

**Present:**

**Regrets:**

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Board Feedback
3. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approval of Minutes of February 21 2024 meeting
  - b. Items for Information
    - i. Correspondence
      - a. Budget 2024 – Letter to Library Boards
    - ii. Libraries in the News
      - a. 'We deserve better': Demonstrators demand more funding, Sunday hours for Winnipeg libraries – CTV News
      - b. Is book banning coming to Canada? Libraries, book stores, authors watching closely – Vancouver Sun
      - c. How the Toronto library is recovering from a cyberattack, one book at a time – Global News
      - d. Union serves strike notice for 5,000 Edmonton city workers, 680 library staff
      - e. Halton Hills library evolves into community hub since inception 50 years ago – Halton Hills Today
    - iii. Position Paper
      - a. Statement in Response to Parental Rights Legislation – Library Association of Alberta
  - c. Reports
    - i. Director's Report
    - ii. Program Overview to February 29 2024
    - iii. Program Report and Library Stats February 2024
    - iv. 2023 PLSB Annual Survey Summary Report
4. Items for Discussion and Decision
  - a. Treasurer's Report

- b. Battle River Community Foundation Presentation – BRCF Executive Director Bobbi Way
  
- 5. In Camera Items for Discussion
  - a. Plan of Service Committee
    - i. Consultant Recommendation
  - b. Amended Bylaws and New Policy – Review and Approval
    - i. Camrose Public Library Bylaws (Amended)
    - ii. Camrose Public Library Membership Fee Policy (New)
  - c. Grant Received
  
- 6. Items for Decision
  - a. Plan of Service Committee
    - i. Consultant Recommendation
  - b. Amended Bylaws and New Policy – Review and Approval
    - i. Camrose Public Library Bylaws (Amended)
    - ii. Camrose Public Library Membership Fee Policy (New)

**Next regular Board meeting: April 17 2024, 5:00pm**

**Present:** Renee Greer (Chair), Alyssa Martin (Director), Cheryl Dezall, Peter Hamm, Jade Hulkovich, Joy-Anne Murphy (City of Camrose Council), Lucy Ernst, Margaret Holliston, Naomi Finseth, Vikki Williams

**Regrets:** Don Simpson (Camrose County Council)

**Call to Order:** Chair Renee Greer called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

1. Approval of the Agenda

**Motion 06/24 M/S/C** – Cheryl Dezall/ Lucy Ernst: That the agenda be approved.

2. Board Feedback – none.

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes of January 17, 2024, meeting.

**Motion 07/24 M/S/C** – Naomi Finseth/Joy-Anne Murphy: That the minutes of January 17, 2024, be approved as amended:

- Board toured the downstairs (not upstairs) washrooms.
- Item 4a: Renee Greer (not Finseth) nominated Margaret Holliston as Secretary
- Item 4f: Last line should read "...review the matter as necessary" and not "at a subsequent meeting."

b. Items for Information: Board members reviewed prior to the meeting.

c. Reports: Board members reviewed prior to the meeting.

4. Items for Discussion and Decision

a. Treasurer's Report: Vikki Williams reported \$334,963.70 in the chequing account; a Visa #1 zero balance; \$59.48 owing in VISA #2; \$54,469.40 in GICs. In January, money out (debited) was \$28,789.22 and money in (credited) was \$6,458.01.

**Motion 08/24 M/S/C** – Peter Hamm/Margaret Holliston: That the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented.

b. Policy Committee Report: The Committee met on February 1. Alyssa had shared the Policy Revision Schedule, suggesting we finish the *Program Policy* (which we did on February 1), then review *Governance Policy* and *Role of the Board Policy*. At the board meeting it was suggested that the committee next review the *Bylaws* to ensure consistency with all policy (will likely need amendments), and then review *Finance Policy* along with *Governance Policy*, and eventually create a *Board Manual*. These tasks will be completed over the next half year or so.

- c. Plan of Service Committee Report: Alyssa has connected with the three 'short-listed' consultants, who are willing to work with other consultants if the parameters are clearly outlined. Angela Kublik and Trina McCarrol have provided quotes; Rebecca Purc-Stephenson will provide one soon. The decision will be made at the next committee meeting, after which the committee will report to the board.
- d. PLSB (Public Library Services Branch) Annual Survey and Report: Members reviewed the report prior to the meeting. Alyssa provided a brief overview.

**Motion 09/24 M/S/C** – Cheryl Dezall/Peter Hamm: That the PLSB Annual Survey and Report be approved as presented.

e. New Policy:

- i. Program Policy: The second draft was reviewed. The new policy is intended to help CPL handle censorship challenges and provide clarity on how CPL should allocate funds for events and programs. It is complex, seeking to balance parental (and patrons') rights and responsibilities and the integrity of CPL values with freedom of expression. After some discussion, the policy, which is modelled after CPL's Collections policy, was accepted.

**Motion 10/24 M/S/C, with one abstention** – Joy-Anne Murphy/Margaret Holliston: That the Program Policy be approved as presented.

ii. Request for Reconsideration of Library Program Form

**Motion 11/24 M/S/C** – Joy-Anne Murphy/Cheryl Dezall: That the Request for Reconsideration Form be approved as presented.

Action: Peter Hamm confirmed his participation on the Policy Committee.

Action: Alyssa will check with Canadian Federation of Library Associations Intellectual Freedom Committee regarding this on-going hot-topic' issue.

