

Call to Order

The Camrose Public Library (CPL) is an organization located on Treaty 6 territory, the traditional lands of the Indigenous and the Métis People. For as long as the sun shines, the rivers flow, and the grass grows, this land will be recognized as Treaty 6 Territory.

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Approval of the Minutes of July 9, 2025
3. Board Feedback
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Items for Information
 - i. Correspondence
 - a. City of Camrose –
 - b. Camrose County –
 - c. Letter from patron
 - d. String of Camrose Booster Letters to the Editor
 - e. LAPP Policy
 - f. Preliminary report on staff safety survey
 - ii. Libraries in the News
 - a. [Assaults, overdoses: Edmonton Public Library union raises concerns over safety](#)
 - b. [Haskell Free Library inspires Vermont play about borders and belonging in the Trump era](#)
 - c. [Valleyview Library Workers Unanimously Unionize](#)
 - b. Reports
 - i. Director's Report
 - ii. Program Overview June & July 2025
 - iii. Program Report and Library Statistics June & July 2025- 5. Items for Discussion and Decision
 - a. 2nd Quarter Financial Report – Renee LeBlanc
 - b. Concrete Steps - Amanda
 - c. 2026 Budget - Channing
 - d. 2025 Municipal Election Advocacy Strategy - Channing
 - e. Fall CPL Professional Development - Channing
 - f. Reporting Schedule – Channing
- 6. In-Camera Items for Discussion and Decision
- 7. Adjournment

Next regular Board meeting: October 15, 2025, 5:15pm

(October 8th Stronger Together – Amanda & Channing not available).

Present:

Renee Greer (Chair)

Margaret Holliston (Secretary)

Chery Dezall

Don Simpson (County Council)

Naomi Finseth (Vice-Chair)

Jacqueline Schaffter

Channing S. MacDonald (Interim Director)

Joy-Anne Murphy (City Council)

Margaret Weir Andreassen

Amanda Haugen (Recorder)

Regrets:

Lucy Ernst

Peter Hamm

Call to Order: Chair Renee Greer called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

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1. Approval of the Agenda

Request to move LAPP Audit Report from consent agenda to Items for Discussion & Decision 5.b.

Motion 49/25 M/C Margaret Holliston: Motion to approve the agenda as amended.

2. Approval of the Minutes of June 11, 2025

Motion /25 M/C Joy-Anne Murphy: Motion to approve the Minutes of June 11, 2025 as amended.

3. Board Feedback

Channing MacDonald, our new Interim Director, was introduced. She joins us from Peace River, where she served as Director from 2018 to 2024. Channing expressed her excitement and eagerness to get to know everyone and learn more about the work we do.

Joy-Anne shared that she was thrilled to see the teepee at the Canada Day celebrations. Amanda noted that CPL funding contributed to the Indigenous activities, which included dancers, coloring pages, teachings, and the teepee.

A discussion was held regarding the books that have repeatedly come up in the Booster. Margaret Weir Andreassen provided a response, clarifying that her opinion was personal. It is important to note that the library cannot censor books or make decisions for others. Respect for individual choices was emphasized. James Turk had previously presented on the library's obligation to offer a wide range of books, even those we may not agree with. Only books containing hate or pornography should be excluded.

The board suggested that the Fellowship group could help boost awareness of the library's value and activities.

It was noted that the city is making changes to its recycling plan. For anyone looking for a place to recycle books, Centra Cam will continue to accept and recycle them.

4. Consent Agenda**a. Items for Information**

- i. Correspondence
 - a. City of Camrose Library Board – FOIP Policy
- ii. Libraries in the News
 - a. City pauses plans to reduce staffing at Peterborough Public Library
[Global News Video](#)
- i. Local Michigan Library Board Backs Away from Policy to Sequester LGBTQ+ Themed Books
- ii. Millennium Library Safety Incidents Spike in First Quarter of 2025

b. Reports

- iii. Director's Report

5. Items for Discussion and Decision**a. Interim Director**

Motion 51/25 M/C Moved by Cheryl Dezall, seconded by Naomi Finseth: Motion to appoint Channing MacDonald as a signing authority on library's bank accounts.

b. LAPP Audit Report

Discussion around the issues brought up in the report, Amanda reviewed the information that was submitted in the LAPP Review Acknowledgment. Addressing the 3 issues brought forward and how they have been corrected so they should not occur in the future.

It was pointed out that the last sentence in the first paragraph of the LAPP report should state "should not".

6. In-Camera Items for Discussion and Decision

None.

7. Adjournment

Chair Renee Greer declared the meeting adjourned at 5:50pm.

Next regular Board meeting: September 10, 2025, 5:15pm

Renee Greer
Board Chair

REFLECTIONS

by Bonnie Hutchinson



Turbulent peace?

On a day when I had a turbulent mind, I remembered a visit to the Jade Buddha of Peace several years back. It was about as unlikely a combination as you'll find on a glorious summer day in rural Alberta:

- The statue of a slim, youthful, cross-legged Buddha, weighing about 15 tons and over four metres high.

- Carved from a boulder of gem-quality jade in north-western British Columbia—possibly the single largest mass of jade ever hauled out of the Earth.
- Commissioned by an Australian couple.
- Shipped from Vancouver to Thailand, where master craftsmen freed the smiling, meditating figure of Buddha from the green gemstone.
- Consecrated by the Dalai Lama.
- On a world tour promoting universal peace.
- At its only Alberta stop, in a field near the Town of Westlock.

An organizer of the Jade Buddha's visit said, "Our hope is that when people see the Buddha, they take a moment to reflect on peace. We want to capitalize on the theme of universal peace and internalize it, because inner peace leads to outer peace. When we have inner peace, everything we do reflects that."

I expected to be impressed and I was. I expected to think about peace and I did. But my reflections took me some places I hadn't anticipated.

The statue was amazing – even more impressive than I expected. The surrounding flowers and fruit and artifacts enhanced the presence of the Jade Buddha.

But did I feel peaceful? When I focused on the Jade Buddha, yes, I felt peaceful. But when I paid attention to the environment? Not so much.

