

Annapolis Valley Regional Library

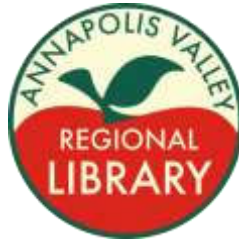
Thursday, September 17, 2026

5:30 p.m. – 8:30p.m.

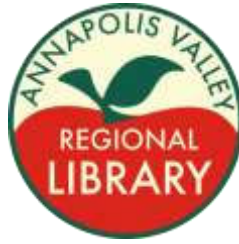
Location: Berwick Library Branch Multi-Purpose Room

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting
 - 3.1 Minutes of the July 13, 2026 Meeting
4. Guests/Presentations: none
5. Correspondence and Communications
 - 5.1 Received:
 - 5.1.1 June 17/26 Middleton Friends of Library to AVRL
 - 5.1.2 June 18/26 One Card Library Alliance (OCLA) to ECRL
 - 5.1.3 June 22/26 Petition Opposing AVRL Closures
 - 5.1.4 June 23/26 ECRL to OCLA
 - 5.1.5 June 25/26 OCLA to ECRL
 - 5.1.6 July 29/26 WHRM to AVRL
 - 5.1.7 July 21/26 County of Annapolis to AVRL
 - 5.1.8 July 21/26 ECRL to PARL/all individual OCLA members
 - 5.1.9 July 21/26 Town of Middleton to AVRL
 - 5.1.10 July 23/26 Mayor Boyer to AVRL Chair Ness
 - 5.1.11 July 29/26 CCTH to CORL
 - 5.1.12 Aug 4/26 CORL to CCTH
 - 5.1.13 Sept 8/26 County of Kings to AVRL
 - 5.1.14 Sept 11/26 Town of Wolfville to AVRL
 - 5.2 Sent:
 - 5.2.1 July 17/26 AVRL to County of Annapolis
 - 5.2.2 July 17/26 AVRL to County of Kings
 - 5.2.3 July 17/26 AVRL to Town of Annapolis Royal
 - 5.2.4 July 17/26 AVRL to Town of Berwick
 - 5.2.5 July 17/26 AVRL to Town of Kentville
 - 5.2.6 July 17/26 AVRL to Town of Middleton
 - 5.2.7 July 17/26 AVRL to Town of Wolfville
 - 5.2.8 July 17/26 AVRL to Village of Lawrencetown
 - 5.2.9 July 17/26 AVRL to WHRM
 - 5.2.10 July 24/26 AVRL to ECRL
6. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting:



7. Committee Reports
 - 7.1 Executive Committee
 - 7.2 Human Resources Committee
 - 7.3 Finance Committee
 - 7.3.1 Municipal Contributions, Fundraising and Donations: September 14, 2026
 - 7.3.2 Income Statement: April 1, 2026 – August 31, 2026
 - 7.3.3 Deferred Revenue report: April 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026
 - 7.3.4 Investment report: September 14, 2026
 - 7.3.5 Investment Subcommittee report: none
8. Report from the Chief Executive Officer
 - 8.1 Update from the CEO
 - 8.2 Statistical Reports
 - 8.3 One Card Library Alliance
9. New Business
 - 9.1 Establishment of an AVRL Board Fundraising Subcommittee
10. Announcements from Board Members
11. Nova Scotia Libraries News and Updates
 - 11.1 June 26/26 PARL The Library Fund
 - 11.2 Sept 14/26 NSLA Conference 2026: Making Connections
12. Next meetings:
 - Thursday, November 19th, 2026, In-person, 5:30pm
 - Thursday, February 18th, 2027, Virtual, 5:30pm
 - Thursday, April 15th, 2027, In-person, 5:30pm
 - Thursday, June 17th, 2027, In-person, 5:30pm
 - Thursday, September 16th, 2027, In-person, 5:30pm
 - Thursday, November 18th, 2027, In-person, 5:30pm
13. In camera: contract updates
14. Adjournment



Annapolis Valley Regional Library
Extra Board Meeting
Monday, July 13, 2026
6:00 p.m. – 8:00p.m.
Wolfville Council Chambers
Minutes (DRAFT)

PRESENT: Janet Ness, Emily Lutz, Karie-Ann Parsons-Saltzman, Adele MacDonald, Chrystal Remme, Ty Walsh, Andrew Zebian, Dan Smith

STAFF: Julia Merritt (CEO), Carin Cress (EA), Jai Soloy

GUESTS: None

1. Call to order
J. Ness called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.

MOVED BY: Emily Lutz

SECONDED BY: Adele MacDonald

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 3.1 Minutes of the June 18, 2026 Meeting.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the June 18, 2026 in-person meeting.

MOVED BY: Ty Walsh

SECONDED BY: Adele MacDonald

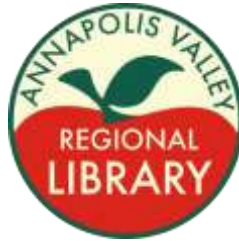
CARRIED

4. Guests/Presentations:

None

5. New Business

- 5.1 Report to Board: Extension of Service



MOTION: To use AVRL's remaining unrestricted, unallocated reserve funds for the purpose of extending service at the branches scheduled for closure on July 19, 2026.

MOVED BY: Andrew Zebian

SECONDED BY: Dan Smith

AMENDMENT

MOTION: To amend the motion by replacing "AVRL's remaining unrestricted, unallocated reserve funds" with "a portion of AVRL's unrestricted, unallocated reserve funds."

MOVED BY: Emily Lutz

SECONDED BY: Adele MacDonald

Amendment CARRIED.

MOTION AS AMENDED: To use a portion of AVRL's unrestricted, unallocated reserve funds for the purpose of extending service at the branches scheduled for closure on July 19, 2026.

CARRIED

MOTION: To use Option C and extend service until October 31, 2026.

MOVED BY: Andrew Zebian

SECONDED BY: Emily Lutz

AMENDMENT

MOTION: To amend the motion by changing the service extension date from October 31, 2026, to September 30, 2026.

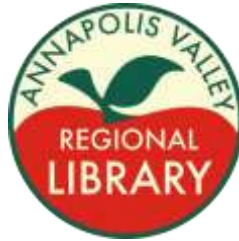
MOVED BY: Karie-Ann Parsons-Saltzman

SECONDED BY: Chrystal Remme

Amendment CARRIED

MOTION AS AMENDED: To use Option C and extend service until September 30, 2026.

CARRIED



MOTION: That the Board restate its original funding request to all municipalities and, should any municipality choose to contribute an amount above the original requested funding, the Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL) would accept the additional contribution. Municipalities will be asked to respond by September 12, 2026, five days prior to the next Board meeting.

MOVED BY: Emily Lutz

SECONDED BY: Ty Walsh

CARRIED

6. Next meetings:

Thursday, September 17, 2026, In-person, 5:30pm

Thursday, November 19, 2026, In-person, 5:30pm

7. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm.

MOVED BY: Karie-Ann Parsons-Saltzman

CARRIED

Box 818

Middleton N.S.

June 17, 2026

Annapolis Valley Library Board

Berwick Nova Scotia

Dear Madam:

I am writing to you requesting information as secretary of the Friends of the Library committee at Rosa Harvey Library in Middleton Nova Scotia.

This evening our group met to discuss the fate of our library after receiving notice that it is to close July 20, 2026

We know that we have funds in the bank and a cheque for eighty-six thousand dollars left to us by the estate of David Ritchie. Our group feels that this would allow us to staff the library for at least another year and we are asking your group to support us with making this money available to us.

Yours truly, *Ruth Craswell*

Ruth C Craswell, secretary

One Library Card Alliance

June 18, 2026

James Fuller
Chair, Eastern Counties Regional Library
390 Murray Street, PO Box 2500
Mulgrave, NS B0E2G0

Dear Mr. Fuller,

Congratulations to the Eastern Counties Regional Library Board and the County of Inverness on the opening of the Whycocomagh Community Library.