- f. Battle River Community Foundation Funding: See Director's Report. Alyssa highlighted information and options for consideration. CPL has recently been using flow-through funding (i.e. Irving Fund) for operations, which, although needed to balance budgets, is not advised since annual amounts vary. The same has been happening with GIC revenue. It is better to invest the GIC funds or use the GIC and/or BRCF funds for collection/program top-ups or special projects that don't require sustainable operational funding. Alyssa noted that CPL policy actually directs GIC funds to be deposited into reserves, but they have been used as operational funding for the past 3 years.

Question: Do we want to set-up a BRCF endowment fund?

- Related Action: Alyssa will invite a BRCF representative to our March meeting.

Other options: 1) Create an Ad Hoc Finance Committee to work on a Financial Strategy; 2) Reach out to several local Financial Advisors for initial advice.

- Related Action: Policy Committee will review Financial Policy and provide a better idea of which options to pursue; the BRCF representative will be helpful in that regard.

g. Staff and Board Development: The board agreed to host intellectual freedom training with James L Turk (google his credentials; sounds amazing!) at an estimated cost of \$1,400, which is covered in the Professional Development budget of \$4,000. CPL may invite a few area libraries and/or local agencies to participate (for a fee to share costs). Anticipated for May so CPL summer students can participate.

Action: Alyssa will follow-up.

5. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm

**Next regular Board meeting: March 20, 2024, 5:00 pm**



ALBERTA  
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

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*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Calgary-Hays*

AR113944

February 29, 2024

Dear Public Library Boards:

I am pleased to share that *Budget 2024* includes stable funding for public library boards and public library network supports. Your board will be eligible for the same provincial operating grant in 2024/2025 as you received in 2023/2024.

We are maintaining the 10 per cent increase to library operating grants that was part of *Budget 2023*. Many of you have written to me or told me that you appreciate the per capita rate increase and the addition of the \$9,000 base grant for local library boards.

I am proud that Municipal Affairs supports a robust public library network in Alberta. Not only does provincial funding help local boards provide services for your communities, but our funding of SuperNet connectivity, interlibrary loan delivery, services for print-disabled readers, and e-content for all Alberta library patrons also ensures everyone has access to library service.

I am also proud of the work public libraries do to enrich the lives of Albertans every day in this province. We all know public libraries play a key role in keeping people connected. I know from your communications with me that the services provided by library boards and staff make a real difference to children learning to read, adults improving literacy skills, seniors learning digital literacy, job seekers positioning themselves for the workforce, newcomers learning about Alberta and Canada, and anyone looking for a safe and welcoming public space.

Our detailed grant information, including grant charts and grant application forms, will be available on our ministry website in early April. Until then, if you have questions about your 2024/2025 grant, please contact Public Library Services Branch staff at [libraries@gov.ab.ca](mailto:libraries@gov.ab.ca).

Thank you for everything that public libraries do to create vibrant and supportive communities.

Sincerely,

Ric McIver  
Minister

## 'We deserve better': Demonstrators demand more funding, Sunday hours for Winnipeg libraries



Demonstrators rallied at the Millennium Library on March 10, 2024 to demand more funding and expanded Sunday hours at libraries across Winnipeg. (Gary Robson/CTV News)



Alexandra Holyk  
Videojournalist  
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Published March 10, 2024  
4:18 p.m. MDT

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Library lovers hoped to mark a new chapter this weekend, in what they called their final pitch to city council to adequately fund libraries across Winnipeg.

A group of demonstrators known as “Millennium for All,” gathered at the Millennium Library Sunday afternoon, painting a poster that read “Save our Sundays,” referring to library operating hours.

While the City of Winnipeg’s multi-year budget plans to expand operating hours by 12 per cent from September to May, libraries will remain closed on Sundays during the summer months. However, more funding is expected to be allocated towards security, programming and a new library in the northwestern area of the city.

“So far, city council has done a lot in this year’s budget to fund things like the Community Connection Space, community safety hosts and extended hours,” said Joe Curnow, a member of Millennium for All. “But what we’re asking them to do is go further and do more.”

Curnow said that means funding higher staffing ratios to keep the Millennium Library open on Sundays year-round.

“I think what we can see is that things like having Sunday hours is also a really important investment because it makes it possible for all kinds of programming to exist,” she said. “If we close Millennium on Sundays, we lose those amenities that are really important to a lot of families across the city.”

Other demands include more funding for technology as well as support for more resources and programming already in place at the Millennium Library and within branches across Winnipeg.

“There’s enough money to go around for all the branches,” she said. “Millennium should be open, as well as every branch in the city for weekends, year-round full-time hours.”

“We deserve better.”

# Is book banning coming to Canada? Libraries, book stores, authors watching closely

*Thousands of books were banned in the U.S. last year and the Surrey school district recently removed four classics from its recommended reading curriculum*

Dana Gee

Published Mar 13, 2024 • Last updated 9 hours ago • 7 minute read

8 Comments



Vancouver author Alex Kazemi has seen book sales increase since his novel *New Millennium Boyz* was targeted by the conservative American book challenging website BookLooks.org.  
PHOTO BY ARLEN REDEKOP /PNG

The recent removal of four classic books from the curriculum by Surrey public school educators is shining a local spotlight on the topic of book bans and challenges.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee; *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie; *In the Heat of the Night* by John Ball; and *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck were all pulled from the list of recommended titles for students Grade 10 and older due to concerns about racist content. The books are still available to students in the school library.



Vancouver author Alex Kazemi's latest novel, New Millennium Boyz, which features themes of sexuality, toxic masculinity and teenage rebellion, was another title to be the target of recent scrutiny. The book received a five out of five "aberrant content" rating by the website BookLooks.org, which purports to rank books it deems unsuitable for school and public libraries.

