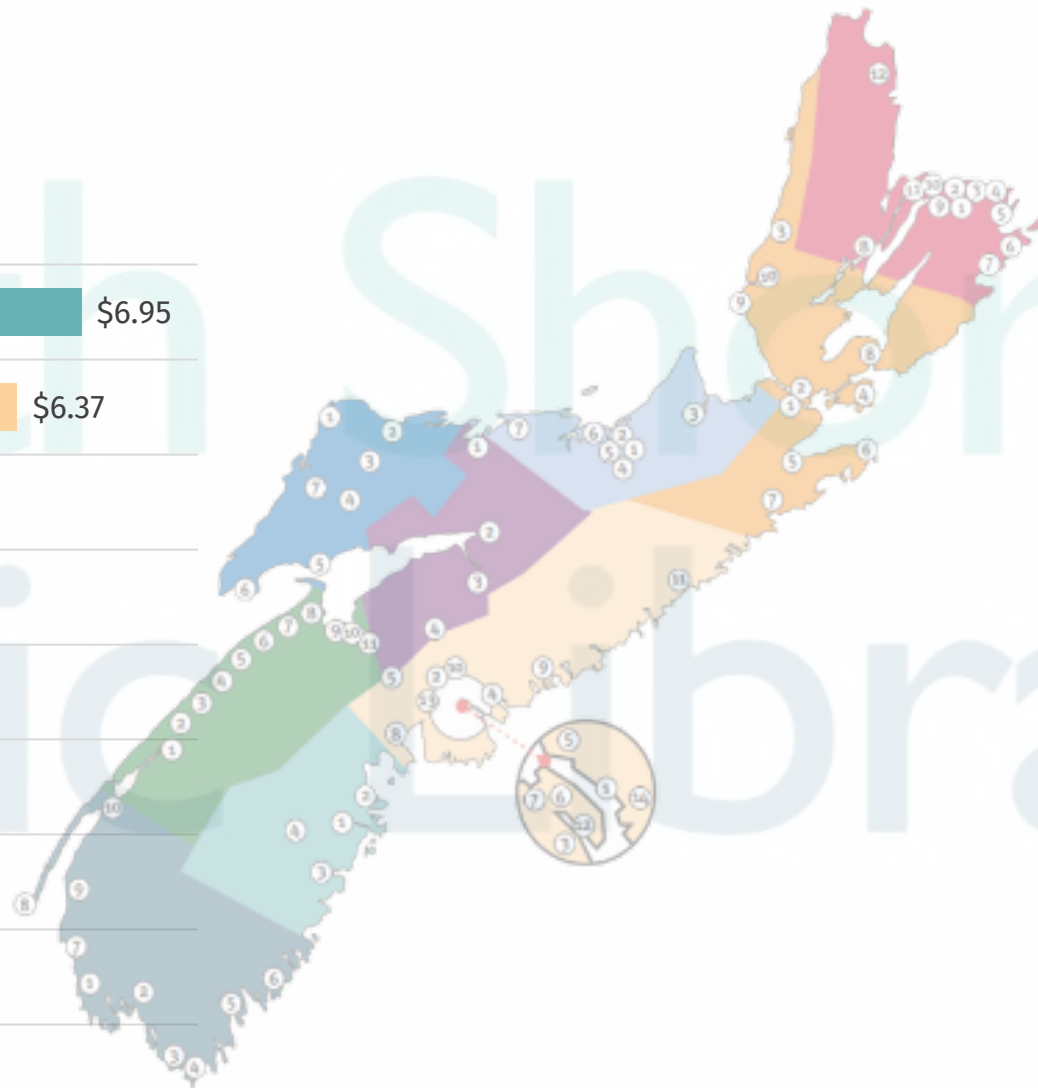
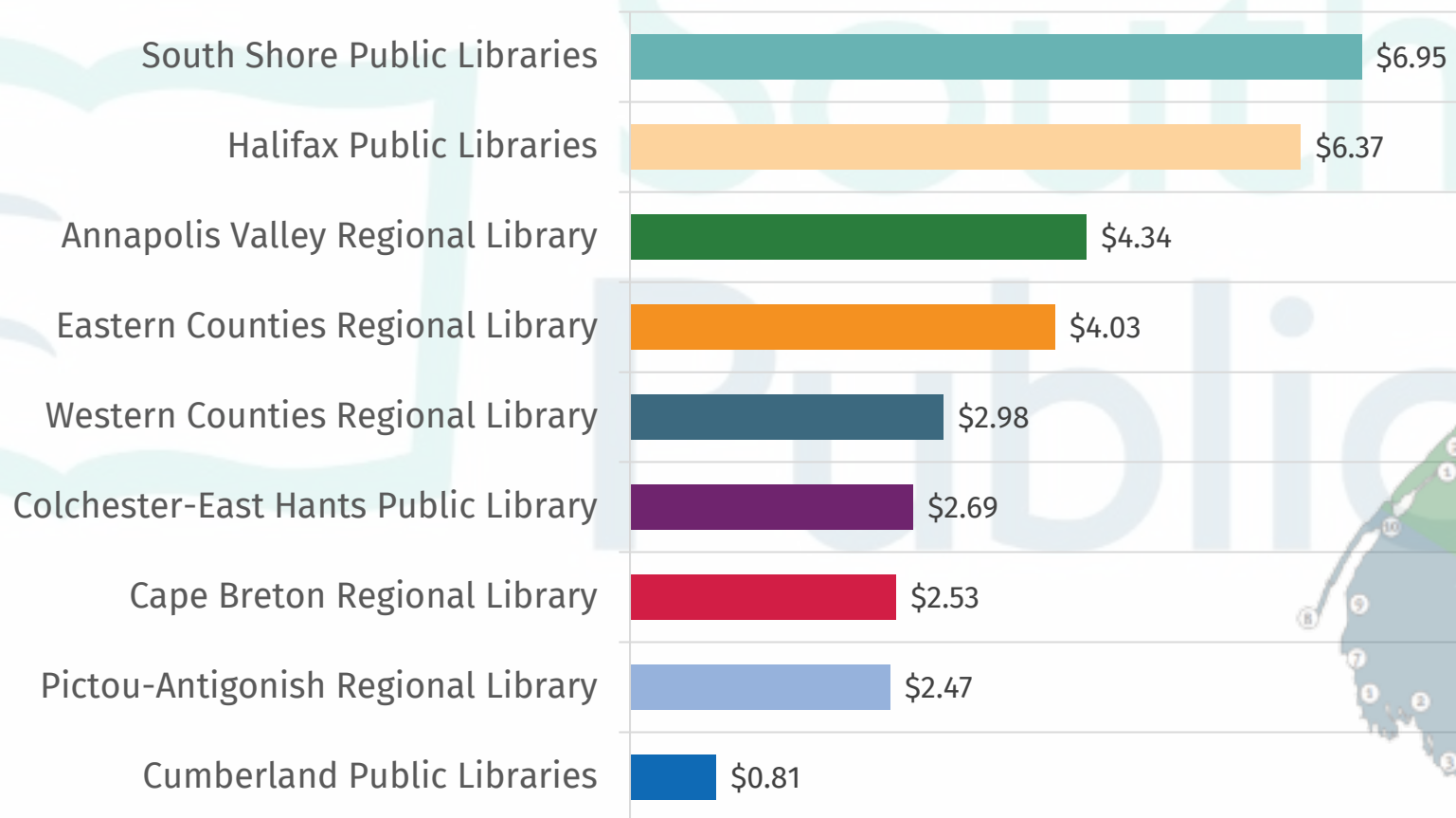