The Same Page system is an integrated library system shared by eight member libraries, including Eastern Counties Regional Library. Together, the eight member libraries form the One Library Card Alliance (the “Alliance”), a registered corporate entity governed by established policies and agreements.

The Alliance shares an ethical and legal responsibility to protect the privacy, security, and personal information of all Same Page users across the province. The [Same Page Privacy Policy](#) outlines how the Alliance will fulfill this responsibility.

Section 9 of the Privacy Policy states: *“Personal information relating to a library user may only be accessed or used when required by library employees working within the scope of their duties.”*

Access to the Same Page technological platform—including the WorkFlows staff client—is controlled by the Alliance under its licensing agreements and governance framework. No organization or individual, including Eastern Counties Regional Library, may grant or obtain access except in accordance with that framework.

While we are pleased to see library services expanding in your region, it has come to our attention that individuals accessing the Same Page staff database to create and update library memberships at the Whycocomagh Library are not employees of the Eastern Counties Regional Library.

1. Accordingly, the Alliance requires that access to the Same Page database by non-Eastern Counties Regional Library personnel be revoked immediately.
2. We also request that the Provincial Library revoke any credentials and remove any whitelisted IP addresses associated with this location until this matter has been resolved in a manner consistent with the Alliance policies and governance.

The Alliance is not prescribing how the Eastern Counties Regional Library Board and the County of Inverness resolve this operational matter. We understand discussions between the parties are ongoing. However, any operational solution that provides access to the Same Page system must comply with the Alliance's existing policies and agreements.

Since its launch in August 2021, the Same Page network has expanded access to a shared collection across Nova Scotia. Each year, more than 250,000 physical items are transported between member libraries, allowing patrons to access materials from across the province regardless of where they live. We fully support residents of the Whycocomagh area having access to this shared network, provided that such access is delivered in accordance with the policies that protect our users.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erin Comeau', with a stylized, cursive script.

Erin Comeau, Chair
One Library Card Alliance

cc. Keith McDonald, CAO, County of Inverness

Lynn Somers, Director, Provincial Library



Julia Merritt <jmerritt@valleylibrary.ca>

Submission of Petition Opposing Annapolis Valley Regional Library Closures (5,100+ Signatures)

4 messages

Cassie <cassiedrover@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 22, 2026 at 3:36 PM

To: MIN_CCTH@novascotia.ca, jmerritt@valleylibrary.ca, administration@valleylibrary.ca, john.lohr@novascotia.ca, julie.vanexan@novascotia.ca, chris.palmer@novascotia.ca, david.bowlby@novascotia.ca, melissa.sheehyrichard@novascotia.ca, jill.balser@novascotia.ca

Dear Minister Ritcey, Chair Ness, CEO Merritt, and Members of the Legislative Assembly,

I am writing to formally submit a petition opposing the proposed closures of Annapolis Valley Regional Library branches.

As of today, the petition has received more than 5,100 signatures from community members and supporters who believe that public libraries are an essential service and should remain accessible to residents throughout the Annapolis Valley.

The response to this petition demonstrates significant public concern regarding the impact these closures would have on literacy, education, access to information, community programming, and services for children, seniors, and vulnerable populations.

I respectfully ask that all available options be explored to prevent library closures and to address the funding challenges facing the Annapolis Valley Regional Library system. I also urge the Province of Nova Scotia and municipal partners to work collaboratively toward a sustainable funding solution that protects library services for our communities.

Attached is a copy of the petition signatures. Personal contact information has been removed to protect the privacy of signatories.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I hope the voices of the thousands of individuals who have signed this petition will be given serious consideration as decisions regarding library services are made.

Sincerely,

Cassie Drover

Creator, Petition Opposing Annapolis Valley Regional Library Closures



Petition Signatures.pdf

1687K

Julia Merritt <jmerritt@valleylibrary.ca>

Mon, Jun 22, 2026 at 3:54 PM

To: Janet Ness <janeteness@gmail.com>, Emily Lutz <councillor.lutz@countyofkings.ca>, Chrystal Remme <Councillor.Remme@westhants.ca>, Samantha Hamilton <shamilton@kentville.ca>, Adele McDonald <amacdonald@annapolisroyal.com>, Councillor Walsh <councillor.walsh@berwick.ca>, Jill and Greg Cox <coxenjandg@gmail.com>, Karie-Ann Parsons-Saltzman <kparsonssaltzman@annapoliscounty.ca>

Good Afternoon AVRL Board,

Please see below and attached.

Sincerely,

Julia Merritt

Chief Executive Officer

Annapolis Valley Regional Library
236 Commercial St PO Box 510
Berwick NS B0P 1E0

June 23, 2026

Erin Comeau, Chair
One Library Card Alliance
405 Main Street
Yarmouth NS
B5A 1G3

Re: URGENT Same Page ILS Access, Whycocomagh Public Library

Dear Ms. Comeau,

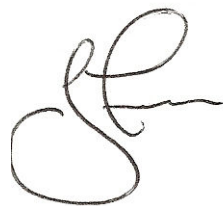
The Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL) writes further to recent correspondence regarding the suspension of Same Page integrated library system (ILS) access at the Whycocomagh Public Library.

ECRL advises that an employee of the Municipality of the County of Inverness has been seconded to ECRL to staff the Whycocomagh Public Library. Under this arrangement, the seconded individual will operate as ECRL personnel and will exercise Same Page ILS access in that capacity, subject to the governance and privacy obligations applicable to all ECRL staff.

In light of this arrangement, ECRL requests that Same Page ILS access at the Whycocomagh Public Library be restored without further delay.

Please acknowledge receipt of this correspondence and the immediate restoration of services.

James Fuller



Chair, Board of the Eastern Counties Regional Library
cc: Jeff Mercer, vice-chair, One Library Card Alliance
Keith MacDonald, CAO, Municipality of the County of Inverness
Laura Emery, CEO, Eastern Counties Regional Library

One Library Card Alliance

June 25, 2026

James Fuller
Chair, Eastern Counties Regional Library
390 Murray Street, PO Box 2500
Mulgrave, NS B0E2G0

Dear Mr. Fuller,

Thank you for advising the One Library Card Alliance (the "Alliance") on the operational parameters for library staff at the Whycocomagh Public Library, as outlined in your letter of June 23, 2026.

To exercise our due diligence, the Alliance would like confirmation that a formal agreement between the Eastern Counties Regional Library Board and the Municipality of the County of Inverness is in place for the secondment arrangement for staffing at the Whycocomagh Public Library. The agreement would define the purpose, duration, and conditions of the employment. We may then review the agreement for compliance with the Alliance's existing policies and agreements.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Mercer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeff Mercer, Vice-Chair
One Library Card Alliance

cc. Keith McDonald, CAO, County of Inverness

Lynn Somers, Director, Nova Scotia Provincial Library

Abraham Zebian <Mayor.Zebian@westhants.ca>

Wed, Jul 15, 2026 at 1:49 PM

To: Julia Merritt <jmerritt@valleylibrary.ca>

Cc: Mark Phillips <MPhillips@westhants.ca>, Chrystal Remme <Councillor.Remme@westhants.ca>

Thank you so much.

Mayor Abraham Zebian
West Hants Regional Municipality
76 Morrison Drive
Windsor NS
B0N 2T0
902-790-1566

On Jul 15, 2026, at 1:34 PM, Julia Merritt <jmerritt@valleylibrary.ca> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Deanna Snair <DSnair@westhants.ca>

Wed, Jul 29, 2026 at 9:03 AM

To: Julia Merritt <jmerritt@valleylibrary.ca>

Cc: Abraham Zebian <Mayor.Zebian@westhants.ca>, Mark Phillips <MPhillips@westhants.ca>, Carlee Rochon <crochon@westhants.ca>, Deanna Snair <DSnair@westhants.ca>

Good morning Julia,

I am writing to advise you that at last night's Council meeting, Council ratified the following motion in support of the Annapolis Valley Regional Library's (AVRL) funding request:

"THAT COUNCIL RECONFIRM AN ADDITIONAL \$67,200 FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF BOTH THE WINDSOR AND HANTSPORT LIBRARIES UP TO FEBRUARY 28, 2027 IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PREVIOUS MOTION

APPROVED BY COUNCIL AS PER THE AVRL FUNDING REQUEST."