On the pavilion in front of the Jade Buddha, a singer was entertaining the thousands of visitors, passing around a hat for contributions.

In stalls and large tents were kiosks selling clothes, food, and many other things. Lively commerce was much in evidence.

At first I was surprised. I expected to feel the contrast of the Jade Buddha surrounded by Western Canadian farm country. I did not expect the commercial atmosphere I've felt at tourist trap places.

Sometime later it occurred to me.

Of course there would be entertainment. As one of the organizers said to me, "We knew with this many people and lots of children, we would have to provide some entertainment."

Of course there would be commerce; opportunities to buy food and drink and trinkets. That's appropriate to offer thousands of people out in the country far from restaurants. Why would I be uncomfortable with commerce?

I was troubled by my own reactions. I felt faintly cheated because the setting didn't feel sacred or peaceful. And yet...

I did eventually come to peace, even with my own lack of inner peace! And isn't that the point?

"Peace" does not mean no noise, no troubles, no work, no commerce, no turbulence, no inner or outer conflict. Peace means finding a peaceful place within no matter what the external circumstances. Peace means acceptance, even of our own turbulence.

A Tai Chi instructor once said this:

"Anyone can go to the top of a mountain and wear a saffron robe and meditate and be wise and centered and grounded. What the world needs now is for us to come down from the mountaintop and go into the marketplace and be wise and centered and grounded."

The starting point for world peace is within each of us. Peace within, peace between, peace among.

I'd love to hear from you. If you have comments about this column or suggestions for future topics, email Bonnie@BonnieHutchinson.com. I'll happily reply within one business day.

“just SAYIN’”

Send your LETTER TO THE EDITOR to:

The Camrose Booster
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Camrose, AB T4V 1L7
or email it to:

news@camrosebooster.com

► **THE FINE PRINT:** We welcome letters that are of public interest, are fact based and represent logical attempts to make a constructive contribution to public discourse. We reserve the right to edit letters for clarity, legality, good taste and to fit available space. Letters that contain personal attacks or abuse and insults will be edited or rejected entirely. Letters to third parties are not accepted. Please limit your letters to 400 words and sign with your first name, initial, surname, address and phone number; only the name of the writer and city or town will be published. We thank you for your interest in this feature and encourage your comments.

Children's library

I fail to understand those who aggressively defend the idea that the Children's Library is doing the right thing by providing sexual images at carte blanche to kids without any warning to parents.

The absolute determination of those who want to ensure young children have direct access to images of sex is disturbing. You are not defending a healthy sex education. You are hindering it.

I honestly don't even know what is being defended at this point. What I've heard so far is that we should not censor books for kids, which is false because kids' books are censored all the time (i.e. racism), the books provided are age appropriate, also false, showing a seven-year-old how to masturbate is not age appropriate, and that the people who work at the library are great (which I'm sure is true, but has nothing to do with the issue).

Are there actually people who insist images of sexual penetration be placed where young children are? If so, yikes.

I might not be a doctor, a lawyer or a professor, but I do know garbage when I see it. A book showing a woman performing oral sex on a man and placing it on the shelf for a seven-year-old girl to pick up is garbage. I don't need higher education to know that.

So, to the public, judge for yourself what you think is right. If this is moral and good, then by all means, introduce more of it. Why not include a fun book for kids to learn different sex positions?

But if you can see garbage for what it is, then don't be afraid to speak up, write to the board, post on social media, call the MLA, do something to stop this nonsense that is being hidden behind the guise of "diversity".

*Jakob M. Weisser,
Camrose County*

Puzzled

It's hard to decide on the best word to describe my reaction to recent letters to *The Booster*. Amused, baffled, sceptical, and many more descriptive but less charitable terms come to mind. Let's settle on "puzzled".

I am puzzled as to why a restriction on sexually explicit books being available to children in libraries would be characterized as an attack on libraries. I am also puzzled by the suggestion that one grandmother's willingness to read these books to her grandchildren means that access should not be restricted to anyone.

But what is most puzzling of all to me are the letters from voters who have "always voted Conservative" but do not intend to now that the candidate is the leader of the party. What? They have the utmost respect for Damien Kurek, but apparently don't respect his decision to step aside for his leader? Damien has made it very clear that the decision was entirely his, and also that he will continue to work tirelessly on our behalf with Pierre.

The suggestion that we would somehow be better served in Parliament by an independent candidate buried in the back benches than by the leader of the opposition capably supported on the home front by Damien is puzzling beyond belief.

And the efforts of the Long Ballot Committee to convince us we need electoral reform by inconveniencing and infuriating everyone? That is beyond puzzling. It borders on criminal.

*Larry Lewsaw,
Camrose*

Battle River-Crowfoot

What is happening here? Do we understand this situation? This is about leadership.

Damien Kurek asked Pierre Poilievre to take his place as our Member of Parliament for the Battle River-Crowfoot riding.

Damien believes in Pierre Poilievre's leadership of the Conservative Party.

I have recently sat across the dinner table with Damian and Pierre. I want you to know that both of these Alberta-born gentlemen are driven by the same principles to support the people of the Battle River-Crowfoot constituency, who share Conservative values.

If you believed in Damien, you can believe in

Pierre Poilievre. They are CP brothers, united and working together, to provide us, the people, strong, experienced leadership of the Conservative Party of Canada.

If you are a Conservative wanting a better Canada, you don't vote for a Liberal, or an Independent, or any other name listed on the ballot. You vote for Pierre Poilievre.

Former Conservative MPs including Damien Kurek, Kevin Sorenson and former Prime Minister Stephen Harper, all support Pierre Poilievre; they believe in his leadership. They want Pierre Poilievre to be the next prime minister and so do I. Please vote for strong, experienced leadership. Vote for Pierre Poilievre. Thank you.

*James Kuntz,
Camrose County*

Booster letters

I would like to start out by using a phrase written in a letter from last week, "So let me get this straight."