Library Expenditure

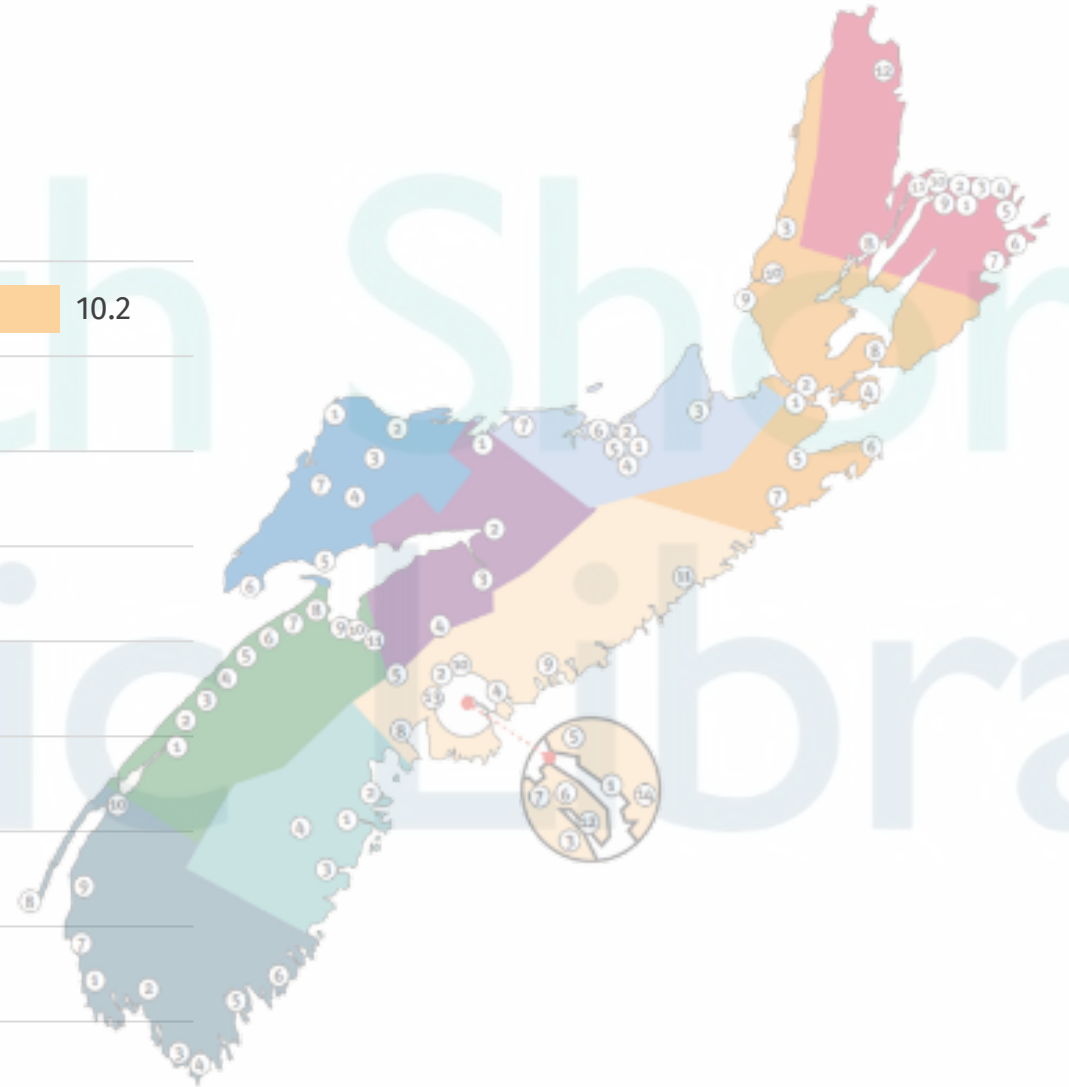