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Kind regards,
Deanna



Deanna Snair
Executive Assistant
West Hants Regional Municipality
PO Box 3000, 76 Morison Drive, Windsor, NS, B0N 2T0

T 902-798-8391 Ext. 134
M 902-792-8035
F 902-798-8553
E DSnair@westhants.ca
W www.westhants.ca

From: Mark Phillips <MPhillips@westhants.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 2:40 PM
To: Carlee Rochon <crochon@westhants.ca>; Deanna Snair <DSnair@westhants.ca>
Subject: Fwd: [Time-Sensitive]: AVRL Board vote to extend service

Just an FYI.

Mark Phillips
Chief Administrative Officer
The Region of Windsor and
West Hants Municipality
[76 Morison Drive, Windsor, NS, B0N2T0](#)

T [902-798-8391](tel:902-798-8391) Ext. 133
M [902-670-4255](tel:902-670-4255)
E MPhillips@westhants.ca
W www.westhants.ca

Begin forwarded message:



Mark Phillips (he/him)
Chief Administrative Officer
West Hants Regional Municipality
PO Box 3000, 76 Morison Drive, Windsor, NS, B0N2T0

T 902-798-8391 Ext. 133
M 902-670-4255
E MPhillips@westhants.ca
W www.westhants.ca

From: Abraham Zebian <Mayor.Zebian@westhants.ca>
Date: July 15, 2026 at 1:49:34 PM ADT
To: Julia Merritt <jmerritt@valleylibrary.ca>
Cc: Mark Phillips <MPhillips@westhants.ca>, Chrystal Remme <Councillor.Remme@westhants.ca>
Subject: Re: [Time-Sensitive]: AVRL Board vote to extend service

[Quoted text hidden]



COUNTY of ANNAPOLIS
NATURALLY ROOTED

752 St George Street, PO Box 100
Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia Canada B0S 1A0
Phone: (902) 532-2331 Fax: (902) 532-2096
Website: AnnapolisCounty.ca

Annapolis Valley Regional Library
236 Commercial Street
PO Box 510
Berwick, NS
B0P 1E0

July 21, 2026

Letter to AVRL Board and Municipal Partners,

The Municipality of the County of Annapolis would like to thank the AVRL Board of Directors for their due diligence in looking forward at how library service is best provided across all areas of the Annapolis Valley. Our Council understands that AVRL has made some tough decisions, based on external factors, that has ramifications for the staff involved, residents, and the library service as a whole. We believe that the Board, partners, and residents all want the same thing; a library service that provides continued excellent service while remaining affordable for the partners and taxpayers of the Annapolis Valley.

When first asked to provide an additional 50% funding to the AVRL earlier this year, Council had a significant discussion about levels of governmental responsibilities, the current requirements of a Municipal government under the Libraries Act, and consideration of indirect downloads to Municipal units. The Municipality believes that providing all the needed funding relieves the Province of their obligations and will ultimately lead to a change in the Provincially mandated funding formula. This will see Municipalities required to contribute a higher percentage to the operational funding of AVRL, on top of the responsibility of providing buildings.

MoCA is further concerned that there has been no consideration of different funding formulas. The Libraries Act speaks to the portion of the funds provided under the Provincial formula (the 26%) but does not speak to how additional funding should be shared if Municipalities choose to provide it. A new funding formula should be considered that takes all factors into account which could include considerations such as uniform assessment, proximity of populations to libraries, library usage or hours of operations, or some combination of these factors or more.

Ideally a renewed funding formula would have commitments from Municipal partners that sets forth an agreement on contributions to the AVRL operations, without ties to restrictions or conditions. The Municipality of the County of Annapolis has been informed that the Village of Lawrencetown has made the decision to not continue operating their library within the AVRL system. From all the information presented by the Board, it would be the understanding that the funds that would have been provided to servicing the Lawrencetown location will be removed from the AVRL budget (wages and benefits of \$51,837). The Municipality is struggling with

providing AVRL with an additional ~\$48,000 for service, when there is a library being removed from the AVRL system in Annapolis, even if all Municipalities contributed the full request. It is also likely that the Municipality will be asked to support the independent library that will continue to operate in Lawrencetown.

With the above considerations, Council has reaffirmed their commitment to fund the AVRL to the amount of \$147,691, which includes the legislated amount of \$130,700, plus a one year bridge amount of \$16,991.

Thanks again to the AVRL Board for all you do.

Sincerely,



Diane Le Blanc
Warden



ECRL Regional Office
390 Murray Street,
PO Box 2500,
Mulgrave, N.S. B0E 2G0
(902) 747-2597
1-855-787-READ
ecrl.ca

July 21, 2026

Councillor Clyde Fraser,
Chair, Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Board
65 High Street, New Glasgow,
NS B2H 2W7

Re: Formal complaint respecting a direction issued in the name of the One Library Card Alliance affecting library service in the Eastern Counties Regional Library region

Dear Councillor Clyde Fraser:

Alongside the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Board ("PARL"), and the other six regional library boards in Nova Scotia, Eastern Counties Regional Library ("ECRL") is a member of the One Library Card Alliance ("the Alliance"). It is to those boards, as members of the Alliance, that ECRL submits this complaint respecting an action undertaken in the name of the Alliance on June 18, 2026, by which public library service in the ECRL region was wrongly suspended.

The position of the ECRL Board is that the action exceeded the authority of the Alliance, that it was issued in the name of all eight member boards although it was decided by none of them, and that it has caused, and continues to cause, harm to a community in the ECRL region.

This complaint is brought to the PARL Board because the authority asserted by the Alliance through this action, if it is allowed to stand, undermines the authority and autonomy of every member board of the Alliance, including the PARL Board.

Background

1. The Whycomomagh Public Library is a public library within the ECRL service region. It is operated by the Municipality of the County of Inverness ("the Municipality") under a service agreement between ECRL and the Municipality, executed by the Chair of the ECRL Board and the Chief Administrative Officer of the Municipality in November 2025.
2. Under this service agreement, the staff of the Whycomomagh Public Library are employed by the Municipality. They are trained, authorized, and monitored by ECRL to deliver library services and to use

Our Service Locations

Canso | Chéticamp | Guysborough | Mabou | Margaree Forks | Mulgrave | Petit de Grat | Port Hawkesbury | Sherbrooke | St. Peter's

the Same Page integrated library system to the same standard, and subject to the same requirements, as ECRL staff.

3. In December 2025, the ECRL CEO provided the service agreement to the Alliance as information. ECRL and the Municipality offered to meet with the Alliance to explain the arrangement. The Alliance declined to meet.
4. The Whycocomagh Public Library commenced service on June 1, 2026, in a community that had not previously had a public library of its own.
5. By letter dated June 18, 2026, signed by the Chair of the Alliance, the Alliance directed the immediate revocation of the Whycocomagh Public Library's access to the Same Page system. The stated basis for the action was that "individuals accessing the Same Page staff database to create and update library memberships at the Whycocomagh Library are not employees of the Eastern Counties Regional Library." The letter stated this was in violation of Section 9 of the Same Page Privacy Policy. A copy of the June 18 letter is enclosed.
6. By the same letter, the Alliance directed that the Provincial Library remove the credentials and whitelisted IP addresses associated with the location. The Provincial Library did so. Public library service at the Whycocomagh Public Library was thereby suspended on June 19, 2026, which closely preceded the library's public opening scheduled for June 27, 2026.
7. To permit the opening to proceed as scheduled, and to avoid any potential consequences that the cancellation of the opening would have carried for the project and its continued funding, ECRL took an interim measure to restore access. One of the trained municipal employees was reclassified by employment contract as an ECRL employee so that the condition stated by the Alliance would be satisfied. ECRL took that measure for the sole purpose of restoring service for the public opening, and not in acceptance of any authority of the Alliance to impose the condition. The circumstances at the time did not permit ECRL to state its objection without jeopardizing the timely restoration of service before the opening.
8. As a result of that measure, the Whycocomagh Public Library's access to the Same Page system was restored late on June 26, 2026.
9. Access to the Same Page system remains in place only during the working shifts of the single reclassified employee with no access at all other times. The impairment of service is continuing as of the date of this complaint.

