



PRLS BOARD TALK

Highlights of the Parkland Regional Library Board Meeting NOVEMBER 16, 2023

Organizational Meeting

Parkland's board has approximately 15 new members. Board members in attendance elected the new Executive Committee and a brand-new Board Chair. Welcome Barb Gilliat!

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee has several new faces, along with returning members. Welcome!

- Deb Coombes** – Town of Bowden
- Jamie Coston** – Town of Rimbey
- Sarah Fahey** Village of Clive
- Barb Gilliat** – Village of Alix (Committee Chair)
- Dana Kreil** – Lacombe County
- Len Phillips** – Town of Rocky Mtn. House
- Debra Smith** – Village of Lougheed
- Carlene Wetthuhn** – Camrose County
- Shannon Wilcox** – Town of Carstairs
- Janice Wing** – Town of Innisfail

Parkland 2024 Budget

The Parkland budget has been approved by 68% of the municipalities representing 77% of the population, with four municipalities declining.

Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee continues to enthusiastically serve PRLS. The volunteers for the Advocacy Committee for 2024 are:

- Jul Bissell** – Village of Elnora
- Teresa Cunningham** – Town of Penhold
- Todd Dalke** – Town of Sundre

- Elaine Fossen** – Village of Forestburg
- Barb Gilliat** – Village of Alix (ex-officio)
- Gord Lawlor** -Town of Stettler
- Stephen Levy** – Village of Sedgewick
- Jordon Northcott** – Clearwater County
- Ray Reckseidler** – Village of Delburne
- Debra Smith** – Village of Lougheed
- Harvey Walsh** – Town of Olds

Board Meeting Dates for 2024

Parkland will be holding board meetings virtually in 2024. Board meeting dates are subject to change, but are set as follows:

- **February 22** - Annual Report, Year in Review
- **May 16** - 2023 Financial Statements presented
- **September 12** - Budget presentation for 2025
- **November 14** - Organizational Meeting

Compensation Policy Working Group

The Compensation Policy Working Group presented the results of their hard work to the board. Working group member Twyla Hale gave a short PowerPoint presentation regarding their recommendations for Parkland's new 9-step salary grid and Compensation Policy.

Website Refresh Project

Parkland's new websites have launched! Check it out at [Parkland Regional Library System \(prl.ab.ca\)](http://Parkland Regional Library System (prl.ab.ca))

It is of note that Parkland is the first region in Alberta to have accessibility programming in its website.

Advocacy Report

While Parkland continues to move ahead with its advocacy activities in conjunction with Yellowhead Regional Library (YRL), efforts to maintain advocacy momentum with the other library systems has proven more difficult.

One important note, at Parkland's September board meeting where the 2021 budget was approved by the board, the following motion was made:

Motion by Joy-Anne Murphy to advocate to the government that the GOA provide annual cost of living increases in the future as well as cost of living catch up funding for library operating grants.

After much discussion, the following collective actions were decided to be taken by PRLS and YRL at their Advocacy Committee meeting:

- YRL will book a table for the RMA and Alberta Municipalities trade shows. Parkland will be looking for board members to volunteer.
- YRL and PRLS will advocate the GOA for improved SuperNet. Parkland (or YRL) should send out a notice in January for a meeting in February 2024 to see if the other systems want to lobby the provincial government for increased SuperNet bandwidth
- PRLS' Director and Chair need to visit Parkland's MLAs
- The committee will pursue ongoing inflationary adjustments for library grants. The committee will send any letters produced to other systems to sign in support.

Marketing Report

Parkland's October marketing initiatives were very successful. Staff reported the following results:

- **3rd annual Golden Ticket Contest** – There were 36 participating libraries and 601 total entries, which is a 26% increase from 2022. The winner was Martina from Clive, who was excited to receive the West Edmonton Mall Trip package.
- **Library Card Sign-Up and Renewal Contest** – The library card sign-up and renewal contest had 1,071 entries. There were 5 winners of \$100 visa gift cards from Stettler, Innisfail, Cremona, Water Valley, and Ponoka.
- **Internal Membership Drive** – There were over 1,700 new cardholders for October 2023 – a new record! The last highest was in September of 2019 with 1,497 new cardholders. Alix Public Library won with 146 new members and renewals – Over 10% of their population!

In 2023 Parkland sent out 8,750 bookmarks, 275 brochures, 750 flyers, and 900 stickers to member libraries to help them market their services in a professional and appealing manner.

This last summer, Parkland staff visited Olds, Rimbey, Hughenden, and Sylvan Lake libraries with a professional photographer and videographer to take photos and videos for libraries to use in their marketing materials.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3AD6Wqu5HGY&list=PLNh8ewjLSG3JhONRtyUo612NKABgvcBcu>

Committee News from Trustees

Stettler Public Library loaned 80,000 units in 2023. The Stettler friends of the library are also holding their annual wine survivor fundraiser in December.

Penhold and District Library is holding a Community Christmas on November 24th and are holding a book dedication and signing for a local resident, who has set the world record for blood donations (208) and has an entry in the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

The **Sedgewick and District Municipal Library** is holding two fundraisers; a pre-Christmas seafood sale, and a quilt fundraiser selling \$5 tickets until December 12th. The quilt has an estimated value of \$500.

Carstairs Public Library is hosted their first ever ComicCon, which was so popular that they will be holding it again next year with other partners.

Castor Municipal Library has a table at the local farmer's market and are partnering with the Elks on a raffle fundraiser. They have also been able to hire a summer student this past year, and hope to next summer as well.

Sundre Public Library is holding a Silent Auction from November 14 – 24th.

Board Members Present

Barb Gilliat (Vice-Chair), Twyla Hale, Gord Lawlor, Ray Reckseidler, **(Zoom)** Jul Bissell, Doug Booker, Deb Coombes, Jaime Coston, Edna Coulter, Teresa Cunningham, Todd Dalke, Cal David, Dana Depalme, Amanda Derksen, Sarah Fahey, Richard Forsberg, Elaine Fossen, Dwayne Fulton, Clark German, Barbara Gibson, Kathy Hall, Pam Hansen, Dana Kreil, Stephen Levy, Nancy Hartford, (alt. for Bryce Liddle) Julie Maplethorpe, Ricci Matthews, Marc Mousseau, Joy-Anne Murphy, Jordon Northcott, Jackie Northey, Jacquie Palm-Fraser, Jas Payne, Shawn Peach, Leonard Phillips, Diane Roth, Deb Smith, Les Stulberg, Harvey Walsh, Carlene Wetthuhn, Shannon Wilcox, Bill Windsor, Janice Wing **(Visitors)** Jocelyn Baxter, Diane Elliott

Regrets Alison Barker-Jevne

Absent Jeff Eckstrand, Doug Francoeur, Michael Hildebrandt, Cody Hillmer, Darryl Motley, Bill Rock, Sandy Shipton, Patricia Young

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