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**Quick Facts 2014**

Population Served: 153,400

Members: 37 municipalities & 1 Metis Settlement

Member Public Libraries: 45

Contracting Schools: 52

Chair: Veronica Bliska

Director: Linda Duplessis

**Present:**

## Veronica Bliska, Chair MD of Peace

## Wendy Olson-Lepchuk Town of Beaverlodge

## Ron Longtin Village of Berwyn

## Lorrie Shelp MD of Big Lakes

Terry Carbone Birch Hills County

## Peter Frixel Clear Hills County

Ray Skrepnek MD of Fairview

Owen Stanford Town of Fairview

Lynn Farrell Town of Falher

(via Teleconference)

Kevin O’Toole City of Grande Prairie

Lynne Coulter Grande Prairie Public Library

Roxie Rutt MD of Greenview

## Carol Frost Village of Hythe

Brenda Kerr Town of Manning

Philippa O'Mahony Town of McLennan

(via Teleconference)

Linda Halabisky County of Northern Lights

## Carolyn Kolebaba Northern Sunrise County

Dollie Anderson MD of Opportunity

Reta Nooskey Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement

Elaine Manzer Town of Peace River

Tom Villeneuve Village of Rycroft

### Willis Fitzsimmons Saddle Hills County

Claude Lagace Town of Sexsmith

Stefan Plouffe Town of Slave Lake

(via Teleconference)

### Elaine Garrow MD of Spirit River

Jim Joelson Town of Valleyview

Tara Jones Town of Wembley

**Regrets:**

Vacant Village of Donnelly

## Chris Stadnyk Town of Fox Creek

Brock Smith County of Grande Prairie

Dirk Thompson Town of Grimshaw

Michael Morgan Town of High Level

###### Vacant Town of High Prairie

Murray Kerik MD of Lesser Slave River

Michelle Farris Town of Rainbow Lake

Brenda Stanich Town of Spirit River

## Absent:

## Sharilynn Dionne Village of Hines Creek

Cheryl Novak Village of Nampa

### Raoul Johnson MD of Smoky River

The Board reviewed the 2014 financial forecast. An unexpected surplus of about $50,000 is anticipated, largely due to the receipt of a grant to catalogue French language materials and staffing changes throughout the year. Any surplus funds will be transferred to capital reserves.

The Director reported that 33 member municipalities (87%) had approved the amendment to the Master Agreement to increase municipal fees in 2016, 2017 and 2018. This will maintain current services within a balanced budget for the foreseeable future.

The Board approved the 2015 Operating Budget, which supports the 2013-2015 *Plan of Service*. The budget maintains a wide range of services and current staffing. It includes a commitment to purchase more eBooks for patrons, develop new apps for digital services, create more web-based training for library managers, and purchase zippered mailing bags for interlibrary loan purposes.

The 2015 Capital Budget was approved. It includes purchase of new servers, SuperNet equipment, a photocopier and staff workstation chairs, as well as heating system upgrades.

Revisions to the *Employee Benefits Policy, Leave of Absence Policy, Staff Recognition Policy, Vacation Policy*,and *Policy* *on Policy Making* were approved.

Long service awards were presented to Veronica Bliska (MD of Peace), Elaine Garrow (MD of Spirit River) and Reta Nooskey (Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement) for 10 years of service, and to Carolyn Kolebaba (Northern Sunrise County) and Ray Skrepnek (MD of Fairview) for 15 years of service.

The Consulting Services Coordinator reported that the Rural Libraries Conference was very successful and attracted 48 brand new attendees. Thirty-three libraries participated in the annual TD-Summer Reading Club, with 1,061 children reading a total of 7,715 books over the summer.

The IT Services Manager reported that a Polaris upgrade is set for January, 2015, which will make it more seamless for patrons to borrow eBooks.

Ken Allan, Library Consultant, provided an update from the Public Library Services Branch. He reported that ME Libraries (Alberta-wide borrowing) is officially launched. PLS staff provided a demo on how to sign up for ME Libraries and showcased some of the digital resources subsidized by the Branch – Zinio, Press Display, and Hoopla.

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

**Board Meeting Highlights**

**November 29, 2014**

*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.*