Grounds of complaint

1. The action exceeded the authority of the Alliance.

The governance and operation of regional library service in Nova Scotia is established by the *Libraries Act*. The Act provides for the general supervision of library service by the Minister, for the Provincial Library, and for the regional library boards. In respect of the operation of regional library service, provisions in the Act, particularly Section 11, vest operational authority and autonomy in the regional boards. Section 11(f) of the Act empowers a regional library board to “enter into and carry out agreements with cities, towns, municipalities, persons, associations or organizations for the provision of library services to them on such terms and conditions as the board thinks advisable.”

ECRL exercised that authority in entering the service agreement with the Municipality for the provision of library service at the Whycocomagh Public Library. The terms of that arrangement, including the engagement of municipal staff trained, authorized, and monitored by ECRL, are terms the Board was empowered by Section 11(f) to settle as it thought advisable.

The authority a regional board exercises in settling the terms of its service is the same authority under which boards routinely determine how their libraries operate: setting and changing service hours, operating self-service branches and kiosks, and opening and closing branches as the board judges appropriate. The engagement of municipal staff to operate the Whycocomagh Public Library is a decision of the same character and under the same authority.

The Alliance is not a body constituted or empowered by the *Libraries Act*. It is a society formed by the eight regional library boards to coordinate their shared use of a common integrated library system, and its authority is the authority its members have conferred upon it. The Alliance’s by-laws provide that the management of the Society is the responsibility of its members, the regional library boards themselves. The Alliance’s Memorandum of Understanding with the Province commits the parties to act while “respecting the autonomy of each party and the scope of their decision-making authority.”

Neither the *Libraries Act*, the Alliance’s by-laws, nor the Memorandum of Understanding confers on the Alliance any authority over the terms by which a member board provides library service, or over the staffing of a member board’s libraries. The action of June 18, 2026 sought to override ECRL’s exercise of an authority the *Libraries Act* confers on the Board alone. It was therefore made without authority.

2. The Alliance cannot confer this authority on itself.

The limit on the Alliance’s authority is not one the Alliance can remove by its own act. The Alliance’s powers derive from the authority its members have lawfully conferred upon it. A member board cannot confer on the Alliance an authority that the *Libraries Act* reserves to the board itself, because the operation of a regional library is a statutory responsibility of the board, not something the board is free to give away. It is

not within a board's capacity to surrender its authority imparted under the *Libraries Act*, nor within the Alliance's capacity to assume, whether by by-law, by policy, or by resolution.

It follows that any amendment purporting to vest in the Alliance authority over the staffing or operation of a member board's libraries would be of no effect, because it would purport to displace the *Libraries Act*. The deficiency in the June 18 action is therefore not one that can be cured by amending the instruments on which it relied, or by the membership voting the Alliance the authority it lacked. It can be cured only by the Alliance ceasing to assert an authority it does not, and cannot, hold

3. The Alliance's administration of platform access does not constitute authority over staffing.

The June 18 letter asserts that access to the Same Page platform is controlled by the Alliance under its licensing agreements and governance framework, and that no party, including ECRL, may grant or obtain access except in accordance with that framework.

The Alliance's responsibility for the licensing of the integrated library system and for the administration of the shared platform is a responsibility of stewardship over a shared technical system. It is administrative in nature. It permits the Alliance to manage the system and the terms of the vendor relationship. It does not, and cannot, extend to determining which lawful employer a member board engages to deliver library service, or whom a member board may employ in its libraries.

A power to administer access to a shared system is not a power to govern the operations of the bodies that use it. The Alliance's role in respect of platform licensing afforded it no standing to determine who may staff the Whycocomagh Public Library. The conflation of the two is the foundation of the June 18 action, and it is unsound.

4. The privacy basis stated for the action was unfounded.

The action relied upon Section 9 of the Same Page Privacy Policy, which provides: "Personal information relating to a library user may only be accessed or used when required by library employees working within the scope of their duties."

Neither the Same Page Privacy Policy nor Section 9 contains any definition restricting "library employees" to be direct employees of a regional library. The staff of the Whycocomagh Public Library are library employees working within the scope of their duties at the library where they are employed. They satisfy the provision as it is written.

Further, those staff are bound to protect user information on two parallel footings:

- (a) By the service agreement, they are trained, authorized, and monitored by ECRL, and bound to ECRL confidentiality requirements, to the same standard as ECRL's own staff. ECRL maintains a

documented privacy regime to that end, comprising its Confidentiality Policy, its Protection of Personal Information Procedure, and a signed Confidentiality Agreement binding each individual granted access.

- (b) As employees of the Municipality, those staff are additionally bound by the Municipality's own confidentiality and privacy policies, which give effect to Part XX of the *Municipal Government Act* and to the *Personal Information International Disclosure Protection Act*. They are accordingly subject to a documented statutory privacy regime that the staff of other member libraries, as employees of their regional libraries alone, are not.

Additionally, the Same Page Privacy Policy itself contemplates access to user information by persons who are not employees of any member board. It provides for the disclosure of personal information to authorized third parties contracted to provide technology services, and it records that some Same Page services are delivered by third parties located outside Canada. The premise that access to user information is confined to the direct employees of a regional board is therefore inconsistent with the policy on which the action relies.

The deficiency in the stated basis, though, is not one that can be cured by redefining its terms. The Whycocomagh staff satisfy Section 9 as written, and the protection of user information is, on the facts, complete. Amending the policy to require that staff be employed by a regional board would not address any privacy concern, because none arises from the present arrangement. It would instead convert the policy into an instrument for controlling the staffing of member libraries, a purpose the protection of personal information does not serve, and the Alliance has no authority to pursue. A privacy policy cannot be made to carry a requirement that is not about privacy.

For these reasons, the basis stated for the action is not supported by the instrument on which it relies. Underlying all of it is a more basic fact: the June 18 letter identified no breach of the Privacy Policy, no misuse of user information, and no risk to the security or privacy of any user. None was identified because none had occurred. The action was taken to remedy a harm that does not exist.

5. The action of the Alliance shows that the privacy basis was not the actual basis.

The condition for reinstatement accepted by the Alliance was the reclassification of a single employee, as described above. The same individual, at the same location, performing the same duties, under the same training and the same confidentiality obligations, was excluded from the system before the reclassification and permitted to use it after. No element bearing upon the protection of user information was altered by the reclassification. The personal information held in the system, the safeguards applied to it, and the conduct of the staff handling it were in every respect unchanged.

What changed was the employer of record. If the reclassification of the same individual resolved the concern stated by the Alliance, the concern was not, in substance, the protection of user information. It was the

identity of the employer. The identity of a member library's employer is not a matter of privacy, and it was not a matter within the authority of the Alliance to determine.

6. The action was grossly disproportionate to the concern asserted.

The suspension of a library's access to the Same Page system is among the most severe measures available within the shared system. It does not constrain or correct the conduct of any individual. It removes the ability of an entire community to be served. For a public library, access to the integrated system is not a convenience; it is how patrons are registered, materials are circulated, and service is delivered. To suspend it is to close the library's doors in all but name.

A measure of that severity is warranted only in correspondingly serious circumstances: a genuine and identified threat to the security of the system or to the personal information of its users, where no lesser response will suffice. None of that was present here. There was no breach, no misuse, and no risk of any kind. There was a difference of view as to which lawful employer engaged staff who were, in every other respect, trained, authorized, and bound to the same standard as any other staff in the system.

The Alliance responded with the most drastic action the shared system permits, the total suspension of a member's access, and directed it at a newly opened library in a community that had waited many years for one. It did so without fair notice, without transparent inquiry, and without any attempt at a lesser or alternative resolution. The gravity of the measure and the triviality of its stated basis cannot be reconciled. An action of this severity, taken on a basis of this kind, is not a measured exercise of any authority. It is the use of a community's library service as leverage.

