

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 reviewed the 2016 financial picture prior to audit. There is an unexpected surplus of just over \$187,000 due to an increase in provincial grant revenue, temporary staff vacancies, and savings across departments. Surplus funds at year-end will be transferred to capital reserves for future technology, building, furniture/equipment and vehicle expenditures.

The Director reviewed the implications of the new provincial budget. The provincial operating grant will be based on 2016 population figures, which have decreased slightly since 2015. The grant to serve Indigenous communities will continue for 2017-2018. Peace Library System and five other library systems will receive infrastructure funding for building renovations and improvements. This is very good news as library systems have few options to obtain capital funding. The Chair reported that the budget alleviated some of the concerns of the System Sustainability Committee she sits on.

The Director provided an update on regional efforts to expand services to Indigenous communities. PLS gathered input from a working group of library managers, coordinated cultural awareness training, purchased a wide range of print and digital materials, and funded attendance at a special symposium. Several libraries have planned new programs, displays, special events, technology upgrades and early literacy initiatives in order to reach out to Indigenous communities.

Revisions were approved for the *Resource Sharing Policy*, *TAL Card Policy*, *Personnel Policy for Library Service Points*, and *Selection, Purchase and Disposition of Library Resources Policy for Library Service Points*.

The Board reviewed the *2017 Annual Survey and 2016 Annual Report of Public Library Systems in Alberta*. The form has substantially changed regarding how and what data is collected, and now gathers more relevant information.

The Consulting Services Manager reported that use of digital resources by patrons in the region continued to climb in 2016, as follows: eBooks (up 13%), downloadable movies & music (up 36%), and genealogy research (doubled!).

The IT Services Manager reported that a new website vendor will be in place by year-end. She reported an issue with backup that emerged after a power outage in January. The Board approved the purchase of new hard drives for the backup server (an unbudgeted expense).

Present:

Veronica Bliska (Chair)	MD of Peace
Wendy Olson-Lepchuk	Town of Beaverlodge (Teleconference)
Cindy Hockley	Village of Berwyn
Lorrie Shelp	Big Lakes County
Kathrin Langlois	Birch Hills County
Peter Frixel	Clear Hills County
Ray Skrepnek	MD of Fairview
Owen Stanford	Town of Fairview
Lindsay Brown	Town of Falher
Tammy Brown	Grande Prairie Public Library
Chris Thiessen	City of Grande Prairie
Brock Smith	County of Grande Prairie
Roxie Rutt	MD of Greenview
Dirk Thompson	Town of Grimshaw
Jacy Rapke	Town of High Level
Brad Pearson	MD of Lesser Slave River
Brenda Kerr	Town of Manning
Philippa O'Mahony	Town of McLennan
Cheryl Novak	Village of Nampa
Terry Ungarian	County of Northern Lights
Carolyn Kolebaba	Northern Sunrise County
Dollie Anderson	MD of Opportunity
Reta Nooskey	Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement
Elaine Manzer	Town of Peace River
Cindy Clarke	Saddle Hills County
Raoul Johnson	MD of Smoky River
Elaine Garrow	MD of Spirit River
Tanya Boman	Town of Valleyview
Anna Underwood	Town of Wembley

Regrets:

Vacant	Village of Donnelly
Vacant	Village of Girouxville
Vacant	Village of Hines Creek
Joanne Chelick	Village of Rycroft
Clinton Froehlick	Town of Sexsmith

Absent:

Brenda Burrige	Town of Fox Creek
Donna Deynaka	Town of High Prairie
Carol Frost	Village of Hythe
Michelle Farris	Town of Rainbow Lake
Joy McGregor	Town of Slave Lake
Brenda Stanich	Town of Spirit River

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

Quick Facts 2017
Population Served: 166,637
Members: 38 municipalities & 1 Métis Settlement
Member Public Libraries: 45
Contracting Schools: 51
Director: Linda Duplessis