And from a different letter contributor last week, one who claims they don't want an opportunist representing them who is in it to make a name for themselves, excuse me, that's precisely what is happening right now.

Poilievre didn't/couldn't win a seat in his own riding, so he's going to run in the most conservative province in Canada and in a "shoe-in" riding, possibly the most conservative riding in all of the country. But of course, not in any way to further his political career or name, but to devote himself to the Battle River-Crowfoot riding.

Damien Kurek asked Pierre Poilievre to take his place as our Member of Parliament for the Battle River-Crowfoot riding (not where he resides or not where he has a clue about its needs), but out of pure self advancement to keep a seat in Parliament.

People voted overwhelmingly for Damien Kurek because they wanted him to represent them in Parliament, not for him to immediately step down so Poilievre can "get in through the back door, riding on a popular winner's coat tail."

This is not democracy. To me, this whole affair makes a complete sham of democracy.

*Patricia Calon,
Camrose*

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September 2, 2025

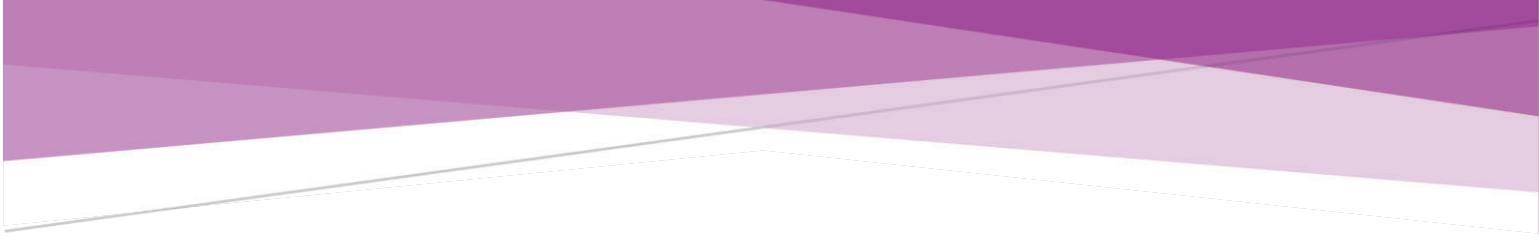
Subject: LAPP Policy – Cost Estimate for Adjusting Minimum Weekly Hours

Dear Board Members,

At our June Board meeting, during the review of the LAPP policy, the question was raised regarding the potential cost of lowering the minimum weekly hours from 30 to 25. Based on current staffing hours, this change would add two staff members to LAPP, resulting in an additional cost to the library of approximately \$2,400 per employee per year.

Sincerely,

Amanda Haugen
Executive Assistant



LIBRARY SAFETY SURVEY

Preliminary Report

Abstract

This survey was conducted in July-August 2025 and this report features the highlights of staff responses.

Channing S. MacDonald
cmacdonald@prl.ab.ca

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Introduction

In July 2025 a Library Safety Survey was given to Camrose Public Library Staff.

The survey prompted by an informal survey of circulation & collections assistants, wherein a large number of staff members (48%) answered that their confidence in safety at the library was 3/5 or lower. Given the high number of people who indicated satisfactory or less confidence in safety at the library, leadership decided to investigate further.

The Library Safety Survey asked questions regarding staff perceptions of safety throughout the day, in public spaces and work spaces, and regarding equipment & the facility. It also asked staff to rate their confidence in responding to workplace emergencies and common high-stress library patron interactions. Most questions asked staff to rate their confidence & perceptions about library safety using Likert scales. Sections for comments were provided throughout the survey for more detailed and nuanced responses.

Participants

All Camrose Public Library Staff were invited to participate by email. Of 27 staff members, 16 responded (59%). An option was provided for library staff to include their name if they would like to speak with the director about safety concerns; only 1 respondent included their name.

Key Takeaways

Overall, staff indicated that they feel safe at the library consistently throughout the day. Some pieces of equipment were flagged as concerning but nothing was identified as emergent. The biggest area of concern identified was regarding emergency response procedures. Training is required in this area.

1. The majority of respondents indicated that they feel safe at the library either always or most days across the full spectrum of library hours, including coming to and leaving the building. No specific time jumped out as concerning, though comments requested that a minimum of 3 staff be in the building at all times.
2. Most respondents (13, 81%) indicated that the setup of the work space allows them to do their work safely. Of the three who indicated that the work space was not safe, two included comments about tripping hazards.
3. All respondents indicated that the setup of the public space allows them to do their work safely.
4. Ten respondents (63%) raised issues with various library equipment. Of those comments, three were concerns about staff having to bend over to remove books from the front book drop.
5. Staff were asked to include any hazards with the library building that had not yet been identified; three staff members included items though only two were unknown. These include concerns with raised floor transitions and that there is no space to "lockdown."
6. There was a lack of confidence identified in responding potential workplace emergencies. While some emergencies elicit high numbers of confidence (medical emergencies, 12, 75%), others rate more poorly (gas leak, 8, 50%, earthquake, 2, 12%).
7. Staff reported high degrees of confidence in responding to most high-stress library patron interactions, with three areas identified for improvement. Two comments requested opportunities to practice these skills in training sessions.
8. Respondents indicated confidence in how to report incidents and workplace harassment or violence, but are unclear (50%) how incidents are followed up by leadership and the OHS committee.
9. Regarding safety culture, most respondents indicated that they feel safety is a priority for the library and most feel supported by leadership in addressing concerns. Some respondents (5, 31%) indicated that safety is only sometimes a priority.

Next Steps

The following steps will be taken between September 2025 and January 2026.

Facility & Equipment

1. Conduct a site evaluation regarding the areas of concern raised.
 - a. Engineer solutions to as many safety concerns as possible.
 - b. Provide training to staff for any concerns where an engineering solution is not possible.

Training & Preparedness

2. Finish developing and share an up-to-date Emergency Response Plan.
 - a. Provide training sessions for the Emergency Response Plan.
3. Run role-playing sessions for areas of the Ryan Dowd training, including:
 - a. Working with patrons who are intoxicated.
 - b. Working with parents regarding unattended children.
 - c. Leading patrons to the behavior you want to see.
4. Provide training regarding what constitutes workplace harassment and/or violence.