7. The authority asserted, if it stands, is exercisable against every member board.

The significance of the June 18 action does not end with the Whycocomagh Public Library. The action asserts, and acts upon, a principle of general application: that the Alliance may compel a member board's compliance with the Alliance's preferences by suspending that board's access to the Same Page system.

Every member board depends on the Same Page system to deliver service to its community. Access to that system is, for each member, essential and not readily replaced. A body able to suspend that access at its discretion is, in practical effect, able to dictate the terms on which a member operates, whatever the subject and whatever the board's own judgment. The instrument used against ECRL, the suspension of system access to enforce a contested reading of policy, is available against any member board, on any matter the Alliance may choose to characterize as a matter of policy.

The constraint that prevents this is the limit on the Alliance's authority: that it coordinates a shared system and does not govern its members' operations. The June 18 action disregarded that limit. If the action is allowed to stand, the limit is gone for every member, and each board holds its operational autonomy only

at the allowance of the Alliance. It is for this reason that the ECRL Board brings this matter to the membership and asks that it be treated with corresponding seriousness.

Remedies required

The ECRL Board requires the following remedies:

1. That the Alliance members direct their Alliance representatives to withdraw the condition stated in its letter of June 18, 2026, and that full and unconditional access to the Same Page system be restored to the Whycocomagh Public Library, so that the continuing impairment of service described above is ended.
2. That the Alliance account to its membership for the authority on which the action of June 18, 2026 was taken.
3. That the Alliance's by-laws and the Same Page Privacy Policy be amended in a manner consistent with the limits of the Alliance's authority, and not so as to enlarge it, including:
 - (a) to affirm that the Alliance holds no authority over the staffing or operation of a member board's libraries;
 - (b) to define the terms on which those instruments rely, including the term "library employees";
 - (c) to establish a process for the resolution of concerns arising between the Alliance and its members; and
 - (d) to establish, in cooperation with the Provincial Library as operator of the Same Page system, a fair and transparent process governing any suspension of a member's access, reserving any such suspension to a genuine and identified risk to the system or to the personal information of its users, so that the Provincial Library is not again directed to suspend a member's service absent a proper basis and proper authority.

Action requested of the PARL Board

The first remedy outlined above concerns the continuing impairment of service at the Whycocomagh Public Library. It can be implemented immediately and does not require any meeting, vote, or resolution. ECRL requests that the PARL Board support the immediate and unconditional restoration of service to the Whycocomagh Public Library.

The subsequent second and third remedies outlined above are matters for the membership of the Alliance and are properly determined by special resolution at a special meeting of members. Under the Alliance's by-laws, a special meeting of members is to be called upon the request of the Chair, or upon the request of six of the eight members. ECRL therefore requests that the PARL Board as a member of the Alliance, join in requesting the calling of a special meeting of members, on proper notice, to address the authority wrongly

asserted by the June 18 action, to consider the amendments described in remedy three by special resolution, and to restore, for every member, the certainty and clarity that the Alliance cannot override a member board's operational authority or autonomy.

Response and reservation

The ECRL Board requests a written response within fourteen (14) days of the date of this letter, confirming receipt of this complaint and stating the position of PARL Board with respect to the immediate restoration of full service to the Whycomagh Public Library.

The ECRL Board further requires that the matters reserved to the membership of the Alliance contained in remedies two and three be placed before a special meeting of members within ninety (90) days of the date of this letter.

This complaint is made in the interest of the SamePage system and of the governance on which every member board of the Alliance relies. Should the matters raised in this complaint not be satisfactorily addressed, ECRL reserves the right to pursue any further recourse available to it.

Sincerely,



Warden James Fuller
Chair, Eastern Counties Regional Library Board

Encl. Letter of the One Library Card Alliance to ECRL dated June 18, 2026

cc: Janet Ness, Chair, Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board
Deputy Warden, Perla MacLeod, Chair, Cape Breton Regional Library Board
Councillor Michael Perry, Chair, Colchester-East Hants Public Library Board
Kim Ford, Chair, Cumberland Public Libraries Board
Patrick Hirtle, Chair, South Shore Public Libraries Board
Councillor Sherry Thorburn Irvine, Chair, Western Counties Regional Library Board
Minister Dave Ritcey, Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage
Honourable Greg Morrow, MLA, Guysborough-Tracadie
Honourable Trevor Boudreau, MLA, Richmond
Kyle MacQuarrie, MLA, Inverness

Claude Bourgeois, MLA, Chéticamp-Margarees-Pleasant Bay
Chris Shore, Deputy Minister Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage
Keith MacDonald, CAO, Municipality of Inverness County
Erin Comeau, Chair, One Library Card Alliance
Lynn Somers, Director, Nova Scotia Provincial Library
Laura Emery, CEO, Eastern Counties Regional Library

July 21, 2026

Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board
PO Box 510
Berwick, NS, B0P 1E0

VIA EMAIL

Dear AVRL Board Members,

Re: Funding Request for 2026-2027

On behalf of the Town of Middleton, I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 17, 2026, requesting the resubmission of the Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL) Board's request for additional operational funding for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

I am pleased to advise that, at its meeting on July 20, 2026, Town Council approved a one-time increase of \$6,150 to the Town of Middleton's 2026-2027 operating contribution to the AVRL. This brings the Town's total municipal contribution for the 2026-2027 fiscal year to \$18,450.

Council recognizes the important role that library services play in our community. We appreciate the AVRL Board's efforts to maintain library services during this challenging period and its ongoing work with funding partners to identify sustainable solutions for the future. The Town of Middleton appreciates the opportunity to support the AVRL for the 2026-2027 fiscal year and trusts that this contribution will assist the AVRL in its efforts to maintain services in Middleton.

As the other municipal funding partners consider the AVRL's updated funding request, we would appreciate being kept informed of the decisions being made by the various municipal units and, in particular, whether sufficient funding will be secured to allow the remaining branches to remain open through March 31, 2027.

Thank you for your ongoing communication and for keeping the Town apprised as this process moves forward.

Sincerely,



Ashley Crocker, MBA, CPA
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Middleton

cc. Julia Merritt, CEO AVRL
Middleton Town Council

Town of Annapolis Royal



CONFIDENTIAL

July 23, 2026

Janet Ness
Chair
Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board

Via email: janetness@gmail.com

Re : Library Funding

This is further to the meeting that was held at the Kings County municipal building on July 7, 2026. Although I had spent some time preparing for this meeting, after hearing the presentation from earlier this year one more time and listening to the comments that were made in the room, I did not feel that it was the time or the place to say anything. So, on behalf of the Town, I am taking this opportunity to make a few observations.

It would appear that the Province, the municipalities and the AVRL are all responsible for the situation we find ourselves in for the reasons listed below:

1. The AVRL 2025-2028 strategic plan does not address the serious funding risk and the fact that existing provincial legislation and regulations have not kept pace with the times.
2. The 2024 Funding Review Committee report cannot be considered “comprehensive” since additional voluntary funding from municipal units was left out. It is very difficult to make any informed decisions in the face of incomplete, complex and/or faulty information.
3. AVRL does not appear to be accountable to either funding partners, provincial or municipal. The provincial legislation and regulations do not appear to deal with governance or oversight.
4. Municipal partners do not appear to have a guaranteed voice on the Funding Review Committee.
5. Libraries are not listed as part of the Service Exchange Agreement between the Province and the municipal units. They should be since all of the other provincial-municipal cost sharing agreements are listed there.

6. The Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities is the voice of the municipal units and should be part of these discussions, especially when it comes to our relationship with the Province.

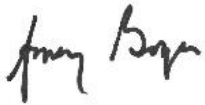
7. There appears to be a difference of opinion with respect to what is considered a capital cost and what is not.

8. It is not AVRL's "fault" if elected officials fail to request or receive regular AVRL reports and/or if they fail to read their meeting materials.

9. Presentations like the one we received on January 21 of this year, repeated again yesterday, contain way too much detail instead of focusing on the strategic issue of stable and predictable funding.