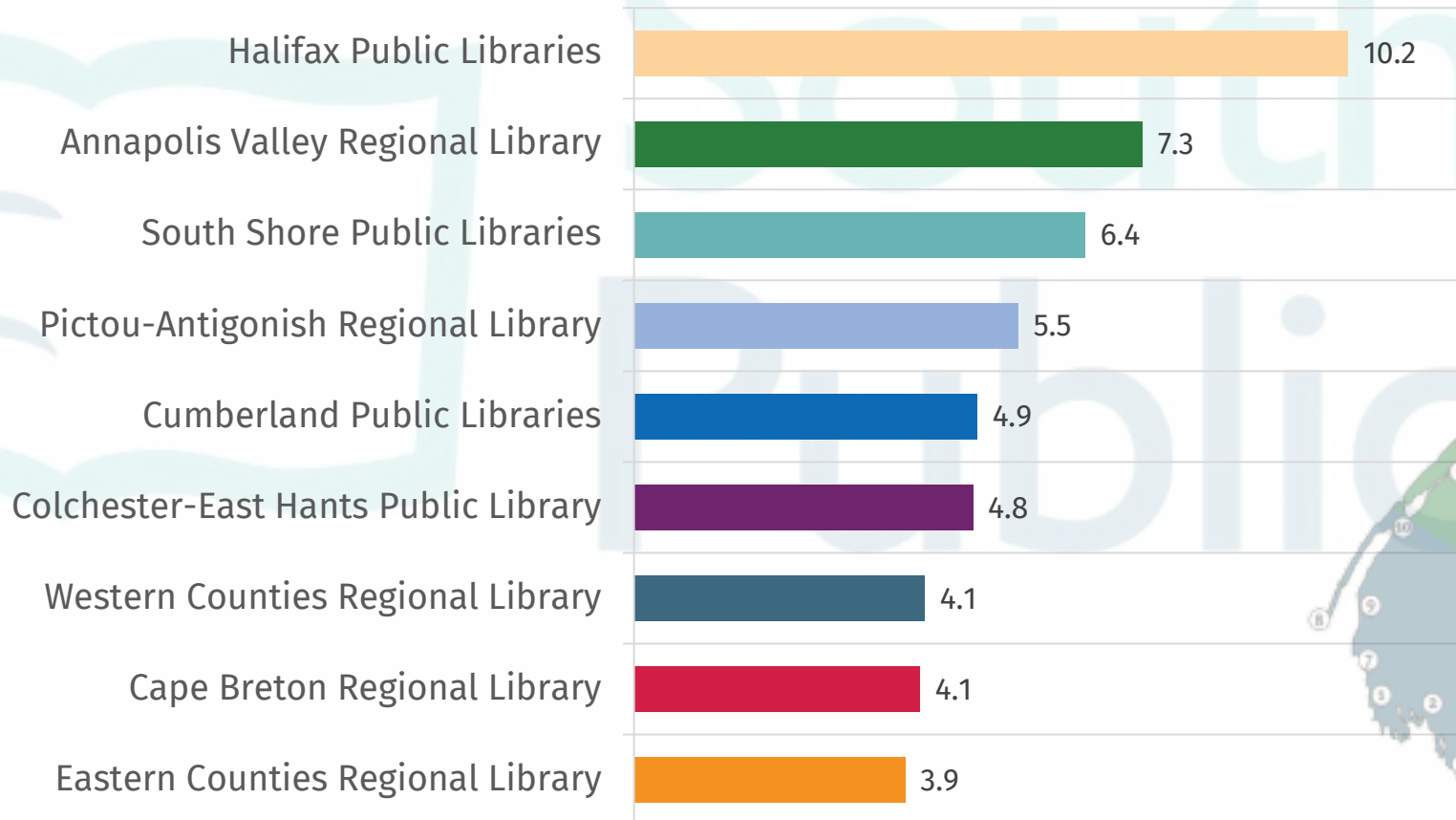
Per Capita Expenditure (2023-2024)



