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**Present:**

Veronica Bliska (Chair) MD of Peace

Wendy Olson-Lepchuk Town of Beaverlodge

## Lorrie Shelp Big Lakes County

Peter Frixel Clear Hills County

## Ray Skrepnek MD of Fairview

## Owen Stanford Town of Fairview

## Lindsay Brown Town of Falher

Brenda Burridge Town of Fox Creek

Brock Smith County of Grande Prairie

Roxie Rutt MD of Greenview

Dirk Thompson Town of Grimshaw

Brad Pearson MD of Lesser Slave River

Brenda Kerr Town of Manning

Philippa O'Mahony Town of McLennan

Cheryl Novak Village of Nampa

## Carolyn Kolebaba Northern Sunrise County

## Dollie Anderson MD of Opportunity

Reta Nooskey Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement

Elaine Manzer Town of Peace River

Pat Sydoruk Village of Rycroft

### Raoul Johnson MD of Smoky River

### Elaine Garrow MD of Spirit River

Tanya Boman Town of Valleyview

## Regrets:

## Terry Carbone Birch Hills County

Vacant Village of Donnelly

Vacant Village of Girouxville

Maura Good Grande Prairie Public Library

Chris Thiessen City of Grande Prairie

Vacant Village of Hythe

Belinda Halabisky County of Northern Lights

Cindy Clark Saddle Hills County

Clinton Froehlick Town of Sexsmith

Brenda Stanich Town of Spirit River

## Absent:

## Ron Longtin Village of Berwyn

Jacy Rapke Town of High Level

###### Donna Deynaka Town of High Prairie

Sharilynn Dionne Village of Hines Creek

Michelle Farris Town of Rainbow Lake

Julie Brandle Town of Slave Lake

Tara Jones Town of Wembley

**Quick Facts 2016**

Population Served: 167,804

Members: 38 municipalities & 1 Métis Settlement

Member Public Libraries: 45

Contracting Schools: 50

Director: Linda Duplessis

*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.*

The Board accepted and welcomed the Village of Girouxville as its 39th member. Membership now consists of 38 municipalities and one Metis Settlement, with an official member population of 167,804.

The Board reviewed the 2015 financial picture prior to audit. There is an unexpected surplus of just under $108,000 due to staff vacancies, extra provincial grant revenue, 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, furniture/equipment and vehicle expenditures.

The Board approved the Five Year Capital Plan. The Plan tracks projected expenditures from the Building, Technology, Furniture/Equipment and Automotive reserves to the end of 2019. A minimum of $30,000 per year will be added to the reserves to ensure future commitments can be met.

The Chair reported that she had been invited to sit on a Working Group to examine regional library system sustainability. The Group, which will examine the provincial library grant structure, infrastructure and capital needs, services to First Nations, and efficiencies in service delivery, will report back to the provincial library nodes in 2017.

The Director reported that a meeting with the Municipal Affairs Minister Larivee will take place during the Alberta Library Conference at the end of April. Peace Library System will make the Minister aware of the regional library services provided to member libraries, as well as the challenges of offering services over a large geographic area.

Revisions to the *Finance Policy* and *Personnel Policy for Library Service Points* were approved.

The Board reviewed the *2016 Annual Survey and 2015 Annual Report of Public Library Systems in Alberta*. Statistics show that all technical services, IT support, and continuing education activities have remained steady.

The use of digital resources by patrons in the region continued to climb in 2015, as follows: eBooks (up 10.6%), eMagazines (up 21.4%), eNewspapers (up 9.5%), and downloadable movies & music (6,506 downloads in first full year).

The IT Department will be busy in 2016 with a SuperNet upgrade, a search for better Internet bandwidth, a new e-mail solution, and the hiring of a Digital Trainer and IT Assistant.

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

**Board Meeting Highlights**

**March 19, 2016**