All of this to say that the Town supports AVRL's continued efforts to keep libraries open and available to the public. We appreciate your expertise with respect to the operation of public libraries and all of the work you have done to get everyone (the public, staff, and funding partners) through a funding crisis not of your own making.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amery Boyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amery" and the last name "Boyer" clearly distinguishable.

Amery Boyer.

c. Julia Merritt jmerritt@valleylibrary.ca

CORL – Council of Regional Librarians

August 4, 2026

Honourable Dave Ritcey
Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage
MIN_CCTH@novascotia.ca

Dear Minister Ritcey,

Thank you for your response to my letter of June 3, 2026 regarding the Regional Library Operating Grant for Nova Scotia's public libraries. We appreciate your recognition of the value of Nova Scotia's regional libraries, including the ongoing efforts library regions have made to manage our resources in face of rising costs.

We welcome the opportunity to have a constructive conversation with you and your staff. We look forward to the opportunity to better explain how the services public libraries offer contribute to meeting the government's identified health and economic growth priorities. A strategic investment in libraries strengthens literacy and workforce development, provides supported access to government and health services, enhances mental well-being and social connection, improves community safety, and reduces demand on other public resources through early intervention, community programming, and accessible local supports. Libraries are a cost-effective vehicle for broad service delivery to Nova Scotians.

We look forward to working with you to address the immediate challenges libraries are facing and to ensure that timely, sustainable measures are put in place to ensure these vital community hubs can continue to support individuals, communities and the Province's strategic growth.

Sincerely,



Erin Comeau, Chair
Council of Regional Librarians

CC: Premier Tim Houston
Christopher Shore, Deputy Minister, CCTH
Sara Halliday, Associate Deputy Minister, CCTH
Lynn Somers, Director, NSPL
Lucy MacLeod, NSFM



**MUNICIPALITY *of the*
COUNTY *of* KINGS**

Tel: 902-690-6132

Fax: 902-678-9279

mayor.corkum@countyofkings.ca

September 8, 2026

Chair Janet Ness
Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board
236 Commercial Street
Berwick, Nova Scotia
B0P 1E0

delivered via email: administration@valleylibrary.ca

Re: Request for additional operating funding from July 17, 2026

Dear Chair Ness,

Municipal Council has considered the Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL) Board's letter on July 17, 2026 for additional operational funding for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

Council recognizes the important role libraries play in our communities. Libraries provide access to reading, technology, and information, while creating a welcoming space for all. The Municipality remains committed to supporting AVRL libraries and keeping libraries open for our residents.

For 2026-27 fiscal year, the Municipality has provided an additional \$82,900, on top of its mandatory contribution (\$331,600) to support AVRL. It is our understanding the AVRL Board's letter from July was intended to address the funding shortfall required to keep the remaining ten library branches open for the 2026-27 fiscal.

Since your request was submitted, AVRL received a generous donation of \$300,000. Based on the information currently available, Council's understanding is the funding shortfall identified in your July letter has been addressed through a combination of additional municipal contributions and the donation. Given this, Council is satisfied no further additional municipal funding is required at this time to address AVRL's immediate funding shortfall. As a committed partner to the libraries, and ensuring they remain open, the Municipality is willing to work with AVRL on their current shortfall needs.

As a Municipality, we recognize the recent donation helps address AVRL's immediate needs and does not replace the need for sustainable long-term funding for libraries. Long-term sustainable funding of library services cannot be achieved through municipal funding alone. A sustainable solution will require provincial participation and investment. The Municipality will continue to advocate to the Provincial Government for a modernized funding formula for libraries and encourages AVRL Board to do the same.

Phone: 902-678-6141 or 1-888-337-2999

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

inquiry@countyofkings.ca

181 Coldbrook Village Park Drive
Coldbrook, NS B4R 1B9
www.countyofkings.ca

In closing, the County values its partnership with AVRL and appreciates the efforts of the Board and library staff to continue to deliver library services across the Annapolis Valley this fiscal. As the largest municipal funding partner, we remain committed to supporting libraries and advocating for a sustainable funding model that will ensure our residents continue to have access to library services.

Respectfully,



Dave Corkum
Mayor

Cc: Municipality of the County of Kings Council

Scott Conrod, Chief Administrative Officer, Municipality of the County of Kings

Julia Merritt, CEO, Annapolis Valley Regional Library

Andrea Hyslop, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Municipality of the County of Kings

Phone: 902-678-6141 or 1-888-337-2999

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

inquiry@countyofkings.ca

181 Coldbrook Village Park Drive

Coldbrook, NS B4R 1B9

www.countyofkings.ca

Glenn Horne <ghorne@wolfville.ca>

Fri, Sep 11, 2026 at 11:30 AM

To: Julia Merritt <jmerritt@valleylibrary.ca>

Cc: Jodi MacKay <JMacKay@wolfville.ca>, Janet Ness <janeteness@gmail.com>, Laura Morrison <lmorrison@wolfville.ca>

Good morning, Julia –

Wolfville Council met on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, for its Committee of the Whole. The request to reconsider the Town's increase in contribution to the AVRL was heard and was not supported. Contributing to this decision were three primary factors:

1. The province has again confirmed it will not provide any increase in funding for libraries, shifting the responsibility to municipal units outside the established funding formula;
2. Following the recent \$300,000 donation to AVRL and ongoing fundraising efforts, the Town understands that an increase in funding is not required to maintain existing service levels in all branches in this fiscal year; and
3. A one-time increase in funding by the Town and other municipal partners will not resolve the system's structural funding challenges.

While the request to increase the Town's contribution to the AVRL was not supported, the Committee did express that the Town is committed to continuing to push for meaningful conversation and directed staff to continue to work with the AVRL, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, our partner municipalities and the province to convene a discussion of library partners to develop a sustainable library model that meets the needs and reflects the means of the communities.

Thank you and the AVRL Board once again for your ongoing commitment to library services in our community. We are prepared to be part of any conversation that brings about meaningful, sustainable change for our communities.

Best,

Glenn



Glenn Horne (he/him)

Chief Administrative Officer

p (902) 599-2380 | e ghorne@wolfville.ca

359 Main St., Wolfville, NS B4P 1A1

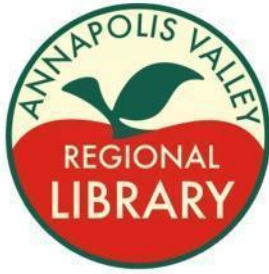
www.wolfville.ca

www.wolfvilleblooms.ca – our community thought garden is open!

The Town of Wolfville is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaw nation. We are all Treaty People.

Lead with care, creativity, and purpose – honour our past, enrich our present, and shape a resilient future.

DISCLAIMER: This email (and any attachments) is confidential, may be privileged, and is only for the use of the intended recipient. Other use is prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify us and delete this message. Thank you.



Annapolis Valley Regional Library

P.O. Box 510 236 Commercial Street Berwick, NS B0P 1E0

Phone 1-866-922-0229

www.valleylibrary.ca email: administration@valleylibrary.ca

Warden Diane LeBlanc
The Municipality of the County of Annapolis
PO Box 100, 752 St. George Street
Annapolis Royal NS
B0S 1A0

July 17, 2026

Dear Warden LeBlanc,

I am writing on behalf of the Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board to respectfully resubmit the AVRL Board's request for additional operational funding for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

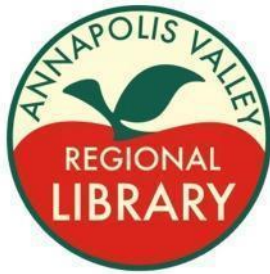
Since 2009, AVRL's budget has increased by 10% while the Bank of Canada estimates that inflation has increased by 43% during that same time period. Since 2015, AVRL has implemented significant cost-savings measures including reducing the permanent staff body by 25%, and eliminating programs, services, and partnerships.

2026-27 marked the year that status quo service at the branches became unsustainable, and the AVRL Board made the difficult decision to close five branches effective July 19, 2026.