"I was really trying to say, 'Hey, let's look at the culture the kids are consuming in this time. And let's examine it.' They can't seem to understand that, which is so weird," said Kazemi, whose book sales went up after his novel landed on the list.

While not a regular occurrence in Canada, increasing discourse online and in the U.S. about the removal of books from shelves is propelling the topic on this side of the border.

"It is less in Canada, but we are starting to see it," said Kay Cahill, director of IT and collection at the Vancouver Public Library (VPL), noting the VPL has not yet faced book challenges. "It's something we are keeping a pretty close eye on."



VPL librarians Innes Campbell (left) and Kay Cahill are on the front lines of the book challenge issue. While VPL hasn't felt pressure to remove books Cahill says the issue is "something we are keeping a pretty close eye on." PHOTO BY ARLEN REDEKOP /PNG

According to the American Library Association, the number of attempts to ban or restrict books across the U.S. last year was the highest in the last 20 years.

A recently aired segment of 60 Minutes dedicated to book banning noted 3,000 books were banned in U.S. public schools last year, up by 1,000 from the previous year. Canadian data is limited, but experts say it can happen here.

“School districts in Canada have professional teachers, teacher librarians, board personnel and staff to make decisions on the resources to be used in classrooms,” said Richard Beaudry, coordinator of the Teacher Librarian Diploma and Certificate Program at the University of British Columbia.

“In the U.S., districts are scrutinized by the public to the point that making decisions becomes difficult if every decision is met with outrage and concern. The public and politicians in some U.S. states are looking to make the decisions about reading material, rather than teachers and districts.

“This particular situation in Surrey certainly seems similar to situations that have occurred and continue to happen in school districts in the U.S.”

Experts point to books featuring LGBTQ2S+ content and BIPOC main characters as primary targets of the challenges.

<https://vancouversun.com/entertainment/books/libraries-stores-authors-book-bans-canada>

CANADA

# How the Toronto library is recovering from a cyberattack, one book at a time

By Nicole Thompson • Global News

Posted February 29, 2024 5:16 am • 5 min read

Hundreds of thousands of books have been freed from a months-long purgatory as scores of staffers race to get them out of storage and back on shelves following a cyberattack that felled the Toronto Public Library's computer systems in October.

Workers at a Scarborough distribution hub have cleared more than 10 tractor-trailers full of boxes stacked five high, while staff who remained at the branches made their way through their own stockpiles.

"We're working through the backlog, but yet at the same time we have new things coming in because there's all the new material that has not been processed in three months' time," said Kennis Deng, operations supervisor at the North York Central Library.

"It's just lots and lots of things. Lots of puzzles that we try to put together and work through with staff while we change workflows."

It's the culmination of months of planning that began on Oct. 28, when library staff learned hackers had broken into the network of Canada's largest public library system.

Staff immediately shut down the library's "technical environment" – including its database of books, its public computers and some of its digital materials – in an effort to contain the data breach while they secured their systems.

The library is slowly returning online. Some of the website went back up in January, and public computing resumed on Feb. 5.

Police are investigating, as are third-party experts. So far, they've found that while the server storing the bulk of customer information wasn't breached, it's possible that some pieces of that information were stored on the server that was compromised.

Forensic investigators also found that the hackers had stolen the personal information of current and former staff members, dating back to 1998: their names, social insurance numbers, dates of birth, home addresses, and copies of government-issued ID they gave to the library.

That fact is always in the back of Deng's mind.

"I'm not going to sugar coat it. It's very stressful because on the one hand, we know for a fact that as staff, our personal information got stolen," she said. "On the other hand, I try to stay strong because of my position as a supervisor. I need to remain calm."

Deng, like her colleagues, is working on overdrive. She's supervising, yes, but she's also pitching in with the backlog.

While the library allowed customers to return books while its systems were down, staff were not able to check those books in since the catalogue was off-line. Instead, bar codes were written down by hand and freshly returned books went into cardboard boxes.

When check-ins resumed on Feb. 12, there were 2,000 of those boxes in a storage room on the sixth floor of the North York branch.

Because North York Central is one of the largest branches in the city, spanning six floors, it has some electronic aid: a large sorting machine that scans RFID tags hidden in each book to determine where it belongs. The sorter then moves it along a conveyor belt and drops it into a bin that corresponds with the section of the library it belongs in.

Then, a staff member puts the contents of the bin onto a cart. The cart is taken to its proper shelf, where the books are put away.

Kim Huntley, area manager for the branch, said staff are checking in five times the normal volume of materials.

Two weeks in, with so many books checked in at once, the shelves are starting to get crowded. Staff have to shift some of the books, and in some cases take the less popular items off the shelves until borrowing picks up.

All the while, patrons are still coming into the library. At North York Central, 5,000 to 6,000 people come through each day, Huntley said.

“We haven’t seen a drop in our customer visits,” she said. “There’s a huge thirst for space in Toronto. People come here to use our spaces for study, for enjoyment, for relaxation, to connect with other people.”

But that’s meant that staff are divided between an increased workload behind the scenes, and a regular public-facing workload.

That’s made manifest in the sorting room, where newly returned books – pushed through a slot at the library entrance – get inserted into the left side of the sorter, and staff work through the stockpile on the right side.

The left is a trickle; the right is a steady stream.