Communication & Culture

5. Create improved communication between OHS, leadership, and other staff members regarding incident follow up.

Evaluation

6. Conduct the survey again in January to determine if changes are effective.

This report is structured around the responsibilities of the Interim Director, outlined in Essential Functions of Schedule J of the Interim Director Offer of Employment.

1. CPL in Community Initiatives and Committees

The Housing & Homelessness Task Force is preparing to conduct a Housing & Service Needs Assessment this fall. CPL is set to participate as a location where people can complete their component of the assessment. Details are still forthcoming.

CPL is set to participate in **Augustana Welcome Week** on September 6th. Our programmers will be onsite to provide information about the library and to encourage students to get a library membership.

We are also set to participate in **Community Registration Night** on September 4th.

A representative from the **Forever Canada** petition requested to use the library as a petition signing location. To avoid any appearance of political opinion, we setup the event as a rental in the Sunroom.

2. Communications, Marketing, and Advocacy

I created a **2025 Municipal Election Advocacy Strategy** with support from Hailey Halberg at Parkland. It is included in the full board meeting package and includes several areas for discussion and decision.

As many of you are aware, there have been **several Letters to the Editor in The Camrose Booster** discussing alleged pornography in the children's section of our library. Amanda has gathered the articles for your review. In response to these, a patron has returned their library card to the library, along with a letter detailing their grievances with the library. Thus far, the library has not entered the discussion.

CPL has won a **Minister's Award for Public Library Excellence** for the Newcomers to Camrose program. This award will be announced by the province in September, at which point we will make a local announcement. Awards like this can be helpful in future advocacy campaigns.

3. Collection Management

Most library staff are **on schedule** to complete their collection ordering by the end of September, which is in-line with Parkland practices. We have enlisted our Parkland library consultant, Olya Korolchuk, to provide support with the adult non-fiction ordering for this year. We are grateful for her support.

4. Programs Management

Fall regular and seasonal programs are set to resume, starting September 2nd.

In discussion with one of our programmers, Nicole Kyle, it was identified there is concern regarding **tying programs to the current Plan of Service**. I will be putting together a briefing note for the next board meeting. I look forward to discussing this with you.

In meetings throughout the summer and in exit interviews, the **summer reading** programmers identified **opportunities for the improvement** of the summer book bike programming, as well as possible changes for the library internally. This information was discussed at a special supervisors meeting and plans are being put in place to address and adjust where it is beneficial.

After conducting an informal website audit, I have asked our programmers to **leverage the CPL website similar to the Blackfalds Public Library**. These changes mainly effect the Events tab of the website, found at prl.ab.ca/events. The goal for these changes is to ensure patrons who have lower technology literacy are not lost navigating multiple tabs to access CPL events.

5. Circulation & Service Management

A **new patron phone** has been added to the east side of the circulation desk.

I have been **advocating with Parkland to change the late fee setting** on Polaris for CPL. Currently, late fees are still enabled. This means that staff have to manually waive fees each time they get an overdue return. It also means that late fees are applied to accounts of patrons who renew an overdue book at home; those late fees then need to be reversed when the patron next visits. By my estimates, this wastes a minimum of 11 staff hours per year, with more hours not calculated for the reversals and patron-library relationship repair that are required. Polaris is capable of turning off fees on a library-by-library basis. Parkland's position is that it does not want to turn off fees unless all Parkland libraries want to. I have submitted a request for review of this practice to the deputy director, Andrea Newland.

I have **identified an area for streamlining** that would increase the speed of holds processing and homebound patron holds processing. I have tabled these changes for November as staff are already managing many changes.

In August, I invited a representative from Parkland who **conducted a Signage Audit** of the library. They identified many areas for improvement. While I have heard from many staff that this was an area already identified for a future grant, I am concerned we have been letting the perfect get in the way of the good. I will be creating a working group to review the suggestions and create in-house, simple, inexpensive way-finding and collection signage. If grant funding can be secured to improve the signage in the future, that would be great, but improvements are needed now.

6. Organizational Changes Management

In the Governance Section, Margaret Law recommended that "3. The Board should require an **annual risk assessment** from the director." The document goes on to discuss

health and safety, legal, political, and financial risks. The health and safety and financial risk components are underway.

In the Human Resources section, recommendation one from Margaret Law was that a **Staffing Plan be created**. While I have not yet created such a plan, I have identified many issues and opportunities for improvement in regards to staff planning. I intend to create a draft document during my tenure. Some of the issues already identified include: 1) an overreliance on part-time staff (current practices keep many staff underemployed), 2) scheduling open shifts for casual employees, and 3) a perception that there are not enough circulation hours.

Additionally, a **Training and Development Plan** was also recommended. I have created a structure document including rotating training regarding the Emergency Response Plan, Homelessness Training, and Prevention of Discrimination, Workplace Bullying, and Sexual Harassment. This training would be offered in-house, with little cost, but would require a minimum of three annual PD Days. A fuller document will be drafted in my tenure.

7. Financial Management

7.1. Budget

A 2026 budget has been created **with 3 options for board review**. For details regarding this budget, see the *Guide to the 2026 Budget Proposal*.

A 2025 budget forecast was created to support fall season spending and the 2026 budget creation. This was created using QuickBooks with support from TAL.

7.2. Grants

The library has been **receiving grants as budgeted**. Grants received this summer include Young Canada Works, the Provincial Operating Grant, City of Camrose installments, City of Camrose Arts & Culture Grant, and the Camrose County Grant.

The **Municipal Affairs Skills Development Grant** that funded the **Newcomers to Camrose** program has concluded. An application was made to the Ed Stelmach Foundation for additional funding to continue the program but the application was not successful. Unfortunately, this program has been – at least temporarily – discontinued. The final report for this grant is nearly complete.

