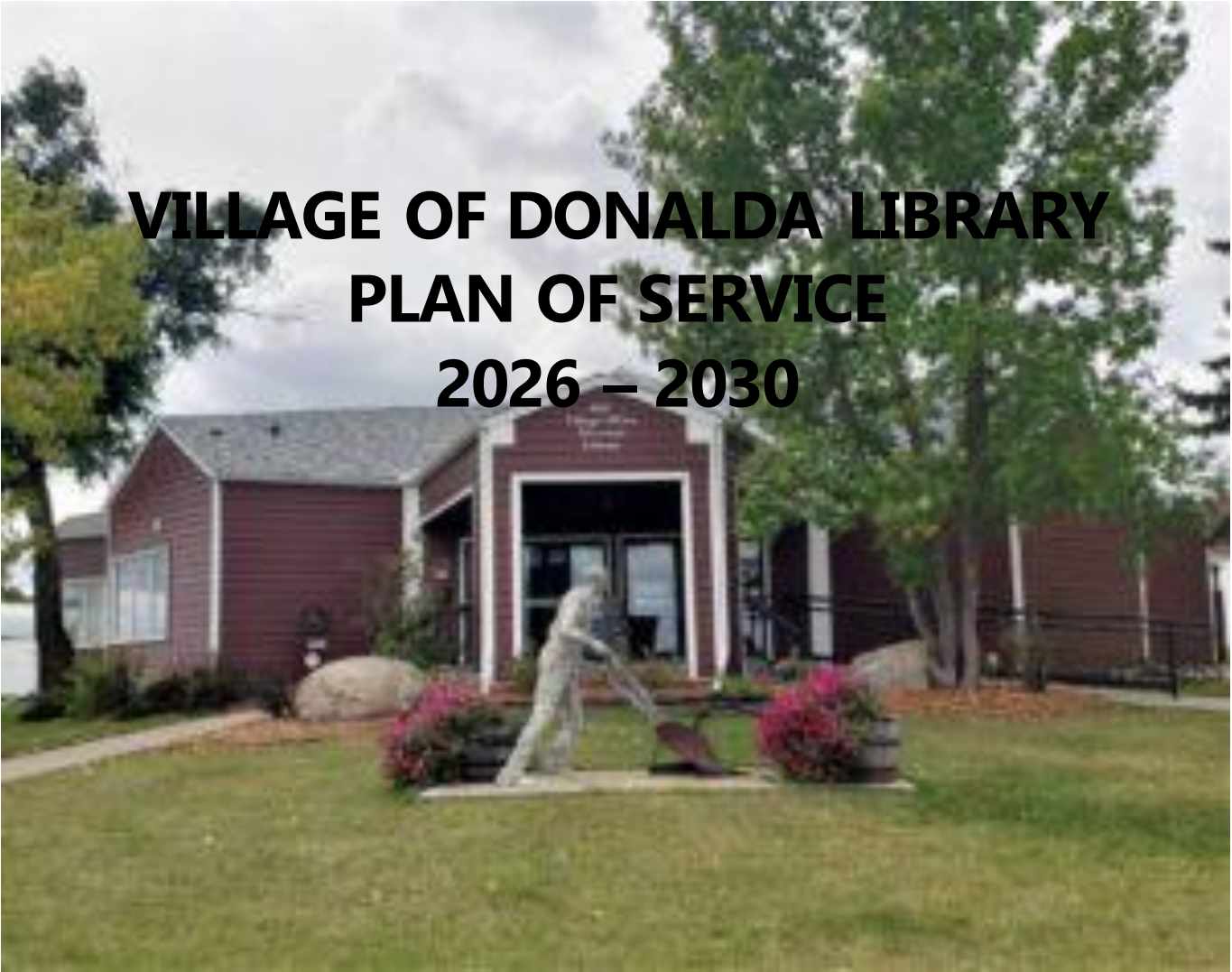


A photograph of the Village of Donalda Library building, a red brick structure with a white-trimmed entrance. The building is surrounded by green grass, trees, and a small sculpture of a person in the foreground. The sky is overcast.