While North York Central was able to store some of the returned books in the building, those that belong to the branch but were returned to other locations were sent to the Scarborough distribution hub, where they joined 15 truckloads of their kin. Each trailer contained 800 boxes, with 30 items per box.

As soon as the books arrived in Scarborough, staff started boxing them up and putting them in the trucks, said Roman Svab, manager of distribution services.

At first they put them in the grey plastic boxes they typically use, but that didn’t last long.

“We ran out of grey boxes after two trailers,” Svab said.

They switched to cardboard for the remaining 13, adding another step to the process once check-ins resumed.

It goes like this: a worker unloads a palette of boxes from one of the trucks using a forklift. The cardboard boxes are taken to the check-in area, where a staff member scans each book and places it in a grey box, separating books on hold from books being returned. Then the boxes make their way to the sorter – a much larger version of the machine at North York Central, which can process up to 60,000 books per day.

Newly acquired books also lived at the Scarborough site for a few months, before they could be added to the library system. Now, carts of them fill the office space, waiting to be processed.

Once the books are sorted into boxes, they're loaded back onto trucks and delivered to their branch.

Since check-ins started up again, the facility has been operating from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. daily.

It's fast work, physical work, but smooth and well-organized, Svab said.

"We're tired," he said, "but not stressed."

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10325539/toronto-library-cyberattack-recovery/>

Edmonton

## Union serves strike notice for 5,000 Edmonton city workers, 680 library staff

Edmonton Public Library branches set to close Thursday morning until further notice



Wallis Snowden · CBC News · Posted: Mar 11, 2024 7:16 AM MDT | Last Updated: March 11



Officials with Civic Service Union 52 served strike notice to the City of Edmonton and Edmonton Public Library on Monday. (David Bajer/CBC)

Around 5,000 city workers in Edmonton are preparing to walk off the job Thursday weeks after negotiations with the city reached an impasse.

Civic Service Union (CSU) 52 served a strike notice to the City of Edmonton and to the Edmonton Public Library at 11 a.m. Monday.

Picket lines will form Thursday morning, after the 72-hour notice period expires, the union said.

According to an information posted online, all Edmonton Public Library branches are set to be closed at 11 a.m. on Thursday until further notice. All programs and services will be paused.

Borrowers are asked to hold onto borrowed items until libraries reopen.

The union represents about 5,000 people who work throughout the City of Edmonton, along with about 680 library staff, who are covered by a separate collective agreement.

Union members at city hall include technical, professional, administrative and clerical workers, and includes 911 operators, 311 dispatchers, project managers, accountants and clerks.

"The City is disappointed that CSU 52 was unwilling to accept the offer that was put before them. We put forward an offer that is compelling even in light of our current financial realities," city manager Andre Corbould said in a news release.

"We are prepared to respond to the labour disruption, and contingency plans are in place to minimize service disruptions."

Corbould said these plans, along with an Emergency Operations Centre, were being activated to maintain core services.

Administration had previously applied for a lockout vote that would allow the city to trigger a lockout during a strike, to minimize disruption to city services.

Bargaining between the union and the city reached a stalemate last month and since then, talks have stalled.

In a statement, Edmonton Mayor Amarjeet Sohi said he encourages all parties to come to the table to end the labour dispute quickly. He also clarified that Edmontonians will still be able to call 911 during the strike.

"Importantly, though 911 operators are CSU 52 members, I want to stress that contingencies are in place and anyone who calls 911 will be immediately connected with a live person," said Sohi.

## **Stalled negotiations**

In a statement Monday, the union said no progress has been made as the city has not returned to the negotiating table.

Lanny Chudyk, president of CSU 52, said about 6,000 members in total are prepared to walk off the job Thursday.

He said members have felt repeatedly insulted by the city's unwillingness to budge at the bargaining table.

When the city failed to resume negotiations over the weekend, it was the final straw, he said.

"It's frustrating and insulting to my membership," Chudyk said in an interview Monday.

"And bluntly, it is the City of Edmonton who is putting the public at risk and having the possibility of their services in a whole bunch of areas either being diminished or withdrawn."



He said he remains hopeful, however, that the city will return to talks and make a better offer.

"CSU 52 is simply asking to get back to the table a fair and equitable agreement for my members," Chudyk said.

"It certainly can be avoided but it can't be avoided if the other side won't talk to us."

At a union news availability after the notice had been served, city fitness instructor Ferah Karmali expressed her disappointment at where things are at.

"Nobody wants to strike. Nobody wishes for that."

Office co-ordinator Darlene Wood said that it's been difficult for staff without raises and some are living paycheque to paycheque.

"We don't want to be on strike," she said. "It's so unfair the public has to suffer because we can't get anybody to listen to us any other way."

## **'Strategy has clearly failed,' says councillor**

Cyndil Taylor, acting chief people officer, said in a statement Monday that the City of Edmonton remains committed to reaching an agreement.

"The offer presented to members is fair and equitable for members, the City and taxpayers," she said. "We are hopeful we can come to a resolution with the fewest program and service disruptions."

Coun. Tim Cartmell posted a statement to social media Monday saying council had been following the advice of the negotiation team to date.

"But that strategy has clearly failed," he said. "Our unions and their leadership are our partners, not our opponents. We need to work collaboratively to get a contract in place."

The collective agreement between the union and the city expired in December 2020 but remains in effect until the next agreement is negotiated and ratified.

A separate collective agreement, between the union and the library, also expired in December 2020.

Negotiations began to falter in January, when the union was informed that the city had ended mediation and triggered a mandatory two-week, cooling-off period.

Last month, with talks stalled, union members voted overwhelmingly in favour of a strike mandate.