8.3 Other

A **risk identified** by TAL was that the payroll processes the library is using requires that library **staff anticipate their hours**. This means that staff hours often do not reflect the hours worked, typically due to illnesses, coverage etc. This results in staff being either overpaid or underpaid, and these discrepancies needing to be rectified retroactively most every pay period.

To eliminate this, we plan to **implement payment in-arrears starting January 1, 2026**. Payment in arrears is a common practice where there is a delay between the last day

of a pay period and the payday. Payment in-arrears has been a part of staff contracts since 2023 but has not been implemented. Working with an HR consultant and TAL, I have created a transition plan that will be announced in September to give time to plan for these changes.

8. Human Resource Management

Through the summer, I have been **scheduling one-on-one time** with each library staff; I still have 3 staff left. This has allowed me to get to know the team as individuals, their roles and responsibilities, and their concerns.

In addition to informal engagement, I **conducted a Staff Safety Survey** in response to comments and the results of an informal survey done by the circulation supervisor, Krystal Shirley. The preliminary report is included in the board meeting package.

A **revamp of the Emergency Response Plan** (ERP) is currently underway – Amanda Haugen is the lead on that project. The updated ERP will include gaps identified in the Staff Safety Survey, and will be formatted to be easily followed when adrenaline is high during an emergency.

We also recently conducted a **Schedule Priorities Survey** with collection and circulation assistants. This is in preparation for a shift in our scheduling practices and the **implementation of Agendrix**, a new scheduling & HR software this fall. This software was recommended by TAL. In a discussion I had with Alyssa, acquiring and implementing a scheduling and HR software was on her list of priorities. Ideally, this will allow us to streamline and automate some of the work Krystal and Amanda do, so they can each dedicate more time to other tasks.

A set of **5-Minute Cyber Security mini-trainings** have been setup for September through January. These trainings feature short videos emailed to library staff to watch to help keep us vigilant regarding cyber security in the library. They go out on the first of each month. Implementing this training will allow us to check an additional box with our insurers to help reduce our overall risk, and thus insurance payments.

Due to the ending of the Newcomers to Camrose program, **our newcomer programmer was let go**.

9. Contract Services Management

Executive Assistant, Amanda Haugen, has worked with Sky Blue Services to address a number of **janitorial concerns**, including seasonal cleaning of emergency exits and getting to WHMIS compliance by labelling cleaning solutions and providing MSDS information.

A number of items are **flagged for review** in the Guide to the 2026 Budget Proposal.

The **building lease** with the City of Camrose is coming due in January. This will be reviewed and raised with the city soon this fall.

Camrose Public Library
Adult Programs
January 1 to June 30, 2025

Outreach	Program	Attendance
Deliveries to Care Facilities	59	432
German Circle Online	25	86
Ukulele Online	20	57
Mind Masters	6	1056
Advocacy Events @ CAFCL	2	65
	112	1696
In House	Program	Attendance
Spanish	22	109
Ukulele	21	205
Fibre Club	18	93
Drum Circle with CMHA	4	19
Climate Café	5	9
Cricut Classes	10	26
Life Skills 101	6	37
Lunch & Learn with FCSS	6	63
Beading Circle with Joelle Skinner	4	53
Freedom to Look? FTRW with Andrea Korda	1	6
Companion Planting	1	10
John Dunn: Journey North	1	25
Elections Workshops	2	5
Solar PV Sessions	1	14
Genealogy Workshop	1	20
Rag Rug Workshop	1	16
Ribbon Skirt Teachings	2	27
Ribbon Skirt Workshop	2	18
Speed Friending with Recovery College	1	11
Seniors Week with CRA	1	9
Pride vs. Prejudice Screening	1	10
	111	785
Total	223	2481

Camrose Public Library
Family Programs
January 1 to June 30, 2025

Outreach	Program	Attendance
Read for 15	1	3426
Chuck Maclean Family workshops	5	53
Women's Shelter Family Literacy	0	0
Newcomers Guide to Camrose in Community	4	41
Free Comic Book Day at Quantum Comics	1	10
Book Bike @ Pride in the Park	1	137
Jaywalkers Outreach	1	889
	13	4556
In House	Program	Attendance
Snacks in the Stacks	121	2580
Something Cool After School	105	588
Books & Bounces	24	234
Terrific Tales	24	423
Tech Help	45	90
Bed Time Stories	22	276
Crafternoon	18	154
Rainbow Club	3	5
School PD Matinee	5	110
Newcomers Guide to Camrose	18	158
Saturday Story Time	1	3
Weekend Wiggles	0	0
Ghibli Geeks Club	4	8
Environmental Literacy Night for Family Literacy Day	1	14
Dolly Parton Party	1	52
Rag Rug Workshops	2	18
Impromptu Story Time	1	6
Seed Swap with CAFCL & CAS	1	40
Secret Garden Tea Party	1	306
	397	5065
Total	410	9621

Camrose Public Library
Childrens Programs
January 1 to June 30, 2025

Outreach	Program	Attendance
Book Bike & SRC Promo at schools	2	85
	2	85

In House	Program	Attendance
BRSD School Tours	10	236
	10	236

Monthly Total	12	321
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Camrose Public Library

Teen Programs

January 1 to June 30, 2025

Outreach	Program	Attendance
BRSD Adulting Fair at ECCHS	1	350
BRSD Adulting Fair at New Norway School	1	45
	2	395

In House	Program	Attendance
Golden Flames Teen D & D	25	344
	25	344

Total	27	739
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Camrose Public Library

Total Programs

January 1 to June 30, 2025

Outreach Programs	129	6732
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In-house Programs	543	6430
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YTD	672	13162
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Submitted by Nicole Kyle

