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# PRLS BOARD TALK

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## Highlights of the Parkland Regional Library Board Meeting

MAY 15, 2025

### Vacant Seat on the Executive Committee

Twyla Hale, Parkland's representative on the Executive Committee for Area 6 has, due to unforeseen circumstances, surrendered her seat.

Area six represents the communities of Bashaw, Clive, Donalds, Lacombe, the Summer Village of Rochon Sands, Stettler and the Summer Village of White Sands. These board members chose their representative for Area 6. Welcome Shaleah Fox to the Executive Committee!

### 2024 Parkland Audit

Parkland's audit was presented to the board by MNPs Lindsey Bauman and Erin Switenky. The audit reports were previously presented by Schmidt and Switenky at the March Executive Committee meeting where they were approved.

Switenky noted that there were no recommendations or management letter this year, which shows the commitment of Parkland Staff to ensuring Parkland has sound financial management.

A copy of the Auditor's Report and Report to the Board has been sent to your municipality.

### LAPP Audit and Pension Policy

Every three years Parkland is required to have an audit of its Local Authorities Pension Plan.

Three small errors were found resulting from Parkland's practice of calculating full-time equivalency (FTE) in days rather than hours. Parkland's method of calculating FTE

has been a standing practice for decades without being flagged during previous LAPP audits.

the errors were very minor. Following the auditors' recommendations, Parkland has created a pension policy statement to be included in Parkland's Policy Manual. Previously, pension benefits were recorded in Parkland's Human Resource Manual.

### Advocacy Committee Report

At their March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, the committee determined the following were to be Parkland's advocacy goals for 2025:

- Continue to focus on advocacy to the system board
- Continue to help libraries and their boards advocate for themselves at the local level with a special emphasis on the fact that 2025 is a municipal election year.
- Continue demonstrating leadership in the formulation of unified advocacy efforts by the seven library systems. As it relates to this goal, Parkland is not to make provincial efforts its priority but rather concentrate on the other goals.

In cooperation with the six other library systems, Parkland is also to:

- Continue advocating with the Government of Alberta (GOA) to introduce a predictable library grant funding model that reflects population growth and inflation.
- Support a proposal to the GOA for adjustments to the funding model allowing intermunicipal library boards to remain financially viable while streamlining governance structures.
- Support a request to the GOA that they reassess bandwidth allocations for the SuperNet to ensure that library connectivity keeps pace with evolving internet standards, especially for rural communities.

One of the principal jobs of board members is advocacy. In an attempt to make resources related to advocacy readily available to both Parkland board members and to our libraries, an extensive array of advocacy tools has been put on Parkland's website. They can be found under the "About Us" menu by clicking the "Advocacy" link. A demonstration of the materials was provided at

the board meeting including a PowerPoint type presentation with narration provided by AI.

## PRLS 2026 Budget

In response to direction provided by the Executive Committee, staff have prepared the draft 2026 budget.

A letter from Ric McIver, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, confirmed that library funding will be stable in 2026.

The Parkland budget with full notes will be brought back to the board in September for formal approval.

## Penhold Library/School Partnership

The Penhold library has been noted in the press recently for losing a significant amount of funding due to the demise of the contract the library board had with the local school authority. The terms of the agreement were amended, stating that the library would provide services to all schools in the division without compensation. The Penhold Library board is looking into their options with the Public Library Services Branch.

## Committee News from Trustees

The **Penhold & District Public Library** hosted a beekeeper and held a water color program. They are also working on their Strategic Plan.

The **Stettler Public Library** partnered with the high school and local county museum to build a 9-hole mini golf attraction that is located at the museum. They received a grant to pay for the materials. The Town of Stettler is also happy to be partnering with CPL to advocate for libraries.

The **Camrose Public Library** is partnering with the local performing arts centre to host 3 family events, and has space in the arts' brochure.

The **Clive Public Library** has started a nature school program with many families signed up. On June 5<sup>th</sup> the library is hosting an intergenerational garden tea party in partnership with the FCSS in the green space outside the library.

The **Sedgewick & District Municipal Library** held a garage sale at the beginning of May that brought in \$500 for the library. The first two weeks of June they are also holding an online auction with donated items.

The **Bentley Municipal Library** has started a nature school. They have also placed mini-libraries around the area and in the municipal campground.

The **Delburne Municipal Council** was presented with the Advocacy Framework Guide, and a copy is available on the Delburne Facebook page. There is also a copy at the library.

Board Chair Barb Gilliat said a few words regarding the retirement of long-time staff member Donna Williams.

## Board Members Present

**(In-Person)** Barb Gilliat (Board Chair), Matthew Goudy, Gord Lawlor, Ray Reckseidler, Janice Wing **(Zoom)** Jackie Almberg, Paul Ashford, Alison Barker-Jevne, Laureen Clark-Rennie, Deb Coombes, Teresa Cunningham, Todd Dalke, Cal David, Jeff Eckstrand, Sarah Fahey, Tim Field, Elaine Fossen, Shaleah Fox, Dwayne Fulton, Kathy Hall, Pam Hansen, Dana Kreil, Stephen Levy, Bryce Liddle, Philip Massier, Marc Mousseau, Joy-Anne Murphy, Jackie Northey, Jacquie Palm-Fraser, Paul Patterson, Jas Payne (alt. Megan Hanson), Dianne Roth, Sandy Shipton & alt. Diane Elliot, Les Stulberg, Harvey Walsh, Carlene Wetthuhn

## Regrets

Delijiah Antaloczy, Ricci Matthews, Cody Hillmer

## Absent

Jul Bissell, Wayne Clark, Edna Coulter, Les Fee, Cody Johnson, Julie Maplethorpe, Darryl Motley, Jordon Northcott, Shawn Peach, Leonard Phillips, Naomi Tercier, Shannon Wilcox, Bill Windsor

## Guests

Lindsey Bauman & Erin Switenky, MNP, Maia Foster, Leslie Moody, Megan Ginther, Haley Amendt, Megan Hanson

## Next Meeting: September 11, 2025 (Zoom)

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