



PRLS BOARD TALK

Highlights of the Parkland Regional Library Board Meeting

MAY 19, 2022

Audit Report Approved

Parkland's audit was presented to the board by MNPs Lindsey Schmidt and Rebecca Slater.

Parkland received a clean audit. However, the auditors had three recommendations in their management letter. First, that the Finance Department develop a succession plan in anticipation of staff retirements. They also noted that the building reserve is below the recommended minimum, stating that the Executive Committee is aware of this and are planning on slowly bringing the reserve up to minimum levels over the next few years. The last recommendation is to change the amortization for Parkland's computers from 30% to 50% in order to better reflect the actual lifespan of Parkland's computers.

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

2023 Requisition Increase

At their March 24th meeting, Parkland's Executive Committee passed a motion to direct Parkland staff to create a 2023 budget with a .20 cent increase in the requisition level based on the most current population figures.

Parkland has kept the municipal requisition/levy at \$8.55 per capita for three consecutive years. The Government of Alberta has not increased the grant rate or adjusted for population when issuing grants since 2017.

Please note the motion put forward by the Executive Committee dictates that if population levels drop for the

Parkland region as a whole, the 2023 requisition was to be increased to whatever level was necessary to equal what municipalities were invoiced in 2022 plus .20 cents per capita more.

While the board endorsed the increase in the requisition, there was much lively discussion around which population figures should be used to invoice municipalities. Some board members thought Parkland should use the old population figures from Municipal Affairs while others thought the ones from the federal census would be most accurate. Parkland currently uses the estimates from the Treasury Board.

Parkland's Strategic Plan

In February, there were three focus groups facilitated by Shari Hansen, a Community Development officer with Alberta Culture and Status of Women. At these focus group sessions, Hansen spoke with groups of key Parkland stakeholder groups to get input for PRLS' 2023-2025 strategic plan. While much of the data collected needs further analysis before it is truly useful, a number of key themes have emerged. The emerging priorities for Parkland's member libraries include:

- Marketing assistance, including communications
- Advocacy
- Sustainable funding (which is tied to both effective marketing and advocacy)
- Assistance with HR issues
- An increased emphasis on eContent in several different categories
- Creating an environment that fosters an overall increase in the professionalism of member library service through better collection development, collaboration and partnerships, and developing critical thinking and analysis while at the same time sharing and celebrating the uniqueness of each library and their individual accomplishments. In such an environment, libraries can share ideas and support one another.

Another meeting was held on May 4th to go over data collected at the February focus group sessions to see if the emerging priorities accurately reflect the services member libraries would like to see Parkland develop. Formal work on Goals and Objectives will begin shortly.

Indigenous Library Service

On April 1st 2022, two years after the Maskwacis library service point closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the library service point had re-opened.

Before opening, Parkland staff preformed IT updates, a collection inventory, and ensured the space was ready for public access. Since opening, Parkland staff have maintained open hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Parkland has hired an individual to run the library service at Maskwacis for 21 hours a week. Reporting to Parkland, this person will be responsible for library programming, circulating library materials, and promoting the use of the library and its resources within the community.

Parkland staff have so far ordered 390 new items for the collection at Maskwacis and will begin the process of weeding outdated materials. We have also purchased additional shelving units to allow for expansion of the collection and a slat wall will be installed to create a designated display area to promote the collection.

Parkland staff are in early stages of establishing library service for O'Chiese and Sunchild, as they are also included as part of Parkland's On Reserve, on Settlement Grant from the Government of Alberta.

Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee has reviewed Parkland's 2021 Return on Investment (ROI). They are posted on Parkland's website at the following URL:

[Return on Investment - Parkland Regional Library System \(https://www.prl.ab.ca/about-us/return-on-investmentprl.ab.ca\)](https://www.prl.ab.ca/about-us/return-on-investmentprl.ab.ca)

Parkland has also produced a short infographic highlighting some of Parkland's many accomplishments in 2021. This mini annual report is also available on Parkland's website at:

<https://www.prl.ab.ca/~media/parkland/annual-report/prls-annual-report-infographic-2021.ashx?la=en>

Board members are encouraged to present the annual report synopsis to council in conjunction with their municipal ROI.

Parkland Summer Event

Last summer, Parkland had a public BBQ, magician, and open house to celebrate our new building. The event was such a success, we have decided to do it again this

summer. This year, we have joined forces with Lacombe Days and will have our event on July 16th. Stay tuned for the official invitation, we hope to see you all there!

Committee News from Trustees

Clive Public Library is resuming 'Free Movie Fridays'.

The first one was last month, with 70 people in attendance.

Stettler Public Library has redone their Plan of Service. The library also now attends farmers markets throughout the summer in Stettler.

Cremona Municipal Library started a seed sharing program which has brought in a whole new demographic of patrons.

Ponoka Jubilee Library held a red dress event at the park on May 5th in order to communicate the effects of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

Sylvan Lake Municipal Library is installing new flooring and is designing the library children's area. The library will be closed June 13 to 27th.

Castor Municipal Library has formed a Friends of the Library group and they held a poetry reading for 21 people.

Sedgewick & District Municipal Library bought a new building and is moving to Main Street, hopefully in 2023.

Rimbey Municipal Library has a new addition to their library and they have re-opened.

Amisk Public Library is celebrating their 100th birthday in summer 2023 and are planning a party to celebrate.

Donalda Public Library has newly painted furniture and are working hard on their summer programs.

Penhold & District Public Library is holding a spice club, macrame night, and spy club. They are also partnering with FCSS to hold mom and dad children's programs. Lastly, they are holding a Battle of Alberta contest to win pizza for the game. They have hired 2 new summer programmers.

Caroline Municipal Library is continuing their programs: Soup to Seniors, crafting and sewing classes and plant exchanges, and much more.

Bentley Municipal Library has weekly crafts in a bag for parents to pick up, nature school for parents with children aged 2-5 years, and movie nights.

Eckville Municipal Library has a new manager.

Next Meeting: September 15, 2022, (Zoom)

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