Collection Spending per Capita (2023-2024)



Annual Borrowing per Capita (2023-2024)



Recent Highlights

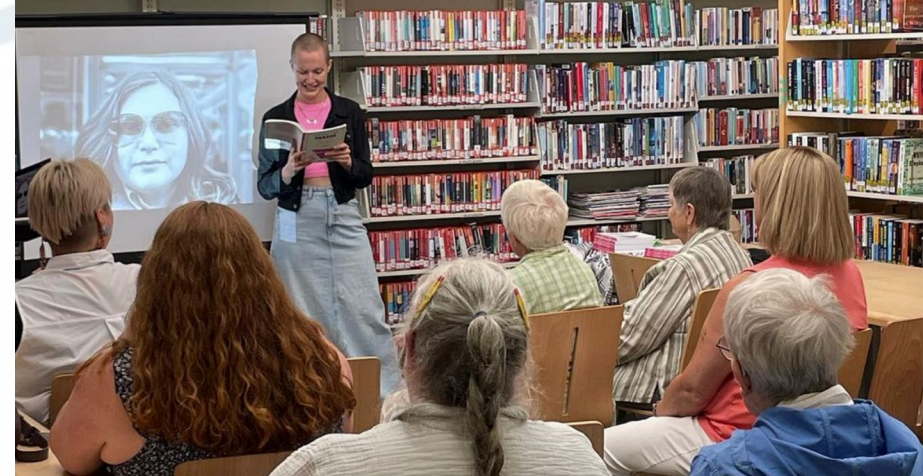
Active, Healthy Living

- Test drive an e-bike or snowshoes
- Get active, get outdoors
- Learn new skills
- CCTH *Active Living* grant for new library outdoor space, including two raised garden beds



Pride Programming

- Our biggest year yet!
- SSPL Bookmobile in Pride Parade
- *Reading with Royalty* at 3 branches, including the first ever in Queens County
- Music with Mandy, Drag Q&A, Rebecca Rose author reading



Truth & Reconciliation

- Our T&R event on September 28 had more than 80 in attendance
- We unveiled our new Pjila'si welcome signs by local Mi'qmaq artist Jessica Jerome, featuring traditional place names of our two counties
- We showed the short film *Makit's Doll* and led children in making rag dolls
- Shared on our social media by a parent:

"Thank you for this, it was so well done! I keep hearing horror stories and learning so much about how my culture felt so entitled that they took children from their families so they could be basically brainwashed and changed! We've been talking a lot about truth and reconciliation day at home and my daughter has learned some things about it in her pre-primary class. Tonight my almost 4 year old took the doll she made to bed. She told me "the lady in the movie went to a school like Phylis where they cut her hair and took her orange shirt. The lady in the movie was sad because they took away her doll. She made one to play with and hid it so they didn't take it away from her. I am going to keep my doll safe." Your presentation certainly made an impression on my little girl!"



Food Literacy

- Hands-on cooking demonstrations
- No registration fees:
 - Removes barriers
 - Provides free food
- Sharing Indigenous traditions and culture
- New Liverpool kitchen!





New Library in Liverpool!

