TOWN OF BASHAW LIBRARY
PLAN OF SERVICE
2026 – 2030

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Approved by the Town of Bashaw Library Board

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Mission Statement

Town of Bashaw Library is dedicated to the educational, recreational, and cultural enlightenment of the members of this community and surrounding area.

Library Profile

Brief History

The Town of Bashaw Library, established in the 1940s in the back of the old fire hall, has been a cornerstone of the community since its formal records began in 1962, when it was located on Main Street. Transitioning to a Municipal Library in 1973 and relocating to the new Community Centre in 1979, the library joined the Parkland Regional Library System in 1986, fostering growth and adaptation to meet the evolving needs of Bashaw's residents. Today, the Town of Bashaw Library remains a vibrant and essential hub, enriching the cultural and educational fabric of our rural community.

Hours

The Library is open 4 days a week for a total of 23 hours.

Governance

Town of Bashaw Library is governed by a volunteer board consisting of: 2 Town Council Members and 7 Community Members at Large.

Human Resources

The Town of Bashaw Library employs two year-round, part-time staff members, supported by volunteers who contribute hundreds of hours annually to its operations and community engagement.

Community

The Town of Bashaw, Alberta, with a population of 830, is characterized by a mature demographic, with a median age of 49, a notable presence of seniors, and a modest proportion of youth. The community, primarily English-speaking, reflects a close-knit, rural character with a prevalence of one-person households and couples without children, alongside lower household incomes relative to the provincial average, suggesting a need for accessible community resources. Educational attainment leans toward practical skills, with many residents holding a high school diploma or less, indicating a hardworking populace that values straightforward, community-focused services.

Partnerships

The Library partners with many local organizations including the Bashaw and Area Community Resource Center, Bashaw Youth Center, Bashaw Adult Learning Center and the Bashaw United Church. The Town of Bashaw Library also works closely with our regional partner Parkland Regional Library System as well as Camrose Family Resource Center and the Imagination Library.

Needs Assessment

As part of the process to complete a Plan of Service, the Town of Bashaw Library created a public survey available to all community members. Community groups and organizations were invited share their perspectives. Many community members participated.

Review

On Apr. 30, 2025, the Town of Bashaw Library Board Plan of Service Subcommittee reviewed the results of the community needs assessment and local demographic data. This information, along with an evaluation of the library's resources and organizational capacity, was used to identify priority service responses for inclusion in the current Plan of Service. Based on the community's priority needs – aligned with the library's mandate and its available resources - the following Library Service Responses have been selected as the key focus areas for this Plan of Service.

1. **Visit a Comfortable Place: Physical and Virtual Spaces**
2. **Connect to the Online World: Support Digital Access and Skills for All Ages**
3. **Create Readers: Foster Early Literacy and Lifelong Reading Habits**

Visit a Comfortable Place: Physical and Virtual Spaces

Goal 1.1:   Ensure all community members have a safe, welcoming place to gather.

Objective 1: Add an additional space for adult and senior patrons by 2026.

- *Reorganize staff/storage area*
- *Purchase new adult seating and table*

Goal 1.2:   Improve the discoverability and appeal of library materials.

Objective 1: Increase circulation by 5% annually.

- *Add genre stickers*
- *Create monthly themed and new material displays*
- *Conduct annual weeding*
- *Increase in-library signage*

Goal 1.3:   Keep virtual library space current and engaging.

Objective 1: Update website monthly with current programs and events.

Connect to the Online World: Support Digital Access and Skills for All Ages

Goal 2.1: Maintain reliable internet access for community members.

Objective 1: Ensure consistent use of public computers over five years.
- *Keep equipment updated*

- *Expand technology lending*

Goal 2.2: Increase adult and senior engagement with digital content.

Objective 1: Allocate 5% of the annual allotment budget to digital content.

- *Coordinate with PRLS on spending priorities*

Objective 2: Host one digital literacy session annually.

- *Partner with Adult Learning and United Church*

- *Research and prepare devices for library loaning*

- *Provide digital literacy services*

Create Readers: Foster Early Literacy and Lifelong Reading Habits

Goal 3.1:   Provide engaging literacy tools for children and adults.

Objective 1: Add five take-home kits to the collection by 2030.

- *Research popular topics*

- *Collaborate with other libraries*

Goal 3.2:   Strengthen partnerships that support children's literacy.

Objective 1: Continue collaborations with Camrose Family Resource Center and Imagination Library annually

Goal 3.3:   Foster lifelong reading habits for adults.

Objective 1: Refer new patrons to Bashaw Adult Learning Foundational Skills program

- *Share 'Welcome to Bashaw' package*

- *Offer one free family or single annual membership to new Bashaw and area residents*