

# ANNAPOLIS VALLEY REGIONAL LIBRARY



## ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

**Hello** Annapolis Valley!

It's a privilege to join you here as CEO of AVRL, where I'm already finding a warm welcome and an excellent organization.

One of the major successes in the last year has been the Same Page project, which connects the 8 regional Nova Scotia library systems and increases the size of the shared collection to over 1 million items. Same Page has been a tremendous success and we're thrilled to see how much it is benefitting our communities through deeper collections and faster delivery of materials.

The other major success has been the Moving Through project, which works to address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. Moving Through continues to create connections and provide meaningful educational opportunities to Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities alike. This project has been incorporated as a permanent part of AVRL's services.

Over the last year, usage has rebounded from the pandemic lockdowns and has increased over 2019 and we are looking forward to building momentum in 2023-24!

Julia Merritt

Chief Executive Officer



**AVRL** is heading into our 75th year as a regional library system with a rich history of innovation, resourcefulness, and responsibility to the needs of our patrons and communities. We have been extremely fortunate over the decades to have long-serving staff and management as the heart and face of our libraries. Now, well-earned retirements throughout AVRL are ushering in a new generation of hearts and faces throughout our organization. In January we were delighted to welcome our new CEO Julia Merritt, BAH, MLIS, APLL to guide AVRL through transition and into the future. Julia is returning to her Nova Scotia roots after successfully leading a busy library system in Ontario. We are confident that she will continue AVRL's legacy as a leader in Nova Scotia libraries.

Engaged and knowledgeable Board Members, advocating for public libraries within their communities are also key to the success of AVRL. With the ongoing support of our municipal and provincial partners, AVRL will continue to bring knowledge and connections to all.

Respectfully

Janet Ness, Chair

NEW USERS

**5,252**

ACTIVE USERS

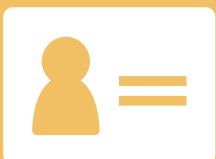
**23,120**

TOTAL PROGRAMS

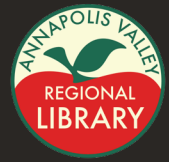
**2120**

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

**13,646**



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### HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Same Page** library card went live in April, 2022 providing residents of Nova Scotia with easy access to almost 1,000,000 items held at over 60 public library branches.
- Funding the staff position associated with the **Moving Through Project** will continue on a permanent basis. Successful events have included beading workshops, Virtual KAIROS Blanket Exercises for both staff and public, Three Sisters Companion packs in the Seed Library, Annual Gathering, featured collections, and authors.
- AVRL launched its **new website and events calendar** in March 2023. This update includes numerous accessibility upgrades and enhanced user experience, allowing for easier user discovery of services and events.
- The **Wolfville New Branch Project** has received a firm commitment by the Town to construct a new building (shared Library/Municipal office space) with a projected construction date of 2027.

**“DEAR LIBRARIAN, WE JUST WANTED TO SAY HOW MUCH WE LOVE THE NEW SYSTEM (SAME PAGE.) WE ARE GETTING MORE BOOKS THAN EVER THAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR AND GETTING THEM IN A TIMELY WAY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR WONDERFUL PUBLIC SERVICE. YOU HAVE ENHANCED OUR QUALITY OF LIFE.”**

— A LIBRARY USER COMMENT VIA OUR “CONTACT US” FORM

DIGITAL ITEMS BORROWED

# 84,680

TOTAL ITEMS BORROWED

# 756,458

PUBLIC COMPUTER ACCESS (HOURS)

# 18,769

WIRELESS USAGE (HOURS)

# 237,595