

*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 2017 financial picture prior to audit. After factoring out budgeted transfers to capital reserves, an unexpected surplus of just over \$70,000 is forecast. This is largely due to staffing changes and higher interest income. The surplus will be transferred to capital reserves for future technology, building, furniture and vehicle expenditures.

The Director reported that the new provincial budget will provide stable funding for public libraries and regional library systems. Operating grants will remain unchanged. SuperNet funding, interlibrary loan support (government courier), e-content (including the Alberta eBooks Project), support for services for patrons with print disabilities, and funding for on-reserve and on-settlement Indigenous populations will all remain stable.

The Board reviewed a report on regional efforts to expand services to Indigenous communities in 2017-2018. The focus was on updating library collections and on local initiatives to attract Indigenous patrons to the library. PLS initiatives included the development of early literacy kits, Indigenous author readings, Rural Libraries Conference sessions on Indigenous services, and expanded digital resources.

The Director provided an update on PLS headquarters upgrades funded by the provincial Infrastructure Grant. The first of four phases is complete and \$239,000 has been spent to date. The upgrade will be complete by the end of June.

Revisions were approved to the *Finance Policy, Reserves Policy* and *Investment Policy*.

The Board reviewed the *2018 Annual Survey and 2017 Annual Report of Public Library Systems in Alberta*, noting interesting statistics on virtual collection usage.

Attendees at the *Public Libraries: We're Only Human Symposium* shared their highlights. Everyone found it an extremely valuable learning experience.

The Consulting Services Manager reported that usage of digital resources by patrons in the region continued to climb in 2017. Use of Ancestry (a genealogy research tool) doubled.

The IT Services Manager reported that PLS and Marigold Library System have selected Mugo as their web development partner. New member library websites in both regions will be in place later in the year (not including Grande Prairie Public Library, which has its own website).

### Present:

Veronica Bliska (Chair)	MD of Peace
Gena Jones	Town of Beaverlodge
Lorrie Shelp	Big Lakes County
Denise Jourdrej	Birch Hills County
Peter Frixel	Clear Hills County
Nicole Halvorson	Town of Fairview
Lindsay Brown	Town of Falher
Brenda Burrige	Town of Fox Creek
Tammy Brown	Grande Prairie Public Library
Chris Thiessen	City of Grande Prairie
Linda Waddy	County of Grande Prairie
Roxie Rutt	MD of Greenview
Camille Zavisha	Village of Hines Creek
Brad Pearson	MD of Lesser Slave River
April Doll	Town of Manning
Cheryl Novak	Village of Nampa
Carolyn Kolebaba	Northern Sunrise County
Brendan Powell	MD of Opportunity
Elaine Manzer	Town of Peace River
Christopher Mitchell	Town of Rainbow Lake
Roxann Dreger	Village of Rycroft
Clinton Froehlick	Town of Sexsmith
Raoul Johnson	MD of Smoky River
Elaine Garrow	MD of Spirit River
Anna Underwood	Town of Wembley

### Regrets:

Ray Skrepnek	MD of Fairview
Dennis Sukeroff	Town of Grimshaw
Beth Gillis	Town of High Level
Joy McGregor	Town of Slave Lake
Philippa O'Mahony	Town of McLennan
Belinda Halabisky	County of Northern Lights
Reta Nooskey	Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement
Vacant	Village of Berwyn
Vacant	Village of Donnelly
Vacant	Village of Girouxville

### Absent:

Donna Deynaka	Town of High Prairie
Lyle Sipe	Village of Hythe
John Moen	Saddle Hills County
Harry Ezio	Town of Spirit River
Tanya Boman	Town of Valleyview

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

### Quick Facts 2018

Population Served: 164,434  
Members: 38 municipalities & 1 Métis Settlement  
Member Public Libraries: 45  
Contracting Schools: 50  
Chair: Veronica Bliska (MD of Peace)  
Director: Linda Duplessis