



PRLS BOARD TALK

Highlights of the Parkland Regional Library Board Meeting

FEBRUARY 27, 2025

Vacant Seats on the Executive Committee

At the November organizational board meeting, seats 7 and 8 on Parkland's Executive Committee were not filled. After sending out invitations to PRLS board members for Areas 7 and 8, staff found three volunteers, Dana Kreil of Lacombe County for Area 7, Les Stulberg from the County of Stetter, and Elaine Fossen from Village of Forestburg both for area 8. Stephen Levy from the Village of Sedgewick also volunteered. Les Stulberg was appointed for seat 8, and Danna Kreil was appointed for seat 7.

Parkland Annual Report

Each year Parkland is required to submit an annual report to the Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) at Municipal Affairs.

An annual report infographic with highlights from 2024 will be prepared and distributed to member municipalities in the coming weeks.

Outlet Annual Reports

The Parkland Board is the governing board for four library service points. They are:

Brownfield Community Library – County of Paintearth

Nordegg Public Library – Clearwater County

Spruce View Community Library – Red Deer County

Water Valley Public Library – Mountain View County

Highlights from their annual reports are included below:

Nordegg Public Library Accomplishments

Maintained a great set of dedicated volunteers through our new year in our new space, provided by our Clearwater County in the beautiful updated Discovery Center. We added a new shelf unit to accommodate the collections comfortably, not stuffed. Had a good weeding session and an in-depth inventory was completed. Parkland came out to offer our volunteer staff some technology training, which was very well received! We also ran a few small community programs; held an initial author reading and community groups utilized our library space. We are absolutely loving our one-year-old library premises. Proud to be part of the library systems in Alberta. Literacy for all!

Spruce View Community Library Accomplishments

This past year we partnered with Red Deer County to bring programs to the community library. They have been very well attended and hope to bring many more. Our early literacy program is very well attended and we partnered up with the Family Resource Network to bring these programs to the library.

Water Valley Public Library Accomplishments

I am really happy that the library got a much-needed mini renovation this year. The new bookshelves are much more appropriate for the space and they have slightly increased the space we have for books. Our young adult programming is mostly used by our local homeschool community and we are really happy to provide space for this growing group of people in our community.

On January 16th and again on February 13th, Parkland's Director attended a Zoom meeting hosted by the Public Library Services Branch at Municipal Affairs. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss whether allowing library systems to be the "board of record" for library service points was to continue. This meeting was a follow-up meeting from one held on November 20th last year. As yet no decisions have been made by the government. It was made clear at the meeting that should systems no longer be allowed to be the governing board for library service points, it could be years before any change occurs.

Advocacy Committee Report

Parkland's Advocacy Committee has a revised Terms of Reference and a new focus for 2025. In an effort to increase the effectiveness of the Advocacy Committee, the number of committee members was changed from

10 members to six, and members will be expected to perform advocacy activity including meeting with MLA's, visiting municipal councils and providing training/mentorship to member library boards. Volunteers appointed include Board Chair Barb Gilliat, Gord Lawlor, Sarah Fahey, Ray Reckseidler, Todd Dalke, and Stephen Levy.

Parkland's Auditor 2025-2027

The 2024 audit concludes Parkland's current three-year contract for audit services with MNP.

Parkland staff have been very happy with MNP's audit services since they started working with us in 2019. Staff did not recommend switching auditors or engaging in a request for proposal to seek alternate audit services as Parkland's two finance staff, are retiring in 2025.

The 2024 Parkland audit will be presented to the board in May.

Woodworker's Guild Joint Project

Late last year, Parkland entered into a partnership with the Central Alberta Woodworker's Guild (CAWG), a volunteer organization, to produce a variety of puzzle kits for programming in public libraries. These kits are intended to provide children with a way to develop their manual dexterity. The kits are equally useful for seniors or those experiencing cognitive decline who wish to improve their motor, nervous, or hand-eye coordination skills. The kits are also perfect for multi-generational programming.

In an attempt to be responsible conservators, these kits were produced at low cost with repurposed oak from unwanted church pews. The puzzles and kits can be assembled and disassembled over and over again, allowing for years of use.

An event to introduce the kits, to which the press and members of CAWG will be invited, is planned for March 21st at the Servus Credit Union Public Library in Blackfalds. All are welcome!

Committee News from Trustees

Hardisty Public Library has a new library manager; Heidi Dayot was promoted from assistant manager to library manager. Many thanks to Consultant Olya Korolchuk for all her help.

Innisfail Public Library is promoting their library service to the Bowden Penitentiary. They also have 20% of

schoolchildren in the town being homeschooled since COVID, and many of them hang out at the library as their home base. The library offers various programming for the homeschoolers.

They also promote library memberships for members at the Bowden Penitentiary, organizing pick up and drop offs to inmates.

The **Penhold & District Public Library** would like to talk to other nearby municipalities about advocacy to their school districts.

Delburne Municipal Library has a new librarian, which allows them to be open for more hours. They have also set up six book bins around the community.

Board Members Present

Barb Gilliat (Board Chair), Gord Lawlor, Ray Reckseidler, **(Zoom)** Jackie Almborg, Delijah Antaloczy, Paul Ashfield, Alison Barker-Jevne, Jul Bissell, Laureen Clark-Rennie, Deb Coombes, Edna Coulter, Teresa Cunningham, Todd Dalke, Jeff Eckstrand, Sarah Fahey, Elaine Fossen, Shaleah Fox, Dwayne Fulton, Twyla Hale, Kathy Hall, Dana Kreil, Stephen Levy, Bryce Liddle, Julie Maplethorpe, Philip Massier, Ricci Matthews, Marc Mousseau, Cheryl Dezall, (alt. Joy-Anne Murphy), Jordon Northcott, Jacquie Palm-Fraser, Paul Patterson, Shawn Peach, Leonard Phillips, Dianne Roth, Sandy Shipton, Les Stulberg, Harvey Walsh, Carlene Wetthuhn, Bill Windsor, Janice Wing

Regrets

Joy-Anne Murphy, Jackie Northey, Shawn Peach

Absent

Derald Anderson, Wayne Clark, Cal David, Les Fee, Tim Field, Pam Hansen, Cody Hillmer, Cody Johnson, Darryl Motley, Jas Payne, Naomi Tercier, Shannon Wilcox

Guests

Malcolm Boyd

Next Meeting: May 15, 2025 (Zoom)

For more information, or if you want a copy of the draft minutes from this board meeting, please contact PRLS.