In response, the city applied to the Alberta Labour Relations Board for an employer proposal vote, allowing workers to vote directly on what the city called its "best and final" offer.

The union made the results public last Friday. Most eligible members — 87.6 per cent — voted against the city's proposal, opening the door to a strike or lockout.

The biggest sticking point has been wages. The employees affected by the ongoing negotiations have not had a wage increase since 2018.

The city's latest proposal included a 7.25-per cent wage increase from 2021 through 2025, as well as items such as a commitment to hybrid work.

Chudyk said the impact of a strike would be widely felt by all Edmontonians. Union members manage some of the most critical business of the city, he said.

"The libraries will fully be affected," he said. "For the City of Edmonton, CSU members touch every bit of the business, from police emergency communications to the ground level administrative support, for almost every piece of business that gets done.

"It's regrettable that it has come to this, but our members have been more than patient and fair, asking for what is reasonable after five years of stagnant wages."

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## Corrections

- A previous version of this story incorrectly stated the number of library staff as 950. It has been updated to reflect the count provided by the Edmonton Public Library.  
*Mar 12, 2024 4:00 PM MT*

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



[Wallis Snowdon](#)

Reporter

Wallis Snowdon is a journalist with CBC Edmonton focused on bringing stories to the website and the airwaves. Originally from New Brunswick, Wallis has reported in communities across Canada, from Halifax to Fort McMurray. She previously worked as a digital and current affairs producer with CBC Radio in Edmonton. Share your stories with Wallis at [wallis.snowdon@cbc.ca](mailto:wallis.snowdon@cbc.ca).

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*With files from Stephen Cook*

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/edmonton-city-strike-vote-labour-action-1.7140013>

# Halton Hills library evolves into community hub since inception 50 years ago

Mansoor Tanweer  
Mar 4, 2024 2:28 PM



Chief Librarian Beverley King. | Mansoor Tanweer/HaltonHillsToday

[Listen to this article](#)  
00:04:23

As an arm of the municipal government that's marking a half-century this year, the Halton Hills Public Library (HHPL) is also celebrating 50 years of existence.

When Georgetown and Acton were joined together to form the Town of Halton Hills in 1974, so too were their individual library systems.

At the time, it lived up to the popular imagination of a library - a serious place of books, research and not much else. The inaugural board of the '70s likely wouldn't recognize their institution today, but they would see that its welcoming, people-facing spirit has evolved to meet local needs with agility.

"Libraries have always offered something to help people belong to it. Bibliotherapy is what they call it," said Community Librarian Andrea Arsenault.

"As the libraries became more of a place for people to come hang out - a [third place](#), as it were - I think it became an extension of that."

The institution has embraced the "library of things" idea, where people can sign out items that they may need in daily life. Its [special collections](#) live up to the model, offering un-library-like items such as bike locks, sports equipment or mobile hotspots.

Much like the Town's [Youth Centres](#), the library is a safety net of sorts. People whose family members are suffering from dementia can sign out [cognitive care kits](#) to keep their minds sharp. Seniors' fitness kits are also offered.

Outside the special collections, older adults can renew their driver's licences, purchase ActiVan tickets and have library materials delivered to their homes.

Younger adults who don't have access to WiFi or a computer often job hunt in the library.



An aisle of books at the Georgetown branch of the Halton Hills Public Library. Mansoor Tanweer/HaltonHillsToday

Youths can join and socialize at the [Anime Club](#).

"Our [Teen Advisory Council](#) started giving them a voice in the community so they can offer their opinions and build services at the library," said Jodie Mand...

x

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0:26 2

Creatives, young and old, can explore their innovative side in the HHPL's [Creativity Centre](#). A 3D printer and Cricut Maker help make little works of art. Small businesses can book product photography sessions. Those who want to learn creative crafts can also take free online arts and crafts lessons with [Creativebug](#).



*Halton Hills Public Library, Acton branch.*

"Even when I first started working here, people didn't have Internet access at home," Chief Librarian Beverley King said.

"But meeting those community needs was no different [back then]. I think there is just more to offer now."

Among the newer services offered by the HHPL is programming for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, including the Rainbow Film Series it runs at the John Elliott Theatre.

"We feel obviously the library is a welcoming space for everyone, but we had noticed kind of a gap in 2SLGBTQIA+-focused programming specifically for youth and adults outside of Pride Month," said Youth Services Librarian Emma Lupinacci said.

She added: "The library is now kind of a community hub. So it's that space where people can congregate, they can gather, they can hang out with friends and just feel really seen within their community."

Community Development Halton's 2017 [report](#) on community hubs explains these spaces are "place-based, providing a central location that offers a wide range of needed, integrated and interrelated health and social service as well as offering cultural, recreational, and green spaces

for all community members."

It further states that they are "built to be multipurpose."

The Ontario Municipal Social Services Association's 2015 [report](#) found many benefits to creating community hubs.

"Community hubs help build a sense of community and contribute to the social and economic well-being of its residents," says the report. "They are a catalyst to bring people together, both residents and agencies within and outside the community."

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**About the Author: Mansoor Tanweer**

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## Statement in Response to Proposed “Parental Rights” Legislation

**Library Association of Alberta**

Approved February 2024

The Library Association of Alberta upholds the universal principles of intellectual freedom as defined by the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. As library professionals, we are committed to free and equitable access to information for all Albertans, including children, and we oppose any efforts to suppress knowledge.