What's Next for SSPL

Library Funding Formula

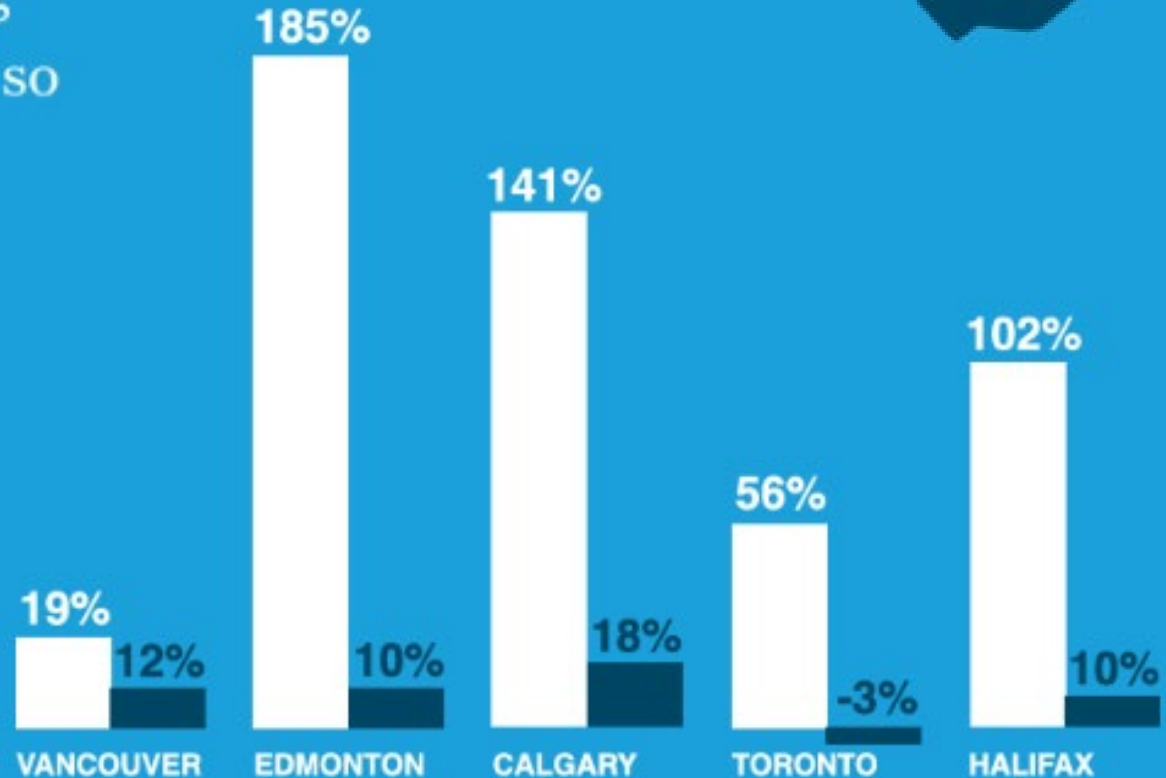
- Governed by the Nova Scotia *Libraries Act. R.S., c. 254, s.1.*
- There was no funding formula in place for 17 years with small and sporadic increases from 2003 to 2009. For ten years, between 2010 and 2021, there were no increases
- Public libraries continue to evolve and expand – physical material borrowing continues to grow, yet the public also turns to libraries for tech help, free programs, health & social services
- Rising inflation, cost-of-living, and operational costs result in challenges maintaining core services, let alone growth
- Library Funding Review Committee recommendations currently before provincial government

The funding gap between the growing number of services being provided and the resources to do so is staggering and growing.



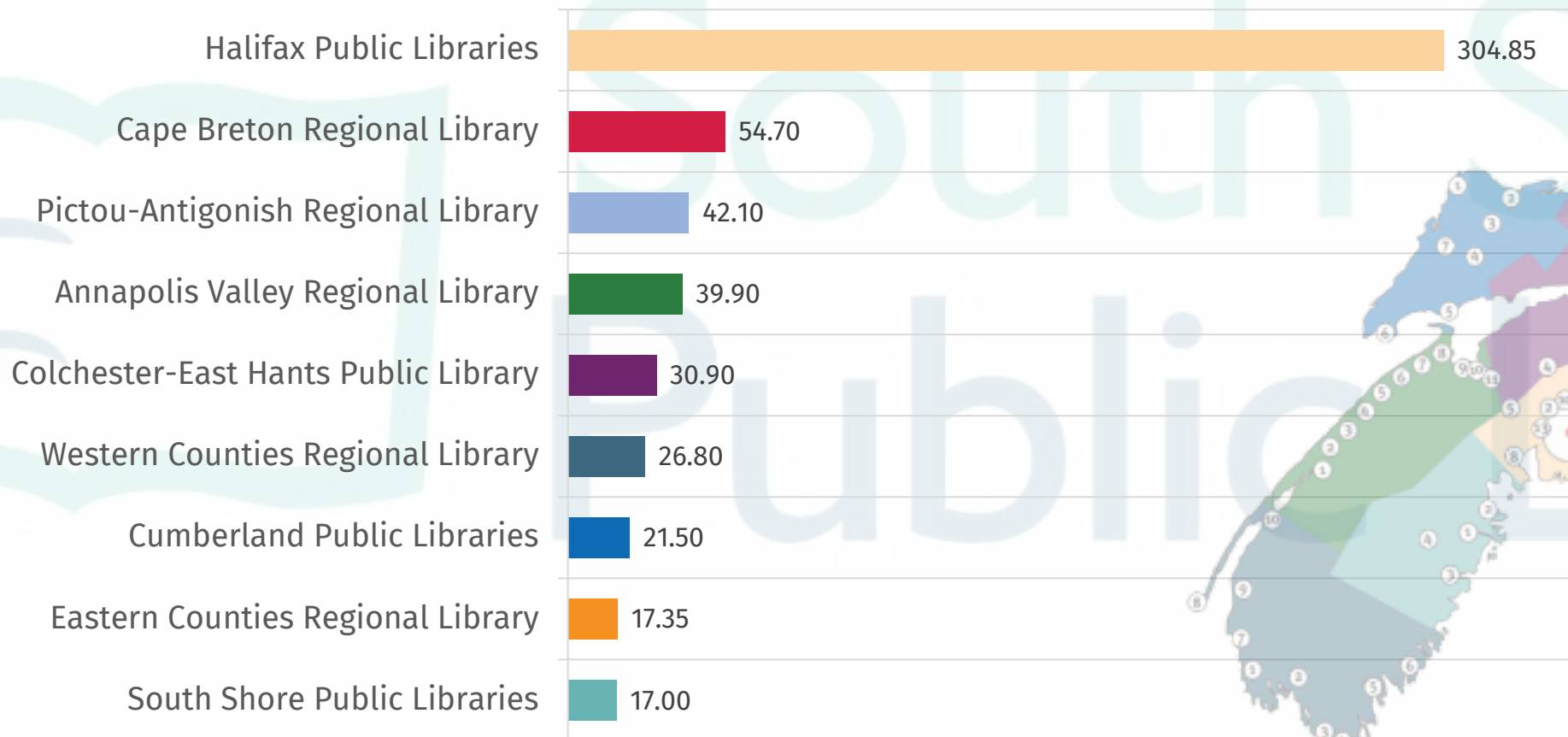
Percentage change in number of library programs and funding 2010-2019