In response to requests for more time to find a sustainable funding solution, the AVRL Board has agreed to use over 50% of its remaining reserve funds in the amount of \$88,000 to fund the continued operation of these branches until September 30th. We hope that this will offer all of our funding partners the time to consider supporting the continuation of comprehensive library service in the Annapolis Valley Region.

Since the Library Board's last meeting on July 13th, 2026, the Village of Lawrencetown has indicated that it wishes to withdraw from a service partnership with the AVRL.

Pending a full funding commitment from all funding partner municipalities, the remaining ten branches would be able to remain open until March 31, 2027. Without this full commitment, branches closures will need to go ahead in this fiscal year.



Annapolis Valley Regional Library

P.O. Box 510 236 Commercial Street Berwick, NS B0P 1E0

Phone 1-866-922-0229

www.valleylibrary.ca email: administration@valleylibrary.ca

Below is the chart of additional funds requested and granted to date, with the final column representing the updated amount respectfully requested by the AVRL Board. Municipalities are asked to respond by September 10, 2026.

Municipality	Amount Requested	Amount Granted	Updated Request Amount
Annapolis County	\$65,350	\$16,991	\$48,359
Annapolis Royal	\$1,700	\$1,700	n/a
Berwick	\$6,500	\$4,350	\$2,150
County of Kings	\$165,800	\$82,900	\$82,900
Kentville	\$21,400	\$21,400	n/a
Middleton	\$6,150	\$1,600*	\$6,150
West Hants	\$67,200	\$67,200**	\$67,200
Wolfville	\$15,150	\$3,939	\$11,211
Totals	\$351,450	\$200,080	\$217,970

* subject to matching contribution from the Province of Nova Scotia.

**subject to service levels remaining status quo in West Hants

The AVRL Board thanks the County of Annapolis for its commitment to date for the 2026-27 year. The Board notes that if the County wishes to make a contribution to the AVRL above and beyond our original request, that such an amount would be gratefully received.

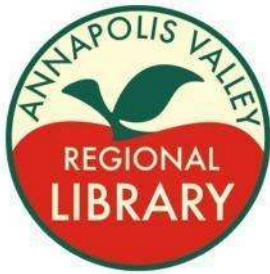
AVRL recognizes that library branches are used extensively by residents across the Region and in this very difficult time, we are asking the municipalities to support the AVRL and its service to the community as a whole. AVRL is likewise committed to working with the Province of Nova Scotia and all funding partner municipalities to identify sustainable funding solutions.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our libraries and the communities we serve. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Janet Ness, Chair

Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board



Annapolis Valley Regional Library

P.O. Box 510 236 Commercial Street Berwick, NS B0P 1E0

Phone 1-866-922-0229

www.valleylibrary.ca email: administration@valleylibrary.ca

Mayor Dave Corkum
Municipality of the County of Kings
181 Coldbrook Village Park Drive
Coldbrook NS
B4R 1B9

July 17, 2026

Dear Mayor Corkum,

I am writing on behalf of the Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board to respectfully resubmit the AVRL Board's request for additional operational funding for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

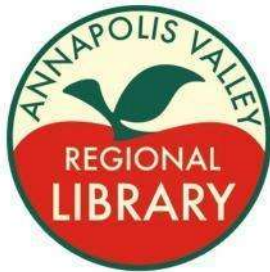
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Kentville	\$21,400	\$21,400	n/a
Middleton	\$6,150	\$1,600*	\$6,150
West Hants	\$67,200	\$67,200**	\$67,200
Wolfville	\$15,150	\$3,939	\$11,211
Totals	\$351,450	\$200,080	\$217,970

* subject to matching contribution from the Province of Nova Scotia.

**subject to service levels remaining status quo in West Hants.

The AVRL Board thanks the County for its commitment to date for the 2026-27 year. The Board also notes that if the County wishes to make a contribution to the AVRL above and beyond the AVRL's original request, that such an amount would be gratefully received.

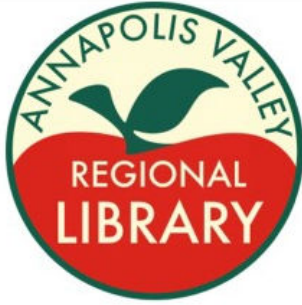
AVRL recognizes that library branches are used extensively by residents across the Region and in this very difficult time, we are asking the municipalities to support the AVRL and its service to the community as a whole. AVRL is likewise committed to working with the Province of Nova Scotia and all funding partner municipalities to identify sustainable funding solutions.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our libraries and the communities we serve. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Janet Ness, Chair

Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board



Annapolis Valley Regional Library
P.O. Box 510 236 Commercial Street Berwick, NS B0P 1E0
Phone 1-866-922-0229
www.valleylibrary.ca email: administration@valleylibrary.ca

Commission Chair Brian Reid
The Village of Lawrencetown
491 Main Street
Lawrencetown NS B0S 1M0
Sent via email: % villageclerk@lawrencetownnovascotia.ca

July 17, 2026

Dear Commissioner Reid,

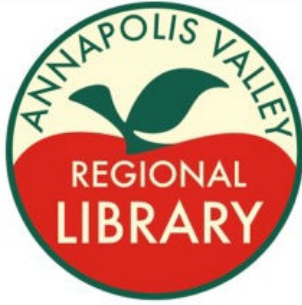
On behalf of the Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL) Board, I am writing to provide formal written confirmation of the Lawrencetown Village Commission's July 13, 2026 communication to AVRL regarding its intention to withdraw from receiving service from the AVRL at the Dr. Frank W. Morse Memorial (Lawrencetown) Library.

The AVRL hereby confirms that:

1. The last day of library service to be provided by the AVRL will be Saturday, July 18, 2026.
2. The AVRL will remove its collections, computers, and miscellaneous property on or before July 24, 2026.
3. The AVRL will remove the Dr. Frank W. Morse Memorial Library (Lawrencetown) from its website, catalogue, and promotional materials, and any other documents or items, as applicable.
4. The AVRL will not include the Village of Lawrencetown in future communications updates regarding library service being provided by AVRL to partner municipal units.

The AVRL Board understands that the Village is planning to provide service at this location and the AVRL wishes the Village all the best with its plans for the future.

If you have any further questions, or see any errors or omissions in this letter, please don't hesitate to reach out.



Annapolis Valley Regional Library

P.O. Box 510 236 Commercial Street Berwick, NS B0P 1E0

Phone 1-866-922-0229

www.valleylibrary.ca email: administration@valleylibrary.ca

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Ness".

Janet Ness, Chair

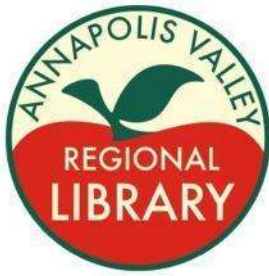
Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board

CC: Melissa Roscoe, Village Clerk, Village of Lawrencetown

Christopher Shore, Deputy Minister, Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

Sara Halliday, Assistant Deputy Minister, Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

Lynn Somers, Director, Nova Scotia Public Library, Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage



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Mayor Amery Boyer
Town of Annapolis Royal
P.O. Box 310
285 St. George Street
Annapolis Royal NS
B0S 1A0

July 17, 2026

Dear Mayor Boyer,

I am writing on behalf of the Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board with an update on the funding and operations at the AVRL for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

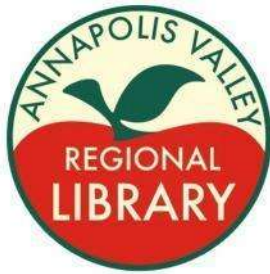
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2026-27 marked the year that status quo service at the branches became unsustainable, and the AVRL Board made the difficult decision to close five branches effective July 19, 2026.

In response to requests for more time to find a sustainable funding solution, the AVRL Board has agreed to use over 50% of its remaining reserve funds in the amount of \$88,000 to fund the continued operation of these branches until September 30th. We hope that this will offer all of our funding partners the time to consider supporting the continuation of comprehensive library service in the Annapolis Valley Region.

Since the Library Board's last meeting on July 13th, 2026, the Village of Lawrencetown has indicated that it wishes to withdraw from a service partnership with the AVRL.