On February 1, 2024, Alberta Premier Danielle Smith announced that her government will introduce legislation to restrict gender-affirming healthcare for youth and to require government approval of all third-party teaching materials on gender identity, sexual orientation, and sexuality in Alberta schools. This legislation aims to censor information on sexuality and LGBTQIA2+ perspectives and experiences, rendering educators unable to provide inclusive education on these essential topics. It also renders school libraries unable to provide information and resources that reflect the diversity of Canadian and Albertan experiences. This legislation would deny Alberta’s youth access to information and knowledge crucial to their understanding of their world, their peers, and themselves.

School library and classroom resources are evaluated and selected by trained educators and librarians within the context of established and researched guidelines. These guidelines uphold the universal principles of intellectual freedom as guaranteed to all Canadians, including children, in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Additional review and approval by the government is unnecessary, inefficient, and in violation of the principles of intellectual freedom that ensure our children have access to rich and diverse materials that offer them a full range of knowledge, ideas and opinions.

The LAA pledges to join with library workers, educators, and provincial and federal library associations to oppose any legislation that would censor information resources, curriculum, or programs addressing sexuality, sexual orientation, gender identity or LGBTQIA2+ existences and experiences. We call on the provincial government and Premier Smith to uphold the values of intellectual freedom that are essential to a democratic society and renounce plans to introduce legislation that would embed censorship in Alberta’s classrooms and schools.



## Director's Report

March 13 2024

Alyssa Martin

### Intellectual Freedom Talk

For Freedom to Read week, I gave a talk about Intellectual Freedom, it's intrinsic ties to democratic societies, and the threats it's facing in our current technological and political climate. The event went well with ~19 attendees and some good discussion. I intend to make alterations to this talk and take it to other organizations in the future.

### Fellowship of the Camrose Public Library

CPL and the Fellowship hosted a joint open house to attract new members, and answer potential member's questions. We had an amazing in-person turnout, with others saying that they are interested but couldn't be there in person. It looks like the group will live to see another day, and Kalene and Sam (the current executive) are working to set up a new meeting to induct new members and a new executive. A CPL board representative will likely need to be chosen if everything goes well.

### New Copier

The staff and community love the new copier and fax machine! I've received plenty of positive feedback about it, and a lot of gratitude.

### Intellectual Freedom Training

We have received feedback from other library and media common coordinators that they are interested in joining us for our Intellectual Freedom training. I will begin the process of choosing a date and time in the near future.

### Board Orientation

Board orientation with PLSB ran on March 6, and went well. Some highlights included discussion about who dictates the board's code of ethics (the municipality or the library), how library bylaws get filed, the difference between the Friends responsibilities and the Board's, and how our financial reviewer is chosen.

### Summer Students

We are in the midst of hiring our 2024 Book Bike Pilots and Summer Programmers. The posting closes on the 18<sup>th</sup>, and can be found on our website.



## New Room

CPL opened up our new room to the public this week. The Cave (the new downstairs office) now has a computer installed that can operate as both a staff computer, a public computer, or an exam computer depending on log-in permissions. This room is open to the public, and anyone can book this room for 2 hours per day, free of charge. Bookings can only be made 7 days in advance to ensure that everyone has the chance to use the room, and to allow CPL to use the room for community partners as agreements are made. This room will be the office for the summer students from May-August, making it inaccessible to the public for those months.

Some of the activities the public has asked to do over the past three years that will now be possible with this room:

- Group projects
- Study room
- Room for tutor appointments
- Room for online visitation
- Room to participate in webinars or Zoom calls
- Room for un-proctored exams and training
- Virtual court attendance
- Quiet reading room
- Room for podcast recording
- Prayer room

This room also allows circulation staff to have a place to get some work done that requires vocal participation or uninterrupted focus, such as live webinars for professional development or writing procedure.

As we make arrangements with local organizations, we hope to also use this room as a community office, where our patrons can connect with external services that are frequently sought out at the library.

Our website will be updated soon with the new rooms and what services they can offer.

Camrose Public Library  
 Adult Programs  
 January 1 to February 29, 2024

Outreach	Program	Attendance
Deliveries to Care Facilites	18	139
German Circle Online	9	33
Ukulele Online	7	21
Mind Masters	2	484
Augustana Preview Days	1	40
	37	717

In House	Program	Attendance
Spanish	8	63
Ukulele	7	61
Fibre Club	7	33
Drum Circle with CMHA	2	17
French (Wednesday) CANCELLED	4	4
French (Thursday)	9	23
Climate Café	2	11
Cricut Classes	4	22
How To: Canva	1	19
How To: Chat GPT	1	10
Intellectual Freedom & Libraries	1	18
Fellowship Open House	1	30
	47	311

<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>1028</b>
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Camrose Public Library  
Family Programs  
January 1 to February 29, 2024

Outreach	Program	Attendance
Read for 15	1	4167
Chuck Maclean Family workshops	2	32
Women's Shelter Family Literacy	2	12
Paw Café with CAARS	1	175
	6	4386

In House	Program	Attendance
Snacks in the Stacks	42	902
Something Cool After School	36	288
Books & Bounces	8	137
Terrific Tales	8	127
Tech Help	17	34
Bed Time Stories	8	84
Crafternoon	7	57
Rainbow Club	2	5
Writing Club	9	3
Early Dismissal Matinee	2	134
Family Literacy Day with CFRC	1	25
Game Day CANCELLED	4	2
Anime Club CANCELLED	4	8
Leap Day	1	0
	149	1806

<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>6192</b>
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Camrose Public Library  
Childrens Programs  
January 1 to February 29, 2024

Outreach	Program	Attendance
	0	0

In House	Program	Attendance
	0	0

Monthly Total	0	0
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Camrose Public Library  
 Teen Programs  
 January 1 to February 29, 2024

Outreach	Program	Attendance
	0	0

In House	Program	Attendance
Golden Flames Teen D & D	8	79
Mario Cart Tourney	1	16
	9	95

<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>95</b>
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Camrose Public Library  
Total Programs  
January 1 to February 29, 2024

Outreach Programs	43	5103
In-house Programs	205	2212
YTD	248	7315

Submitted by Nicole Bannick  
March 8 2024

# February 2024

## Program and Library Statistics

Submitted by Nicole Kyle  
March 13, 2023

**1009**

people accessed programs that help develop relationships, end social isolation, and make them feel welcome in our library and our community.