DEMAND SUPPORT

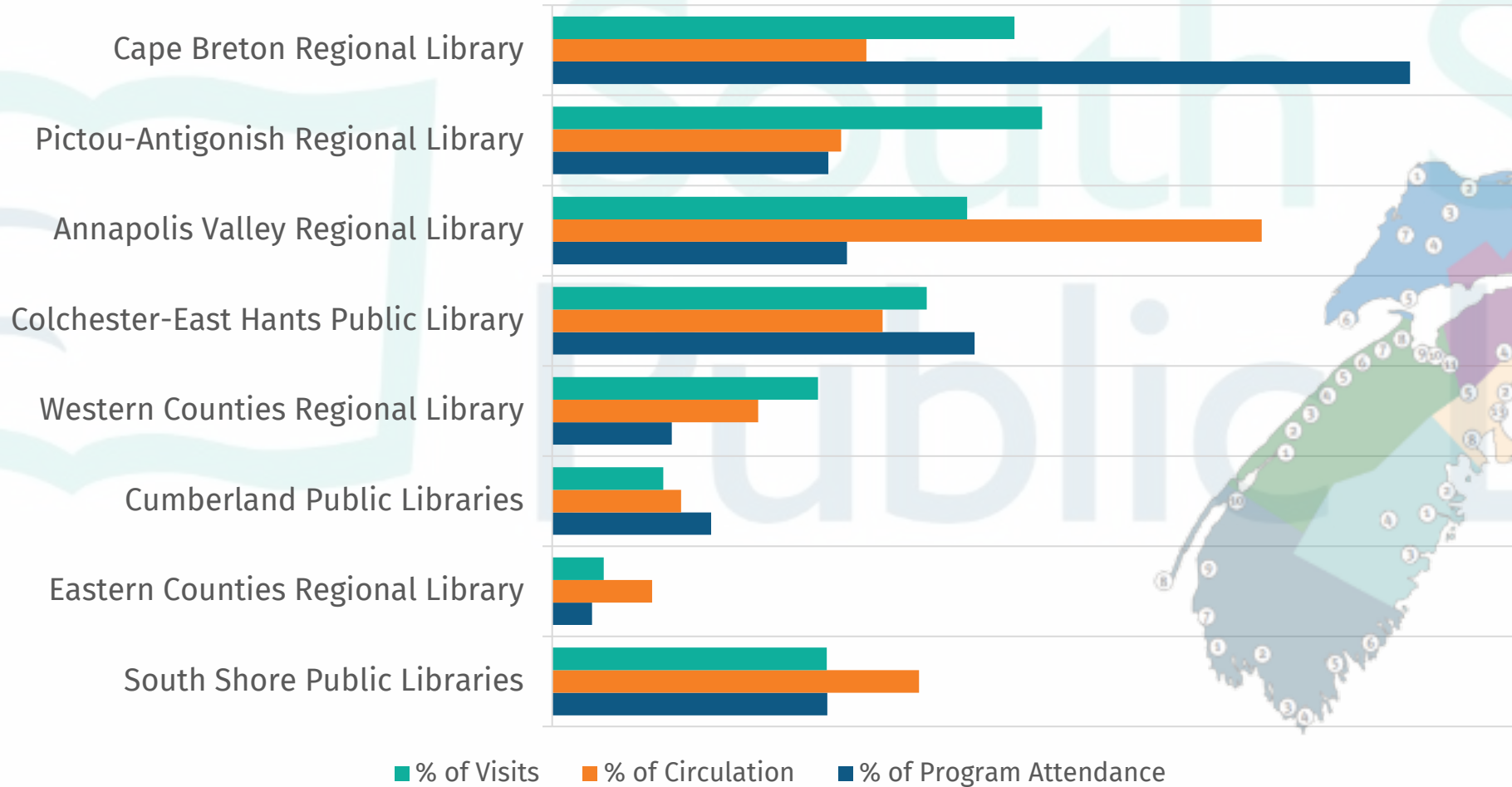


Source: *Overdue: The Case for Canada's Public Libraries* (2023). Canadian Urban Institute
https://canurb.org/wp-content/uploads/CUI_Overdue_report_10.04.23.pdf

Total Staff (FTE)

