

Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries

Messaging Overview

Updated: July 17, 2026

Elements and Use

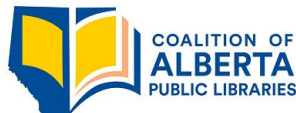
This document includes all current and approved messaging to support the Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries (CAP Libraries) in its response to new Libraries Regulations.

- Key Messages
 - FAQs
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KEY MESSAGES

Response to Changes to Libraries Regulations

- On July 8, the Province of Alberta released new library regulations to guide the implementation of Bill 28, which was passed in May. These regulations outline new age-based restrictions for library spaces and collections.
- The Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries (CAP Libraries) is supporting its members in their request to the Minister of Municipal Affairs for clarity around scope of the age-based restrictions, review of materials in collections, development of needed policies and procedures, and potential construction requirements. As such, libraries request for more time before implementation to adequately adjust operations.
- Additional costs to implement the requirements remain unfunded, with the burden falling on municipalities.
- CAP Libraries remains eager to collaborate with the Province on practical, operational steps to address concerns and reduce disruption to public services.
- CAP Libraries and its members share Minister Williams' goal of ensuring users under the age of 16 have access to age-based materials.
- On July 10, CAP Libraries sent letters to the Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister seeking clarity on the regulations and asking for a deadline extension. The Province has noted that operating guidelines based on the new regulations will be provided in the fall. Without seeing these, Alberta public libraries are requesting that the compliance date be extended from January 1, 2027, to late spring. A meeting with the Assistant Deputy Minister is to be scheduled for the week of July 20.



- There are 324 public library service points in Alberta, serving 99 per cent of Albertans. These service points look very different community to community, and time is needed to understand the implications of new regulations in these varying spaces.

What Changes to Expect

- After reviewing the new Libraries Regulations, Alberta public libraries view the following as the main operational impacts:
 - Physically relocate restricted materials across print, video, and video games collections based on the definition provided in the regulations.
 - Draft and pass new policies related to the regulations and age-based restrictions to access to materials and also to access the internet on library provided computers unless parental consent is provided.
 - Alter processes used for library cards, borrowing, and technology-use for those 15 years of age and younger
 - Complete staff training
 - Where needed, physically change library spaces and points of access
- These changes may look different in libraries across Alberta. We appreciate the public's patience as we await further direction on guidelines adjust spaces and services to ensure compliance.

How People can Support their Local Libraries

- The best way to support your local library is to visit. We encourage all Albertans to get a library card, visit their local library, and show their support with library staff.
- Changes to library operations may look different for each community. Thank you for your patience as libraries review new regulations and await guidelines to implement changes to local operations and reduce disruption as much as possible.

FAQs

Do libraries have to comply with the new Libraries Regulations?

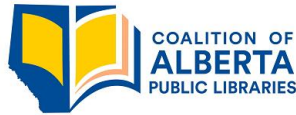
Yes. Libraries are a public body who must operate in a legal manner. The new legislation and regulations have created a pathway for enforcement and libraries will be taking steps to ensure compliance.

Is the Government of Alberta banning books in public libraries?

Public libraries in Alberta are concerned with any action to limit access to materials. Libraries continue to uphold a commitment to intellectual freedom as we comply with new Libraries Regulations related to age-based restrictions.

Will libraries remove the same books that were banned in schools?

The new Libraries Regulations do not call for the removal of any materials from libraries; rather, it's a call for the restriction of access. Libraries are reviewing new regulations and awaiting operating guidelines to better understand which materials will be impacted.



It's important to remember that school libraries and public libraries operate very differently. One key distinction is that public libraries do not operate *in loco parentis* (in place of parents), like schools do. With libraries, parents and guardians are responsible for the materials and programs accessed by their children or teens and have the right to choose what is best for themselves and their own families.

Why did libraries in Alberta form a coalition?

Public libraries in Alberta are working together to champion the value and impact of libraries for our Province. Through greater collaboration and connection, libraries can better support each other and the needs of their respective communities.

How was CAP Libraries formed?

The coalition was formed to support a resolution at Alberta Municipalities and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta regarding increased funding for Alberta's public libraries. The resolution was approved by a high majority vote of both organizations. Public libraries then united around collective advocacy for funding. At the same time, another issue emerged in September 2025 when school boards in Alberta responded to a government order to remove certain materials in their libraries. This initiated a new goal – to advocate for the value and role of public libraries as critical community spaces, and as organizations committed to the foundational value of intellectual freedom.