**30**

people attended an open house and info night hosted by the Fellowship of Camrose Public Library!

**671**

People attended library programs and special events designed to educate and promote a love of lifelong learning.

1 patron quote that shows what we mean to some people:

**"It's such a wonderful place to bring my kids and spend a quiet afternoon. I love that I can also access books from other parts of Alberta."**

# February Program Summary

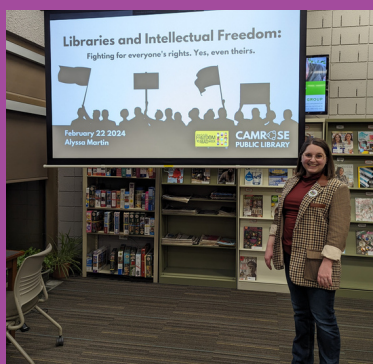
February was a busy month with ongoing programs and special events that provided opportunities to build both traditional and digital literacies, get creative, and connect with community.

We read books about hair and haircuts at one session of Terrific Tales and then followed up with an activity that allowed the children to practice their hairstyling skills by braiding and cutting yarn hair that I sewed on to craft foam heads. This activity helped the kids be creative while also developing their fine motor skills..



We partnered with Camrose Animal Alliance Rescue Society to provide an art station and resources at their Pae Cafe fundraiser on February 4 at the CRE. 150 people came to craft, savour items from the cafe, and cuddle adoptable animals!

Our monthly "Half-Day Matinee" still continues to grow; there were 72 people of all ages this month! We started off with pizza thanks to the sponsorship of Dominos and our partnership with Camrose Family Resource Centre, we made Shrek and Donkey ears, and then had an interactive screening of the Shrek film adaptation.



Freedom to Read Week celebrated its 40th anniversary in Canada between February 18-24. We honoured the occasion with a "Blind Date with a Banned Book" passive program, and Alyssa hosted a presentation and discussion about intellectual freedom in libraries.



## Ongoing Programs

**Ukulele Jam (adults)**  
Mondays @ 12:30

**Spanish Circle (adults)**  
Mondays @ 3 in person  
and on Zoom

**Books & Bounces  
(infants)**  
Tuesdays @ 11:30

**German Circle (adults)**  
Tuesdays @ 4 on Zoom

**Terrific Tales (families)**  
Wednesdays @ 10:30

**Golden Flames D&D  
Club (teens)**  
Wednesdays @ 4

**Bed Time Stories  
(families)**  
Wednesdays @ 6


**Ukulele Online (adults)**  
Thursdays @ 1 on Zoom

**French Circle (adults)**  
Thursdays @ 1 in-person  
and on Zoom

**Writing Circle (all ages)**  
Thursdays @ 5

**Climate Cafe (all ages)**  
March 5 @ 5:30

**Drumming Circle (16+)**  
**1st Thursday Monthly @ 5**  
Register at  
<https://bit.ly/CMHADrums>

**Half-Day Matinee  
(all ages)**  
BRSD/EICS Early Dismissal  
Days @ 12:30  Sponsored by  
**Domino's**

**Snacks in the Stacks  
(grades 1-12)**  
School days @ 3:30

**Something Cool After  
School  
(grades 1-8)**  
School days @ 3:30

**Rainbow Club Public  
GSA (all ages)**  
1st operational Saturday  
Monthly @ 11 (March 2)

**Crafternoon (all ages; 11  
and under accompanied  
by an adult)**  
Saturdays from 1-4

**Fibre Club (all ages)**  
Saturdays @ 1

### For Zoom links and more information:

Phone: 780.672.4214  
Web: [prl.ab.ca/camrose](http://prl.ab.ca/camrose)  
Email: [cpltechhelp@prl.ab.ca](mailto:cpltechhelp@prl.ab.ca)

## Let's Talk series for 15-25 year-olds

Dive into meaningful conversations to build both understanding and resilience. The Open Doors' *Let's Talk* modules will shine a light on suicide, nurture mental well-being, reduce the stigma surrounding mental health challenges and suicidality, and help youth navigate boundaries for healthy relationships.

**March 19 and 21**  
**1:00 PM at**



**CAMROSE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

sponsored by  
**Domino's**

Space is limited. Email  
[danieletheopendoors.ca](mailto:danieletheopendoors.ca)  
for more information  
and registration.

## Our Hours:

Monday-Friday: 10-7  
Saturday: 11-4  
Sunday: Closed  
Closed March 29-April 1

## Special Events

### For Cricut's Sake (Adults, registered)

**March 1 or 8 from 5-7 PM**

Shadow boxes. Space is limited; please register with QR below.