Camrose Public Library
Adult Programs
January 1 to July 31, 2025

Outreach	Program	Attendance
Deliveries to Care Facilities	68	492
German Circle Online	29	100
Ukulele Online	23	68
Mind Masters	7	1221
Advocacy Events @ CAFCL	2	65
Outreach CMHA Drum Circle	1	8
Summer Spanish Online	2	5
SRC Srs. Tech with FCSS	1	20
	133	1979
In House	Program	Attendance
Spanish	22	109
Ukulele	21	205
Fibre Club	18	93
Drum Circle with CMHA	4	19
Climate Café	5	9
Cricut Classes	10	26
Life Skills 101	6	37
Lunch & Learn with FCSS	6	63
Beading Circle with Joelle Skinner	5	68
Freedom to Look? FTRW with Andrea Korda	1	6
Companion Planting	1	10
John Dunn: Journey North	1	25
Elections Workshops	2	5
Solar PV Sessions	1	14
Genealogy Workshop	1	20
Rag Rug Workshop	1	16
Ribbon Skirt Teachings	2	27
Ribbon Skirt Workshop	2	18
Speed Friending with Recovery College	1	11
Seniors Week with CRA	1	9
Pride vs. Prejudice Screening	1	10
	112	800
Total	245	2779

Camrose Public Library
Family Programs
January 1 to July 31, 2025

Outreach	Program	Attendance
Read for 15	1	3426
Chuck Maclean Family workshops	5	53
Women's Shelter Family Literacy	0	0
Newcomers Guide to Camrose in Community	7	69
Free Comic Book Day at Quantum Comics	1	10
Book Bike @ Pride in the Park	1	137
Jaywalkers Outreach	1	889
Book Bike @ Canada Day	1	50
Book Bike at Local Playgrounds	4	66
Book Bike with Magic Story Time	3	25
Book Bike with CFRC Painting in the Park	1	32
Book Bike @ Kickin' Country Parade (Advocacy)	1	650
	26	5407

In House	Program	Attendance
Snacks in the Stacks	143	2693
Something Cool After School	105	588
Books & Bounces	27	252
Terrific Tales	27	475
Tech Help	49	98
Bed Time Stories	22	276
Crafternoon	18	154
Rainbow Club	3	5
School PD Matinee	5	110
Newcomers Guide to Camrose	19	166
Saturday Story Time	1	3
Weekend Wiggles	0	0
Ghibli Geeks Club	4	8
Environmental Literacy Night for Family Literacy Day	1	14
Dolly Parton Party	1	52
Rag Rug Workshops	2	18
Impromptu Story Time	1	6
Seed Swap with CAFCL & CAS	1	40
Secret Garden Tea Party	1	306
SRC Career Story Time	3	48
SRC Teddy Bear Movie Night	1	36
	434	5348

Total	460	10755
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Camrose Public Library
 Childrens Programs
 January 1 to July 31, 2025

Outreach	Program	Attendance
Book Bike & SRC Promo at schools	2	85
SRC with FCSS Summer in the Park New Norway	1	30
Book Bike @ Reading University	3	120
Book Bike @ OSCAR	1	29
	7	264

In House	Program	Attendance
BRSD School Tours	10	236
Reading University Class Visit	1	16
	11	252

Monthly Total	18	516
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Camrose Public Library

Teen Programs

January 1 to July 31, 2025

Outreach	Program	Attendance
BRSD Adulting Fair at ECCHS	1	350
BRSD Adulting Fair at New Norway School	1	45
Book Bike @ Rotary Skate Park	3	15
	5	410

In House	Program	Attendance
Golden Flames Teen D & D	25	344
SRC Book and Bake	4	16
	29	360

Total	34	770
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Camrose Public Library

Total Programs

January 1 to July 31, 2025

Outreach Programs	171	8060
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In-house Programs	586	6760
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YTD	757	14820
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Submitted by Nicole Kyle

June & July 2025 Program and Library Statistics

Submitted by Nicole Kyle
August 20, 2025

1588

people accessed programs that help develop relationships, end social isolation, and make them feel welcome in our library and our community.

1733

community members of all ages were able to meet the library outside our walls with outreach programs and services in the places where they work, live, and play.

**22
programs**

presented in partnership with local organizations and businesses provided information and recreationation opportunities for

**580
people**

1624

People were reached through library advocacy events designed to promote programs and services to residents and organizations.

1 bit of

awesome feedback:

“Thank you for everything you do at the library and how you support the community.”

June Special Events & July Program Summary

June special events and observances:

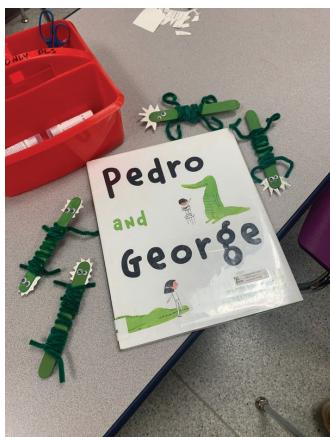
- Library staff, Board members, library volunteers, and the Fellowship, hosted booths at Jaywalker's Jamboree again this year. The Fellowship had a "Blind Date with a Book" sale and library -themed pins for sale. Our side of the booth saw us making library cards, talking to people about what we do, and just generally connecting with community!
- Pride Month activities included partnering with Camrose Pride Community for a screening of the film "Pride Vs. Prejudice" and Pride in the Park with the Book Bike
- We hosted a CRA info session in partnership with Camrose Seniors Coalition in honour of Seniors Week
- Louis revisited an Emergency Preparedness workshop at Life Skills 101 in partnership with Alberta Health Services.
- Our summer staff planned and hosted yet another fabulous tea party to kick off our summer programming. This year's theme was based on the classic children's novel, The Secret Garden. The library was transformed into a flowery conservatory. Attendees enjoyed tea and a selection of goodies, crafts, and games.
- Most ongoing programs were paused at the end of June and were replaced by Book Bike and Summer Reading programs. This break allows full time programmers time to support our summer staff and prepare for the upcoming fall/winter/spring program schedule.

