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*This summary is designed to keep you informed about Peace Library System (PLS) activities and Board decisions. It is distributed to member councils, library boards and the PLS Board of Directors after each Board meeting.*

**Quick Facts 2014**

Population Served: 153,400

Members: 37 municipalities & 1 Metis Settlement

Member Public Libraries: 45

Contracting Schools: 51

Director: Linda Duplessis

**Present:**

Ray Skrepnek (Chair) MD of Fairview

Wendy Olson-Lepchuk Town of Beaverlodge

## Lorrie Shelp MD of Big Lakes

## Terry Carbone Birch Hills County

## Donna Buchinski Town of Falher (Teleconference)

Lynne Coulter Grande Prairie Public Library

Kevin O’Toole City of Grande Prairie

Brock Smith County of Grande Prairie

Brad Pearson MD of Lesser Slave River

Brenda Kerr Town of Manning

Philippa O'Mahony Town of McLennan (Teleconference)

## Carolyn Kolebaba Northern Sunrise County

Dollie Anderson MD of Opportunity

Reta Nooskey Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement

Elaine Manzer Town of Peace River

Willis Fitzsimmons Saddle Hills County

Stefan Plouffe Town of Slave Lake (Teleconference)

### Elaine Garrow MD of Spirit River

**Regrets:**

Chris Stadnyk Town of Fox Creek

Veronica Bliska MD of Peace

Vacant Village of Donnelly

Dirk Thompson Town of Grimshaw

###### Vacant Town of High Prairie

Linda Halabisky County of Northern Lights

Claude Lagace Town of Sexsmith

### Raoul Johnson MD of Smoky River

Jim Joelson Town of Valleyview

## Absent:

## Owen Stanford Town of Fairview

## Ron Longtin Village of Berwyn

Peter Frixel Clear Hills County

Roxie Rutt MD of Greenview

Michael Morgan Town of High Level

Cheryl Novak Village of Nampa

Sharilynn Dionne Village of Hines Creek

Carol Frost Village of Hythe

Michelle Farris Town of Rainbow Lake

Tom Villeneuve Village of Rycroft

Brenda Stanich Town of Spirit River

Tara Jones Town of Wembley

Due to inclement weather and poor driving conditions, attendance at the meeting was much lower than usual. A total of 18 people attended in person and by teleconference, which met quorum requirements. The meeting was chaired by Vice-Chair Ray Skrepnek, sitting in for Chair Veronica Bliska.

The Board reviewed the 2014 financial picture prior to audit. There is an unexpected surplus of just under $100,000 due to staff vacancies and sick leaves, extra revenue to catalogue French materials, lower-than-budgeted travel and meeting expenses, and other savings across departments. Surplus funds at year-end will be transferred to capital reserves for future technology, building and vehicle expenditures.

The Director presented the draft version of a brochure for provincial decision-makers. It focuses on how Peace Library System (PLS) helps the province achieve its goals and the challenges of providing services over such a vast area.

PLS has purchased two new digital resources for library patrons. **Ancestry Library Edition** is a valuable genealogy resource for in-library use. **Early World of Learning**, which supports preschooler literacy, is available in the libraries or from home.

The Board reviewed the *2015 Annual Survey and 2014 Annual Report of Public Library Systems in Alberta*. Statistics show a 13% increase in items received for member libraries, and a huge increase in training webinars (from 10 in 2013 to 50 in 2014) offered for member library staff.

The Consulting Services Manager reported that PLS is coordinating the 2015 Summer Reading Club on behalf of member libraries. The theme of this year’s program, which is designed to keep children reading over the summer, is *Play –* encouraging children to see reading as play*.*

The IT Services Manager reported that the Polaris upgrade in January was challenging. Due to the failure of one of PLS’s servers, IT staff had to deploy the new software across the region manually. She also reported that the newly hired Desktop and Network Administrator has been able make the server functional on a temporary basis until new servers are installed.

**Watch for Council Survey Coming Soon**

Miriam Mahnic, a Community Development Officer with Alberta Culture and Tourism, reviewed the stakeholder consultation process for PLS’s 2016-2018 *Plan of Service*. Member municipal councils will be consulted by means of an electronic survey. The Board reviewed the survey questions and discussed the best means of distributing the survey. **The survey will be sent to Councils by March 31, with a request to respond by May 22.**

*Connecting libraries, people and resources through teamwork, technology and training*

**Board Meeting Highlights**

**March 21, 2015**