### Mending March (Adults)

**March 7, 14, 21, & 28 at 5:30 PM**

Join us every Thursday in March for a series of Repair Cafés focused on textile repair. From darning socks to the art of garment upcycling discover how you can lower the environmental impact of the fabrics of everyday life.

### Crayon Painting (Family, registered)

**March 16 from 10 AM-12 PM**

**at Chuck MacLean Arts Centre (4809 52 Street)** Crayons can be used for more than colouring; melt and shave this crafting staple in to colourful, but not traditionally coloured, creations! Space limited; register with the QR below.

### VRy Excellent Programs

Join us for a week of Virtual Reality programming. Oculus Quest is designed for those 10 and up.

Children 12 and under will need parental supervision. Register using the QR below.

**March 18: 10 AM to 12 PM for Seniors  
3 to 5 PM for families**

**March 19: 1-3 PM for families**

**March 20: 2-4 PM for grades 9-12**

**March 21: 1-3 PM for grades 6-8**

### Innovate & Connect Series; March 22

Use technology to make assistive technology for people with disabilities. Space is limited; please call 780-672-4214 or email [cpltechhelp@prl.ab.ca](mailto:cpltechhelp@prl.ab.ca) to register.

**Jr. Innovators (Gr. 1-6): 12-1:30 PM**

**Solder Savvy (Gr. 5-12): 2-4:30 PM**

**Advanced Makers (18+): 5-7 PM**

For registered programs, please  
visit <https://bit.ly/CPLEventbrite>,  
scan the QR, or call 780-672-4214.



# February 2024 Library Statistics

YTD daily visit averages (and hourly based on operational hours in brackets)

Mondays: 272 (avg of 30/hr)      Tuesdays: 342 (avg of 38/hr)

Wednesdays: 329 (avg of 37/hr)      Thursdays: 341 (avg of 38/hr)

Fridays: 318 (avg of 35/hr)      Saturdays: 223 (avg of 45/hr)

Sundays: 97 (avg of 24/hr)

Circulation	Feb 2024	Feb 2023	2024 YTD	2023 YTD	Under/ Over 2023	% Chg. Over 2023
Adult Material	5292	5313	11808	11509	299	3%
Young Adult Material	449	439	858	885	-27	-3%
Juvenile Material	4695	4731	9786	10021	-235	-2%
TAL Items Borrowed	118	173	242	321	-79	-25%
TAL Items Sent	31	27	65	62	3	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10585</b>	<b>10683</b>	<b>22759</b>	<b>22798</b>	<b>-39</b>	<b>0%</b>

Econtent	Feb 2024	Feb 2023	2024 YTD	2023 YTD	Under/ Over 2023	% Chg. Over 2023
Cloud Library/RBDigital	452	611	1020	1250	-230	-18%
Overdrive	1216	865	2533	1829	704	38%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1668</b>	<b>1484</b>	<b>3553</b>	<b>3100</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>15%</b>

Circulation by Residence	Feb 2024	Feb 2023	2024 YTD	2023 YTD	Under/ Over 2023	% Chg. Over 2023
City of Camrose	8867	8314	18646	18001	645	4%
County of Camrose	1848	2216	4024	4535	-511	-11%
Outside City/County	19	13	86	63	23	37%
ME	27	35	57	78	-21	-27%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10761</b>	<b>10578</b>	<b>22813</b>	<b>22677</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>1%</b>

Miscellaneous	Feb 2024	Feb 2023	2024 YTD	2023 YTD	Under/ Over 2023	% Chg. Over 2023
Visitors	7869	6009	15512	12257	3255	27%
WiFi Users	7972	10875	15239	21176	-5937	-28%
Internet Users	990	726	1974	1461	513	∞
Exams	35	14	54	31	23	∞
<b>Total</b>	<b>16866</b>	<b>17624</b>	<b>32779</b>	<b>34925</b>	<b>-2146</b>	<b>-6%</b>

## Selection of Service Responses

1. Social Engagement: Developing Relationships and Ending Isolation
2. Connect to the Online World: Public Internet Access
3. Satisfy Curiosity: Lifelong Learning
4. Visit a Welcoming Place: Physical and Virtual Spaces

Programs	Feb 2024		2024 YTD		Participants	
	Sessions	People	Sessions	People	2023 YTD	2022 YTD
1	35	258	79	480	420	170
2	0	0	15	30	378	0
3	37	671	73	1233	1039	390
4	38	751	79	1365	973	0
Libray Advocacy	1	40	2	4207	3399	3849
<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>1720</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>7315</b>	<b>6209</b>	<b>4,409</b>





# Camrose Public Library

# Annual Report 2023



The library had **2,604** open hours in 2023!



**3,003** people have a card at our library



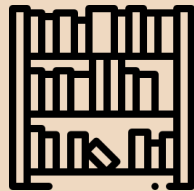
**84,163** people walked through our doors last



In addition to **53,776** website visits



The library added **2,915** new items last year



Bringing the total collection to **34,315**



There were **7,680** downloads of e-Content



Contributing to a total of **153,766** checkouts!



We lent our items to libraries outside of our system **23,891** times



Our service was delivered by **27** dedicated staff



And **28** amazing volunteers



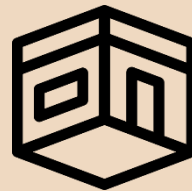
The library has **22** public computers



And brought in **53,702** items upon patron request



We answered **4,750** reference questions



And our meeting spaces were booked **45**



**0** mobile devices available for loan



We offered **916** in-person programs



**67** virtual programs



And **143** digital literacy



**22,832** people attended in



And our Wi-Fi had **115,008** connections!