



PRLS BOARD TALK

Highlights of the Parkland Regional Library Board Meeting SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

2025 Budget

The board approved the draft 2025 budget. Some points included:

- Overall, expenditures are anticipated to increase by 1.9% in 2025 which is well below the rate of inflation.
- Now that they are being updated, switching back to Municipal Affairs Population Lists instead of the Treasury Board Estimates for invoicing municipalities resulted in a drop of 9,277 population which Parkland will no longer invoice on.
- Due to the switch in population figures, 18 municipalities will see a drop in their requisition.
- To balance the budget, it will be necessary to increase the municipal requisition/levy by sixty-three cents.
- Had it been appropriate for Parkland to continue using the population figures supplied by the Treasury Board, the 2025 requisition would have been approximately forty cents per capita lower.

The Parkland budget with full notes will be sent to municipalities for approval next week.

Vacant Seat on the Executive Committee

In June, Parkland received notice that Jamie Coston, the Executive Committee member representing the town of Rimbey, is no longer on the Parkland Board. As such, she has also resigned from the Executive Committee. Parkland informed Bentley, Eckville, Gull Lake, Parkland Beach, Ponoka, Ponoka County, and Rimbey (Area 5) that

their seat on the Executive Committee was vacant. Marc Mousseau from the Summer Village of Parkland Beach volunteered and will sit on the Executive Committee until the new Executive Committee is chosen at the November organizational meeting.

PRLS Plan of Service (Strategic Plan)

Recently there have been some significant changes to the Alberta Libraries Act and Regulation. Until now, library systems had to file a plan of service (strategic plan) with the Public Library Services Branch at Municipal Affairs every three years. With the changes in the legislation, plans of service for library systems can now be up to five years in length. The board moved to change the dates of Parkland's Strategic Plan from 2023-2025 to 2023-2027

Board Meeting Management

Back in December 2023 the Executive Committee formed a working group to develop a policy governing board member conduct. Having met three times, their work is now complete. The working group presented a draft policy for how to deal with "Complaints Against Board Members".

They also shared a brief board self-assessment survey to be conducted following the September board meeting, the final board meeting before the November organizational meeting.

The working group also recommended that at the October meeting of the Executive Committee, the group have an informal discussion allowing the committee to consider how effective it was over the course of the year.

Lastly, the working group commissioned the creation of a board member recruitment document so that when municipalities appoint individuals to the system board, they would have some idea of the preferred qualifications of candidates and what their role will be. This document will be sent out when Parkland communicates annually with member municipalities regarding who they are appointing to the Parkland board.

Advocacy Committee Report

Municipal Presentations: Parkland's Advocacy Committee recommended that municipal councils be visited by Parkland staff. To make the visits as useful as possible to the councils, two presentations have been

Next Meeting: November 14, 2024 (Zoom) 10:00 a.m.
to noon

developed. Councils can request a presentation on either 1) Parkland's structure and services, or, 2) the overarching structure and operation of public library service in Alberta. Several requests for an orientation have been made by member municipalities.

Presentations are designed to be about 15 minutes in length. The committee also agreed that a Parkland board member, especially the Chair, Vice-Chair, or Advocacy Committee Chair should always attend the presentations with Parkland staff.

MLA Visits: Early in the New Year, Parkland's Advocacy Committee established as one of its goals:

"To continue to advocate for a cost-of-living adjustment to provincial operating grants and/or another infusion for increased library funding."

Parkland staff and Board Chair have visited two of our MLAs over specific issues.

Parkland board members and staff will proceed with MLA visits this fall with the intent of informing MLAs on how support for public libraries contributes to achieving the goals of the Government of Alberta's strategic plan, and continue to seek regular increases to the provincial operating grants. Seeking an increase in SuperNet bandwidth for member libraries will also be a priority.

2025 Board Meeting Dates

The board reviewed the tentative dates for Parkland's 2025 board meetings which will be confirmed by the Board at the organizational meeting in November. The tentative dates are: February 27, May 15, September 11, and November 27, 2025. The board voted to continue exclusively with Zoom meetings.

Committee News from Trustees

Stettler Public Library Stettler Public Library and Stettler County are collaborating with community partners on Culture Days events throughout September. The library is also collaborating with the Stettler Adult Learning Centre to offer "Come for a Byte" to help 50+ citizens manage their devices and learn to avoid online scams. The Friends of the Library are launching their 7th annual wine survivor fundraiser. The Summer Reading Club is wrapped up for another year and the feedback has been great. The Stettler library also collaborated with the Stettler High School shop class to build a mini golf course, which was put on County

Museum property. They've built a gazebo and for Culture Days, each golf hole was named after a country. **Provost Municipal Library** is celebrating their 75th anniversary on October third at 7:00 p.m., and the following Saturday, on October 5th are holding an escape room fundraiser at the library. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Carstairs Public Library is holding their second Mountain View Comicon event on Saturday October 19th. **Camrose Public Library** has procured a grant for a part-time staff person that concentrates on newcomer welcome programming.

Innisfail Public Library started a new Human Library program this spring in partnership with the Welcome and Inclusivity Committee, which has been very popular and quite impactful.

Penhold and District Public Library had a very successful Summer Reading Club with 31,400 minutes recorded on reading trackers.

Board Members Present

Barb Gilliat (Board Chair), Gord Lawlor, Ray Reckseidler, **(Zoom)** Jackie AlMBERG, Laureen Clark-Rennie, Deb Coombes, Teresa Cunningham, Cal David, Dana Depalme, Jeff Eckstrand, Sarah Fahey, Richard Forsberg, Elaine Fossen, Shaleah Fox, Barbara Gibson, Twyla Hale, Kathy Hall, Pam Hansen, Bryce Liddle, Julie Maplethorpe, Ricci Matthews, Marc Mousseau, Joy-Anne Murphy, Jackie Northey, Jacquie Palm-Fraser, Jas Payne, Leonard Phillips, Diane Roth, Sandy Shipton, Debra Smith, Les Stulberg, Carlene Wetthuhn, Shannon Wilcox, Janice Wing

Board Members Absent

Jul Bissell, Wayne Clark, Edna Coulter, Todd Dalke, Cody Hillmer, Cody Johnson, Stephen Levy, Jordon Northcott, Shawn Peach, Ron These, Harvey Walsh

Board Members Absent with Regrets

Alison Barker-Jevne, Dwayne Fulton, Dana Kreil, Naomi Tercier, Bill Windsor

Staff

Kara Hamilton, Paige Mueller, Ron Sheppard, Tim Spark