



PRLS BOARD TALK

Highlights of the Parkland Regional Library Board Meeting NOVEMBER 27, 2025

Organizational Meeting

Parkland's board has 28 new members. Board members in attendance elected the new Executive Committee and Board Chair. Barb Gilliat was re-appointed Board Chair by acclamation.

Executive Committee

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

Todd Dalke – Town of Sundre
Elaine Fossen – Village of Forestburg
Shaleah Fox – Village of Donalda
Barb Gilliat – Village of Alix (Committee Chair)
Ryanna Hanson – Red Deer County
Joe Iwanicki – Town of Sylvan Lake
Marc Mousseau – S.V. of Parkland Beach
Carlene Wetthuhn – Camrose County
Shannon Wilcox – Town of Carstairs

Seat seven is vacant, and will hopefully be filled at the February meeting of the board.

Parkland 2026 Budget

The Parkland budget has been approved by 72% of the municipalities representing 85% of the population, with one municipality declining.

Advocacy Committee

Parkland will not be re-appointing the Advocacy Committee. Instead, the Executive Committee will be responsible for Parkland's advocacy. Libraries will be responsible to reach out to Parkland if they would like help with their own Advocacy efforts. Parkland's

Marketing Specialist, Hailey Halberg will send out communication to the libraries explaining the change.

The Executive Committee will bring an Advocacy report to the board in February.

Board Meeting Dates for 2026

Parkland will be holding three board meetings virtually in 2026. The May board meeting will be held in-person at Parkland headquarters. Board meeting's dates are subject to change, but are set as follows:

- **February 26** - Annual Report, Year in Review
- **May 21** - 2025 Financial Statements presented
- **September 17** - Budget presentation for 2027
- **November 19** - Organizational Meeting

Meetings will commence at 10:00 a.m.

Board Member Survey Results

The results of a three-question, self-assessment survey given to board members at the end of their September 11th meeting was discussed. Response to the survey was good and the comments suggest that board meetings are effective.

Advocacy Activities

Meeting with Dan Williams, the Minister of Municipal Affairs

On September 12th, Parkland's Director and Board Chair, along with Sarah Meilleur, the CEO of Calgary Public Library and her Board Chair met with Dan Williams, the Minister of Municipal Affairs in Calgary. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the resolution being presented at the Alberta Municipalities convention last November. The resolution follows:

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to update the per capita rate to \$6.94 per person, an increase of \$1.34 per person to reflect inflationary increases and commit to indexing the population-based grant using the rate of inflation and the most recent population statistics of the Alberta Municipal Affairs Population Estimate List.

To galvanize provincial support for the funding resolution, Parkland's Director is a member of a steering committee that includes the CEOs of Edmonton, Calgary, and Strathcona County libraries. On October 27th,

Sheppard co-chaired a meeting of all the large and mid-sized libraries in Alberta to review the funding request to ensure there is consistent messaging across the province. The steering committee also learned that a similar resolution was presented at the recently held Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) convention. The RMA resolution reads:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate for the Government of Alberta to update the per capita rate for the Public Library Operating Grant to \$6.94 per person, which is an increase of \$1.34 per person, to reflect inflationary increases.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Rural Municipalities of Alberta advocate for the Government of Alberta to commit to indexing the population-based grant using the rate of inflation and the most recent populations statistics of the Alberta Municipal Affairs Population Estimate List.

The sponsor of this resolution is the County of Grande Prairie.

Both resolutions passed on November 19th.

Marketing Activities

Library Card Sign Up Month and Canadian Library Month Parkland organized contests for member library staff and patrons to participate in for Library Card Sign Up Month (September), and Canadian Library Month (October). These contests were well received and got great participation.

There were 30 participating libraries, 432 entries, and 981 total new members during the *Library Card Sign Up Month* Contest.

The *Canadian Library Month Golden Ticket* Contest had 39 participating libraries and 697 entries. The winner from Sylvan Lake Municipal Library received a West Edmonton Mall family fun package including tickets to the Word Waterpark OR Galaxyland, accommodation, gas, and meal gift cards, and tickets to the Telus World of Science.

Member Library Social Media Content Creation

Sylvan Lake Municipal Library and Olds Municipal Library requested support with planning and filming content for their social media feeds. Parkland's Marketing Specialist,

planned 10 video ideas for each location and filmed them with the help of the staff at the library.

New Signage at Parkland Regional Library System

Parkland staff completed a review of the signage around the headquarters building and made some changes. This includes decals on doors to direct delivery drivers and visitors, an "about Parkland" plaque to inform visitors looking for a public library, a sign facing the entrance road, and some promotional/advocacy messages throughout the building.

Committee News from Trustees

Penhold & District Public Library partnered with FCSS and held dinosaur activities for 53 participants. They also held a hero tournament for the second time, which was very popular. The Town of Penhold held a community Christmas and took pictures with Santa in the library. The performing group, the Messengers, are set to sing Christmas carols and give background on some of the classic songs on Dec 6th from 12:30-3:00.

Board Members Present

(In-Person) Barb Gilliat (Chair) **(Zoom)** Clint Walker alt. for Janet Adam, Jackie Almborg, Skyla Attfield, Alison Barker-Jevne, Denise Boniface, Laureen Clark-Rennie, Shelley Cook, Curtis Cook, Teresa Cunningham, Lana Curle, Todd Dalke, Sarah Fahey, Richard Forsberg, Elaine Fossen, Shaleah Fox, Dwayne Fulton, Matthew Goudy, Kathy Hall, Pam Hansen, Ryanna Hansen, Lindsay Holmen, Kimberlee Hunter, Joe Iwanicki, Monha Mah alt. for Victor Kelly, Troy Lambert, Bryce Liddle, Lori Lindseth, Paul Looser, Julie Maplethorpe, Lyle McKellar, Marc Mousseau, Joy-Anne Murphy, Leah Nelson, Cindy Orom, Amanda Peffers, Scott Pfeiffer, Bill Rock, Sandy Shipton, Maxine Steil, Matthew Sumegi, Leona Thorogood, Brenfa Dennis alt. for Cory Twerdoclib, Carlene Wetthuhn, Shannon Wilcox, Stephen Wyse **(Guests)** Haley Amendt, Diane Elliott, Maia Foster, Delayne Golby, Channing McDonald

Merry Christmas from Parkland Staff!