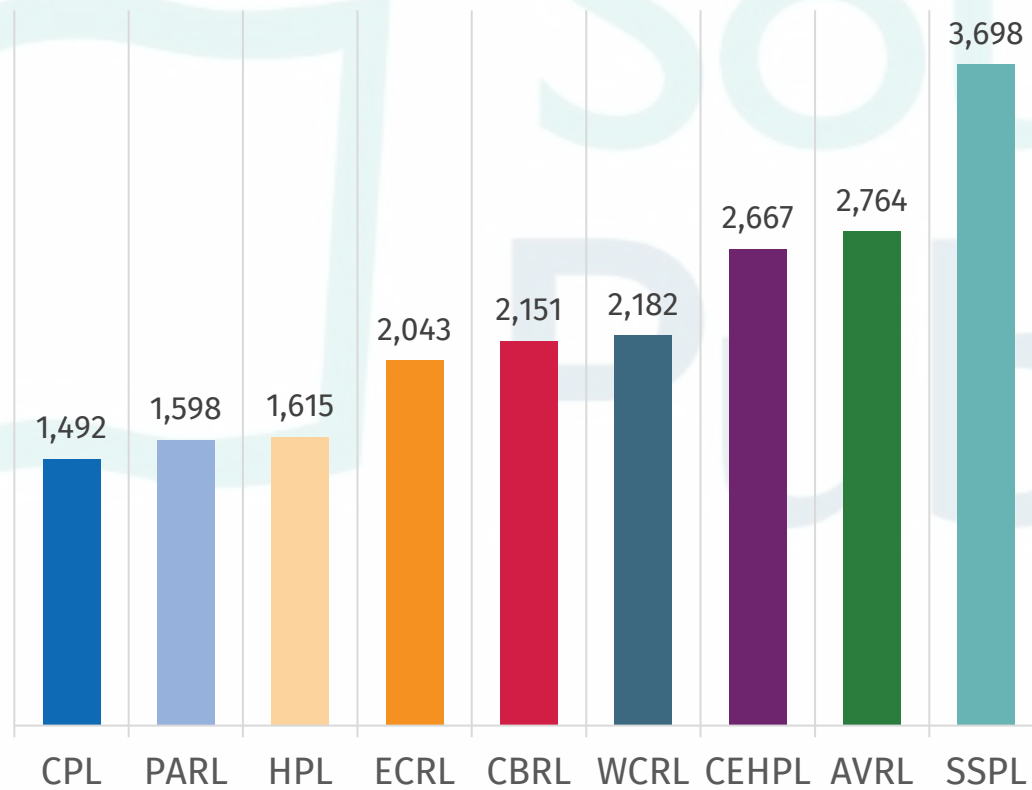


Key Performance Indicators

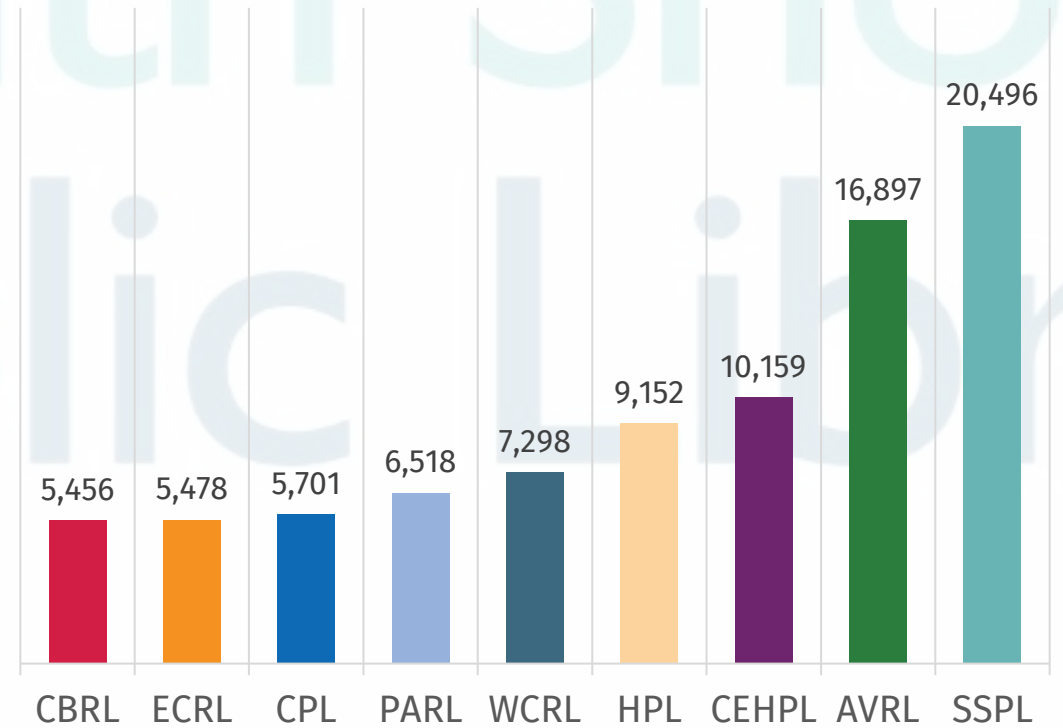


Staff Ratios

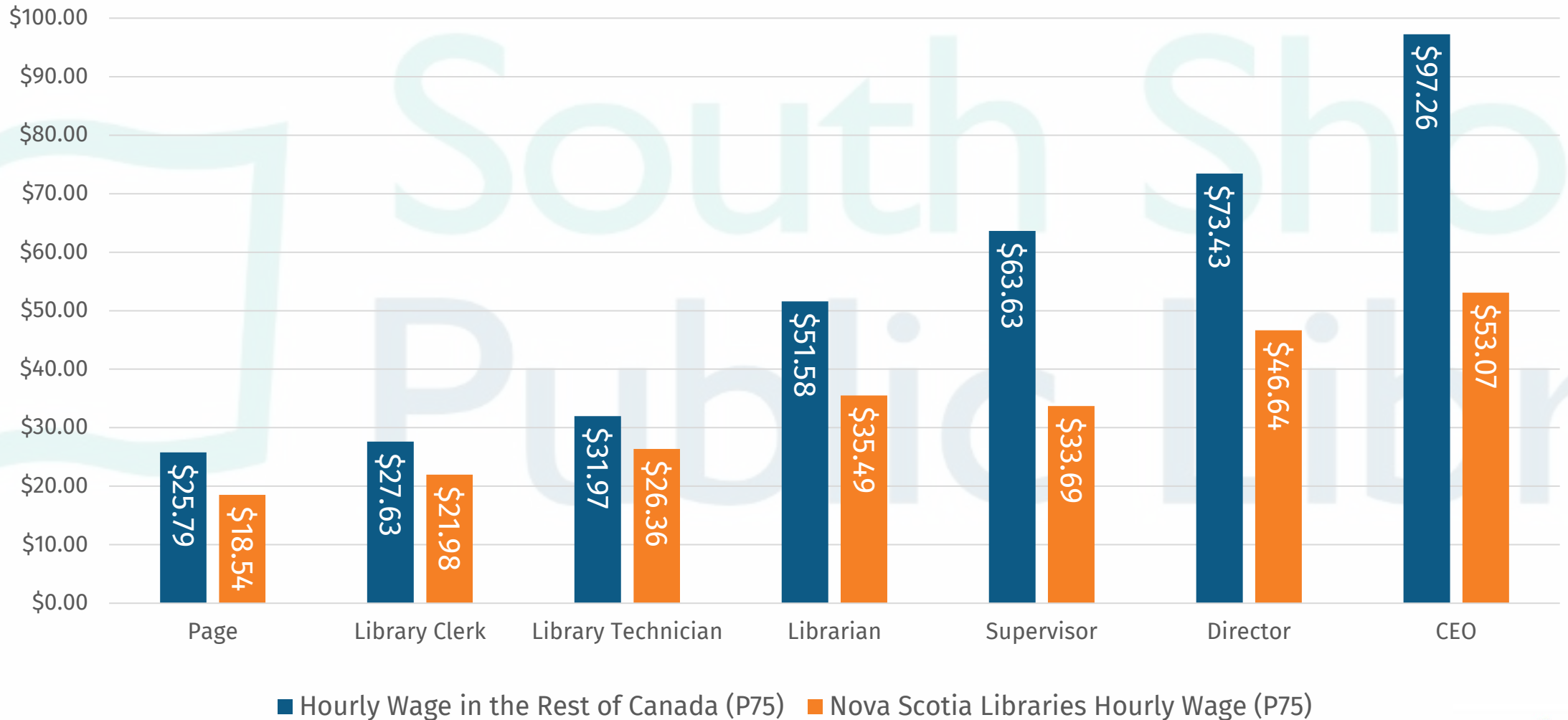
Population served per staff



Items checked out per staff (2023-2024)



Library Staff Salary Benchmarking



Source: *Labour Market Analysis: Job Benchmarking of NS Libraries* (June 2024) prepared by Essential HR for the Library Funding Review Committee

Public & Academic Market Comparators

Position	Location	Hourly	SSPL Comparator	Hourly	%
Clerk	Service NS	\$26.19	Clerk	\$21.47	22%
Technician	NSCC	\$26.61	Technician	\$23.45	13%
Finance Clerk	Region of Queens	\$30.85	Technician	\$23.45	31%
Facility Coordinator	MODL	\$40.90	Coordinator	\$25.10	63%
Teacher	Nova Scotia	\$46.09	Librarian	\$34.33	34%
Manager	Province of NS	\$62.16	Manager	\$42.43	47%
Supervisor	Academic libraries	\$76.58	Supervisor	\$25.10	205%
Director	Academic libraries	\$93.57	Manager	\$42.43	121%

Summary

- South Shore Public Libraries continue to serve as the heart of our communities, celebrating Reading, Discovery, Learning, and Sharing
- Our level of public trust is very high
- Our circulation, in-person visits, and program attendance continue to rise year-over-year
- Every \$1 invested in public libraries translates to \$6 in health, wellness, economic, and social capital
- The public expects our services to grow, with requests for expanded hours, more physical space, updated technology
- More staff would mean more technology help, more programs, more health & social supports
- Our staff wages lag the market and our turnover is high, as staff can “no longer afford” to work for the library
- The NS Library Funding formula is currently before government