July (Please see Book Bike and Summer Reading Program report for more):

- Snacks in the Stacks continued in July at an earlier time. There are fewer kids for snacks at 12:30, but many kids are here for the whole day on the computers and appreciate the mid-day snack.
- Ukulele, German, and Spanish Conversation Circles continued virtually through July.
- Our Drumming for Wellness partnership program with Recovery College met at Kamifurano Park this month to drum on a summers eve!
- Newcomer's Guide to Camrose spent much of their time out in community. From a movie night to outdoor Yoga and a volleyball game at Rudy Swanson Park, attendees were introduced to some of the things that make summers special in the city of Camrose!
- I facilitated 3 sessions each for infants and caregivers and families through July. These summer sessions are generally more quiet than the rest of the year, but we do tend to see new faces; a number of the attendees were new to the library!
- One Reading University class came for an introductory library visit and enjoyed the time with the Book Bike on their campus; both Camrose classes returned for another visit to browse the library and attend Career Story Time with members of Camrose Police Service.



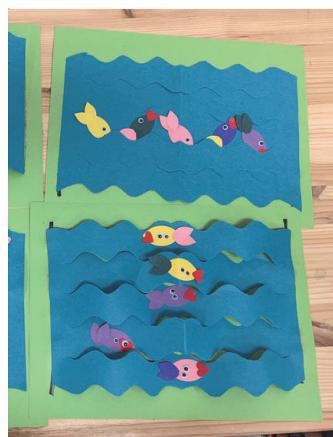
We connected with over 800 people during Jaywalker's Jamboree!



We made pipe cleaner crocodiles in a June session of Terrific Tales



July's project for our Indigenous Beading Circle was a pair of lovely earrings



Terrific Summer Tales featured seasonal stories and crafts like this 3-D seascape

Ongoing Programs

Ukulele Jam
For adults
Mondays @ 10:00

Spanish Circle
For adults
Mondays @ 3 in person
and on Zoom

Books & Bounces
**For infants under 2 and
caregivers**
Tuesdays @ 11:00

German Circle
For adults
Tuesdays @ 4 on Zoom

Climate Cafe
All ages
First Tuesday Monthly
@ 5:30

Terrific Tales
For families
Wednesdays @ 10:30

**Golden Flames D&D
Club**
13-17 years, registered
Wednesdays @ 4; email
cpltechhelp@prl.ab.ca
to register

Bed Time Stories
For families
Wednesdays @ 6

Drumming for Wellness with Recovery College
For 16+, registered
First Thursday monthly @ 5:30
To register, email recovercollegecamrose@gmail.com
or call 780-672-2570.

Ukulele Online
For adults
Thursdays @ 1 on Zoom

PD Day Matinee Sponsored by **Domino's**
All ages, registered
September 26 @ 11:30 AM
Phone or email to register.
before September 22.

Abstractions Art Club
For teens
September 26 @ 2 PM
Call or email to register

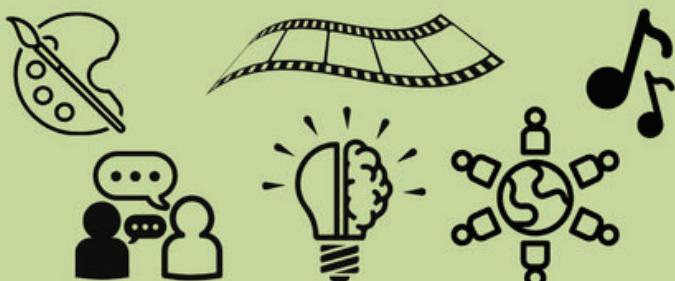
Snacks in the Stacks
(Grades 1-12)
School days @ 3:30

**Something Cool After
School**
For kids in Grades 1-8
School days @ 3:30

Bookmark Book Club
For Teens
Grab a bookmark with
reading suggestions, read
and write a review, then
submit it to earn a button!
September theme:
Travel the High Seas.

Crafternoon
For all ages
Saturdays from 1-3

Fibre Club
For all ages
Saturdays @ 1



Our Hours:

Monday 10-7
Tuesday 10-8
Wednesday 10-7
Thursday 10-7
Friday 10-6
Saturday 11-4

Closed September 1 & 20

Special Events

Lunch & Learn with Camrose Interagency
September 8 @ Noon; BYO Lunch
Join staff from Prairie Central FASD to learn
about resources available in Camrose and Area.

Speed Friending (18+)
September 9 @ 6 PM
Join us on Camrose Welcoming Week and make
some new friends, fast! Call or email to register.

Canva 101 (18+)
September 8 @ 9 AM or 6 PM
All you need is an existing email address & your
device; some laptops will be available to borrow.
Presented in partnership with Community Futures
East Central Alberta

For Cricut's Sake (16+): Tote Bags
September 23 & 25 @ 5 PM
Space is limited; call or email to register.

Kids' Indigenous Beading Circle
3-15 years (and caregiver if required)
September 27 @ 11 AM
Join Joelle for a special kids beading session in
honour of Orange Shirt Day. Space is limited; call
or email to register. **Children under 12 must be
accompanied by an adult to assist them.**

For program and service info:
Phone: 780.672.4214
Web: prl.ab.ca/camrose
Email: cpltechhelp@prl.ab.ca

Unless otherwise noted, programs and events
are FREE and on a drop-in basis. For
registered programs, please email or call us.



**Municipal Elections are
Monday, October 20th, 2025**

**Did you know that Municipal Elections are
very important for libraries?**

Funding from municipalities like cities and counties
typically make up more than 80% of library budgets.

Having a well funded library means good programs, new
books, outreach services, technology support, and a free
place to connect with community.

**Ask your candidates how they plan to
support your library.**



**Fill up at Wild
Rose Co-op, grab
a bite, and Fuel
Good on Tuesday,
September 16!**

Visit the Downtown or Eastside Co-op Gas Bars on
September 16 to help support Camrose Public Library's
Snacks in the Stacks nutrition program for school-aged kids.
Wild Rose Co-op will donate the following proceeds from
sales on Fuel Good Day:

- 7 cents per litre of fuel sold
- proceeds from BBQs at both locations from 10:00am to 6:00pm
- \$1 from every Big Cool and every Co-operative Coffee purchased

**Together, we can keep Snacks in the Stacks thriving
and help ensure kids in our community have access to
both nourishment and knowledge.**

1-on-1 Tech Help

Need assistance with some
technology basics? Please
call us or email
cpltechhelp@prl.ab.ca to book
your free 1 hour appointment!

