



PRLS BOARD TALK

Highlights of the Parkland Regional Library Board Meeting SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

2026 Budget

The board approved the draft 2026 budget. At the May board meeting the board asked staff to bring two identical budgets back to the board at the September meeting, with the only difference being an additional cost of living (COLA) increase to staff. The first budget scenario provided eligible staff a step up the salary grid while the second scenario provided a step and COLA. The board decided to approve the budget scenario granting staff a step up the grid but not COLA. Some points to note include:

- Overall, expenditures are anticipated to increase by .99% in 2026
- To balance the budget, it will be necessary to increase the municipal requisition/levy by eighteen cents.
- The budget for 2026 is based on a new population figure of 223,641
- Provincial grants amount to approximately 41% of Parkland's total income.

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

Board Members Representing Multiple Municipalities

At present, three board members represent multiple municipalities on the Parkland Board as follows:

Shaleah Fox

Village of Donalda / S.V. of Rochon Sands

Alison Barker-Jevne

Village of Bawlf / Village of Bittern Lake / Village of Edberg / Village of Rosalind

Julie Maplethorpe

S.V. of Birchcliff / S.V. of Half Moon Bay / S.V. of Jarvis Bay / S.V. of Norglenwold / S.V. of Sunbreaker Cove.

The board discussed whether these board members should have one vote per represented municipality or continue to have one vote per board member. The board ultimately decided to continue with the practice of one vote per board member.

Advocacy & Marketing Report

Social Media Strategy

Parkland staff have created a new social media strategy. The last social media strategy was implemented in 2021 and was quite basic. The new strategy expands on goals, target audiences, platforms, and content. The aesthetic of the new strategy remains the same, with the main change being pivoting away from posting mostly collections-based content and including posts on PRLS services, highlighting member libraries, and advocacy. Parkland also wants to differentiate ourselves from member public libraries and use our content to communicate with member library staff, as well as educate the public on our services and purpose.

Municipal Election Advocacy

Parkland staff have completed a number of municipal advocacy materials for member library staff and boards to use in the upcoming municipal election. These documents will be made available on the Parkland website for member library boards.

Provincial Advocacy

Parkland has continued to have a prominent role in provincial advocacy. The Town of Stettler was involved in creating a resolution requesting an increase in library funding for the Alberta Municipalities conference.

Subsequently, on Friday, September 12th, representatives from Calgary Public Library and Parkland have been invited to a meeting with Dan Williams and his staff to discuss library funding and the proposed resolution.

The achievement of obtaining this meeting with the new minister is testimony to Parkland's long term advocacy efforts and demonstrates Parkland's importance provincially.

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2026 Board Meeting Dates

The board reviewed the tentative dates for Parkland's 2026 board meetings which will be confirmed by the Board at the organizational meeting in November. The tentative dates are: February 26, May 21, September 17, and November 19, 2026. The board discussed holding one board meeting in-person next year, most likely in May.

Committee News from Trustees

Carstairs Public Library is partnering with Moccasin House and the local museum on September 22nd to offer a day of interaction with Metis and indigenous culture.

Hughenden Public Library held their "Leg-up" event on September 11th where the library manager delivered books on horseback to select patrons and schoolchildren in grades 4-6.

Caroline Municipal Library held their annual garage sale with donated items that returned \$6,000 for the library.

Stettler Public Library is working with the local museum, the town, County of Stettler, and Board of Trade to present a number of indigenous activities on Saturday September 13th at the Stettler museum for Culture Days. In addition, the Friends of the Library are holding their Spooktacular book sale on October 11th.

Penhold and District Public Library has a "Power Hour" utility presentation for seniors. Also, their summer reading club tracker necklaces was, as always, very popular. They gave away 432 necklaces, and 3,445 beads (worth 20 minutes reading each), and there were 445 entries for their contest prizes. 68,900 minutes were read all together. In addition, their summer reading program held 37 programs for 407 children.

Cremona Municipal Library On August 18th, Calgary Public Library, Mountain View County, and the Cremona Recreation Board sponsored 4-time World champion Dallas Marchand, a First Nations hoop dancer, to perform for residents of Cremona.

Board members Ray Reckseidler from the Village of Delburne and Gord Lawlor from the Town of Stettler expressed appreciation for their time on the Parkland Board.

2025 Board Survey

The Parkland board evaluated itself with three survey questions:

Do you believe you have a good understanding of Parkland's role and services? 25 out of 25 people said yes.

By the end of a board meeting, do you believe you have received the information you need to be able to speak to council about what transpired? 22 out of 25 people said yes.

Would you willingly come back to serve another year on the Parkland Board? 18 out of 25 said yes.

Board Members Present

Barb Gilliat (Board Chair), Gord Lawlor, Ray Reckseidler, **(Zoom)** Jackie AlMBERG, Alison Barker-Jevne, Deb Coombes, Edna Coulter, Teresa Cunningham, Todd Dalke, Cal David, Sarah Fahey, Les Fee, Richard Forsberg, Elaine Fossen, Shaleah Fox, Kathy Hall, Pam Hansen, Megan Hanson, Stephen Levy, Julie Maplethorpe, Philip Massier, Ricci Matthews, Joy-Anne Murphy, Jordon Northcott, Jacquie Palm-Fraser, Paul Patterson, Shawn Peach, Leonard Phillips, Dianne Roth, Sandy Shipton, Les Stulberg, Naomi Tercier, Paul Ashford alt. for Leona Thorogood, Carlene Wetthuhn, Shannon Wilcox, Janice Wing

Absent

Delijiah Antaloczy, Jul Bissell, Wayne Clark, Jeff Eckstrand, Tim Field, Matthew Goudy, Cody Hillmer, Cody Johnson, Dana Kreil, Bryce Liddle, Darryl Motley, Bill Windsor

Absent with Regrets

Laureen Clark-Rennie, Dwayne Fulton, Marc Mousseau, Jackie Northey, Harvey Walsh

Guests

Haley Amendt, Diane Elliott, Maia Foster, Barbara Gibson, Rhonda O'Neill