VILLAGE OF DONALDA LIBRARY PLAN OF SERVICE 2026 – 2030

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Acknowledgements

The Donalda Library Board would like to extend sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed to the development of the 2026–2030 Plan of Service.

We thank the **Library Board members** for their dedication and thoughtful participation in gathering information and guiding the planning process. Their insight and commitment were essential in shaping a plan that reflects the needs and aspirations of our community.

We are also deeply grateful to the **community members** who completed surveys and shared their ideas. Your feedback has been invaluable in identifying priorities and ensuring the library continues to grow as a welcoming center for learning, creativity, and connection.

The Donalda Library acknowledges the **Village of Donalda** and the **County of Stettler** for their continued support and funding. Their partnership and investment make it possible for the library to provide quality programs, resources, and services to residents of all ages.

Together, this collaboration between the Board, community, and municipal partners ensures that the Donalda Library remains a vital part of our community's future.

Statement of Approval and Accountability

For public libraries in Alberta, planning is mandated. Libraries Regulation, Section 13 states the following:

- (1) In managing and controlling a municipal library, a municipal board shall
 - (a) Within 3 years of being established, develop and file with the Minister a plan of service with a mission statement and goals and objectives based on a needs assessment of the municipality, and
 - (b) Annually review its plan of service.
- (2) A municipal board shall file with the Minister a copy of its current plan of service with goals and objectives not less frequently than every 5 years following the date on which the plan was previously filed with the Minister.¹

The Plan of Service for 2026-2030 has been prepared by the Village of Donalda Library Board in accordance with Alberta Libraries Regulation AR 141/98.

The Board and staff of the library are committed to implementing this plan of service, reviewing it regularly to monitor progress in achieving goals, and updating the plan as needed.

MOTION:

Motion was made to accept the draft 2026-2030 Plan of Service with the following amendments: picture on the front cover, edit wording on page 5 Resource Sharing, and attachment of survey overview. Motion by: Gwen Wood. Motion seconded by: Teresa Donald. Carried.

Date of Board Meeting: Wednesday, October 15, 2025

Original signed by:

Kristina Lipka, Board Chair
October 20, 2025

¹ Libraries Regulation AR 141/98 s13

Commitment and Mission

Commitment

Our commitment is to be a lifelong learning center for our community by providing:

- Courteous and efficient service.
- Services that reflect the needs of the community.
- A current and balanced collection of library materials.
- Access to internet services, technology and Wi-Fi for all community members.

Mission Statement

The Village of Donalda Library will provide access to a variety of library materials and services for informational, educational and recreational purposes, to all members of the community.

Community Profile

Community:

The Village of Donalda is located in the northern region of the County of Stettler, perched on the edge of a scenic coulee overlooking the beautiful Central Alberta badlands. Approximately 215 residents call this charming village home.

Donalda has a strong sense of community pride and connection, with many residents actively supporting local businesses, participating in community groups, and contributing to village life. The population includes a significant number of seniors, alongside rural families and individuals who value the area's quiet lifestyle, rich history, and natural beauty.

As part of this vibrant rural community, the Donalda Library serves as a central hub for connection, learning, and creativity. The library provides access to resources and programs that support residents of all ages, from lifelong learners to young families. By reflecting the character and needs of Donalda's residents, the library continues to play an essential role in preserving the community's spirit of cooperation, curiosity, and local pride.

Library Profile

Library Staff:

The Donalda Library employs a single Library Manager, Chris Schmidt, who joined the library in September 2024. He is present during all operational hours, which remain consistent throughout the year—Monday to Thursday, 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Chris actively engages the community through programs focused on local history, lifelong learning, and personal interests. His dedication has strengthened community connections and enhanced the library's role as a welcoming space for discovery and participation.