Technology Services



24/7 Electronic resources:

Visit prl.ab.ca/elibrary to check out
electronic print materials, audio books,
learning resources, and resume building
software. Use your library card
and PIN to log in.

Smoked Hide Orange Shirt Pins

**With Indigenous Artist
Jessica Sanderson-Barry**

**Thursday, September 25
6:00 PM**

For ages 16+ only.

Space is limited. Call 780-672-4214 or email
cpltechhelp@prl.ab.ca to register.

**CAMROSE
PUBLIC LIBRARY**



**October is Canadian Library Month
and we're celebrating alongside
some of our vibrant local businesses!**

Show your library card at these Camrose
businesses during the month of October to
get some awesome deal. Details coming soon!!



June Library Statistics

YTD daily visit averages (and hourly based on operational hours in brackets)

Mondays: 388 (avg of 43/hr)

Tuesdays: 414 (avg of 41/hr)

Wednesdays: 323 (avg of 36/hr)

Thursdays: 320 (avg of 36/hr)

Fridays: 307 (avg of 38/hr)

Saturdays: 234 (avg of 47/hr)

Circulation	June 2025	June 2024	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Under/ Over 2024	% Chg. Over 2024
Adult Material	4920	5276	31326	33966	-2640	-8%
Young Adult Material	463	591	2214	2901	-687	-24%
Juvenile Material	4621	4330	29446	28122	1324	5%
Relais Items Borrowed	103	98	831	716	115	16%
Relais Items Sent	38	22	181	177	4	2%
Total	10145	10317	63998	65882	-1884	-3%

Econtent	June 2025	June 2024	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Under/ Over 2024	% Chg. Over 2024
Cloud Library/RBDigital	473	471	2595	3052	-457	-15%
Overdrive	1414	1323	8823	7401	1422	19%
Total	1887	1794	11418	10453	965	9%

Circulation by Residence	June 2025	June 2024	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Under/ Over 2024	% Chg. Over 2024
City of Camrose	8587	9240	51813	55143	-3330	-6%
County of Camrose	1856	1738	13571	11718	1853	16%
Outside City/County	64	45	407	433	-26	-6%
ME	15	6	120	155	-35	-23%
Total	10522	11029	65911	67449	-1538	-2%

Miscellaneous	June 2025	June 2024	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Under/ Over 2024	% Chg. Over 2024
Visitors	8109	8444	50036	50458	-422	-1%
WiFi Users	12160	10695	61899	57433	4466	8%
Internet Users	958	1158	5855	6405	-550	-9%
Exams	21	21	113	151	-38	-25%
Total	21248	20318	117903	114447	3456	3%

Selection of Service Responses

1. Social Engagement: Developing Relationships and Ending Isolation

2. Connect to the Online World: Public Internet Access

3. Satisfy Curiosity: Lifelong Learning

4. Visit a Welcoming Place: Physical and Virtual Spaces

Programs	June 2025		2025 YTD		Participants		
	Service Response	Sessions	People	Sessions	People	2024 YTD	2023 YTD
1	23	172	175	1255	2075	1,532	
2	5	10	35	70	874	451	
3	29	521	298	3746	3157	2,812	
4	32	987	156	3231	3394	3,729	
Advocacy	3	974	8	4860	5038	4,400	
Total	92	2664	672	13162	14,538	12,924	

July Library Statistics

YTD daily visit averages (and hourly based on operational hours in brackets)

Mondays: 382 (avg of 42/hr)

Tuesdays: 410 (avg of 41/hr)

Wednesdays: 375 (avg of 42/hr)

Thursdays: 323 (avg of 36/hr)

Fridays: 307 (avg of 38/hr)

Saturdays: 231 (avg of 46/hr)

Circulation	Jul 2025	Jul 2024	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Under/ Over 2024	% Chg. Over 2024
Adult Material	5780	6238	37106	40204	-3098	-8%
Young Adult Material	501	516	2715	3417	-702	-21%
Juvenile Material	5705	6455	35151	34577	574	2%
Relais Items Borrowed	124	118	955	834	121	15%
Relais Items Sent	28	17	209	194	15	8%
Total	12138	13344	76136	79226	-3090	-4%
Econtent	Jul 2025	Jul 2024	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Under/ Over 2024	% Chg. Over 2024
Cloud Library/RBDigital	440	415	3035	3467	-432	-12%
Overdrive	1499	1398	10322	8799	1523	17%
Total	1939	1813	13357	12266	1091	9%
Circulation by Residence	Jul 2025	Jul 2024	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Under/ Over 2024	% Chg. Over 2024
City of Camrose	10534	11283	62347	66426	-4079	-6%
County of Camrose	2246	2287	15817	14005	1812	13%
Outside City/County	78	29	485	462	23	5%
ME	0	13	120	168	-48	-29%
Total	12858	13612	78769	81061	-2292	-3%
Miscellaneous	Jul 2025	Jul 2024	2025 YTD	2024 YTD	Under/ Over 2024	% Chg. Over 2024
Visitors	8258	8880	58294	59338	-1044	-2%
WiFi Users	9475	9131	71374	66564	4810	7%
Internet Users	1057	1351	6912	7756	-844	-11%
Exams	10	16	123	167	-44	-26%
Total	18800	19378	136703	133825	2878	2%
Selection of Service Responses						
1. Social Engagement: Developing Relationships and Ending Isolation						
2. Connect to the Online World: Public Internet Access						
3. Satisfy Curiosity: Lifelong Learning						
4. Visit a Welcoming Place: Physical and Virtual Spaces						
Programs	July 2025		2025 YTD		Participants	
Service Response	Sessions	People	Sessions	People	2024 YTD	2023 YTD
1	23	232	198	1487	2627	1,688
2	5	28	40	98	902	451
3	30	551	328	4297	3907	4,010
4	26	197	182	3428	3668	4,185
Advocacy	1	650	9	5510	5038	4,400
Total	85	1658	757	14820	16,142	14,734