Brief Summary of 2024 Annual Report:

In 2024, the Donalda Public Library continued to provide valuable access to information, technology, and community programming. Key service statistics include:

- Library memberships: 59
- Library visits: 2,502
- Resource sharing: 1,449 items going out to neighbouring libraries and 2,941 items requested by our patrons.

The library provides three public computers and one laptop with internet access available during all open hours. In 2025, the library also received the generous donation of an internet hub from a local patron, expanding connectivity options for community members who may not have reliable access at home.

Needs Assessment

To ensure the Donalda Library's 2026–2030 Plan of Service reflects the needs and priorities of the community, the Library Board conducted a comprehensive needs assessment process.

Beginning in spring 2024 and continuing through late spring 2025, the Board distributed a community survey designed to gather input on library use, desired services, and areas for growth. The survey was made available in several formats to encourage broad participation:

- Online, through the library's website and social media channels;
- In-person, with printed copies available for patrons to complete in the library; and
- Door-to-door, where Board members personally visited residents on selected streets within the Village of Donalda to collect feedback.

This multi-method approach ensured that residents of different ages and levels of digital access were represented. The feedback gathered provided valuable insight into the community's evolving needs and guided the selection of priority service responses included in this Plan of Service.

Review

Following the completion of the community survey, a group of Board members reviewed and analyzed all responses to identify key trends and priorities. From this process, the Board determined the top three goals to guide the 2026–2030 Plan of Service.

Survey results indicated that the current library hours meet the community's needs, with most respondents expressing satisfaction with existing access times. Feedback also revealed that baby programs and eBooks were considered the least essential services at this time, allowing the Board to focus more effectively on programs and resources that align with community interests.

This thoughtful review process ensured that the goals selected—creative outlets and learning opportunities, literacy support for all ages, and accessible information for personal interests—reflect the true priorities of Donalda's residents.

2026–2030 Plan of Service

Library Service Response 1

Goal 1: Provide a comforting and inviting atmosphere that encourages literacy, creativity, and multi-faceted learning.

Objective 1: Develop and maintain services that provide creative outlets for youth and families.

- Host programs that combine creativity and learning, such as craft workshops, family story-building events, and intergenerational art projects.
- Offer “Take & Create” activity kits to encourage at-home participation in creative literacy.
- Promote participation in community-wide creative challenges (e.g., photo contests, writing prompts, or book-inspired art displays).

Objective 2: Enhance access to a wide range of literacy resources for all ages.

- Ensure the library’s collection includes diverse and welcoming reading materials for adults, teens, and families.
- Regularly update and display new materials to attract interest and awareness.
- Develop reading challenges or book clubs that support literacy engagement and lifelong learning.

Library Service Response 2

Goal 2: Provide easy access to information and resources for topics of personal interest, supporting community independence and lifelong learning.

Objective 1: Empower patrons to find reliable answers independently.

- Maintain up-to-date digital resources, databases, and community information guides.
- Offer drop-in “Tech Help” and “Ask a Librarian” sessions to assist with digital literacy.
- Provide training sessions on common technology and research tools.
- Ensure computers and Wi-Fi access remain available and user-friendly for all visitors.

Objective 2: Encourage self-directed learning.

- Curate themed resource displays on popular and emerging topics of interest.
- Develop partnerships with community organizations to provide workshops on local skills and hobbies.
- Highlight online learning opportunities through the Parkland Regional Library System and other educational partners.

Library Service Response 3

Goal 3: Strengthen community connection and engagement through accessible and welcoming library services.

Objective 1: Foster partnerships that extend library reach.

- Collaborate with the local school, FCSS, and community groups to co-host programs.
- Participate in community events and outreach opportunities to promote library awareness.

Objective 2: Promote a welcoming sense of belonging.

- Ensure all library spaces and programs are open, friendly, and barrier-free.
- Feature community-relevant materials and celebrate local diversity through displays and programming.

The Village of Donalda Library Board will review this Plan of Service annually to ensure that goals remain aligned with community needs and opportunities for continuous improvement.

APPENDIX A

Community Needs Assessment Report