Pending a full funding commitment from all funding partner municipalities, the remaining ten branches would be able to remain open until March 31, 2027. Without this full commitment, branches closures will need to go ahead in this fiscal year.



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County of Kings	\$165,800	\$82,900	\$82,900
Kentville	\$21,400	\$21,400	n/a
Middleton	\$6,150	\$1,600*	\$6,150
West Hants	\$67,200	\$67,200**	\$67,200
Wolfville	\$15,150	\$3,939	\$11,211
Totals	\$351,450	\$200,080	\$217,970

* subject to matching contribution from the Province of Nova Scotia.

** subject to service levels remaining status quo in West Hants.

The AVRL Board thanks the Town of Annapolis Royal for its commitment to date for the 2026-27 year. The Board also notes that if the Town wishes to make a contribution to the AVRL above and beyond its original commitment, that such an amount would be gratefully received.

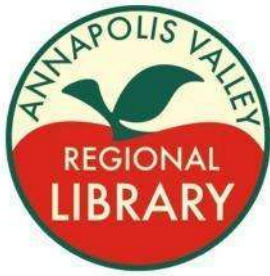
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Thank you for your ongoing support of our libraries and the communities we serve. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Janet Ness, Chair

Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board



Annapolis Valley Regional Library

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Mayor Mike Trinacty
Town of Berwick
P.O. Box 130, 236 Commercial Street
Berwick NS
B0P 1E0

July 17, 2026

Dear Mayor Trinacty,

I am writing on behalf of the Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board to respectfully resubmit the AVRL Board's request for additional operational funding for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

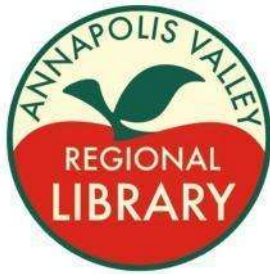
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* subject to matching contribution from the Province of Nova Scotia.

**subject to service levels remaining status quo in West Hants.

The AVRL Board thanks the Town of Berwick for its commitment to date for the 2026-27 year. The Board notes that if the Town wishes to make a contribution to the AVRL above and beyond the original request, that such an amount would be gratefully received.

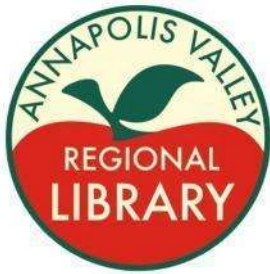
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Thank you for your ongoing support of our libraries and the communities we serve. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Janet Ness, Chair

Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board



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Mayor Andrew Zebian
Town of Kentville
354 Main Street
Kentville NS
B4N 1K6

July 17, 2026

Dear Mayor Zebian,

I am writing on behalf of the Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board with an update on the funding and operations at the AVRL for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

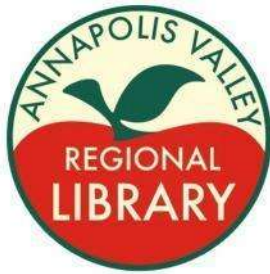
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* subject to matching contribution from the Province of Nova Scotia.

**subject to service levels remaining status quo in West Hants.

The AVRL Board thanks the Town of Kentville for its commitment to date for the 2026-27 year. The Board notes that if the Town wishes to make a contribution to the AVRL above and beyond its original commitment, that such an amount would be gratefully received.

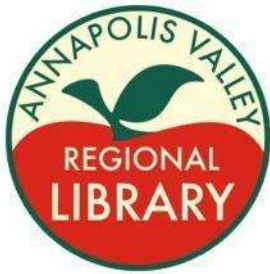
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Thank you for your ongoing support of our libraries and the communities we serve. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Janet Ness, Chair

Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board



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Mayor Gail Smith
Town of Middleton
P.O. Box 340
131 Commercial Street
Middleton NS
B0S 1P0

July 17, 2026

Dear Mayor Smith,

I am writing on behalf of the Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board to respectfully resubmit the AVRL Board's request for additional operational funding for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

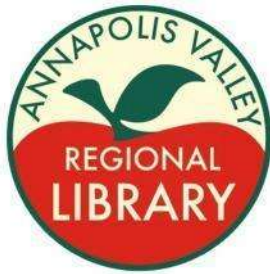
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* subject to matching contribution from the Province of Nova Scotia.

**subject to service levels remaining status quo in West Hants.

The AVRL Board thanks the Town of Middleton for its commitment to date for the 2026-27 year. The Board notes that if the Town wishes to make a contribution to the AVRL above and beyond the original request, that such an amount would be gratefully received.

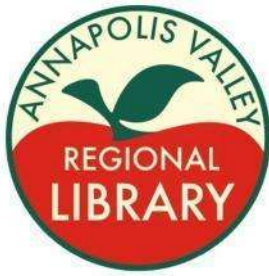
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Thank you for your ongoing support of our libraries and the communities we serve. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Janet Ness, Chair

Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board



Annapolis Valley Regional Library

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Phone 1-866-922-0229

www.valleylibrary.ca email: administration@valleylibrary.ca

Mayor Jodi MacKay
Town of Wolfville
359 Main Street
Wolfville NS
B4P 1A1

July 17, 2026

Dear Mayor MacKay,

I am writing on behalf of the Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board to respectfully resubmit the AVRL Board's request for additional operational funding for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

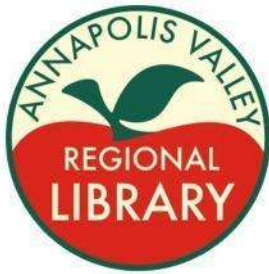
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Totals	\$351,450	\$200,080	\$217,970

* subject to matching contribution from the Province of Nova Scotia.

**subject to service levels remaining status quo in West Hants.

The AVRL Board thanks the Town of Wolfville for its commitment to date for the 2026-27 year. The Board notes that if the Town wishes to make a contribution to the AVRL above and beyond the original request, that such an amount would be gratefully received.

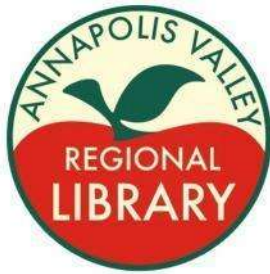
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Thank you for your ongoing support of our libraries and the communities we serve. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Janet Ness, Chair

Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board



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Mayor Abraham Zebian
West Hants Regional Municipality
P.O. Box 3000
76 Morrison Dr.
Windsor NS
B0N 2T0

July 17, 2026

Dear Mayor Zebian,

I am writing on behalf of the Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board to respectfully resubmit the AVRL Board's request for additional operational funding for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

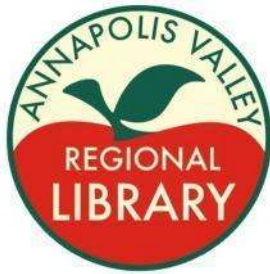
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Pending a full funding commitment from all funding partner municipalities, the remaining ten branches would be able to remain open until March 31, 2027. Without this full commitment, branches closures will need to go ahead in this fiscal year.



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Totals	\$351,450	\$200,080	\$217,970

* subject to matching contribution from the Province of Nova Scotia.

**subject to service levels remaining status quo in West Hants.

Although the AVRL Board recognizes that it was not able to meet the condition originally placed on this additional funding, the Board sincerely thanks the West Hants Regional Municipality for its previous commitment for the 2026-27 year. We hope that the WHRM will reconsider in light of the opportunity to preserve service in West Hants for the remainder of the 2026-27 fiscal year. The Board also notes that if the WHRM wishes to make a contribution to the AVRL above and beyond the original request, that such an amount would be gratefully received.

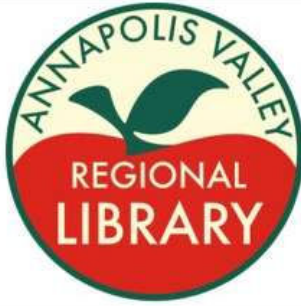
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Thank you for your ongoing support of our libraries and the communities we serve. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Janet Ness, Chair

Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board



Annapolis Valley Regional Library

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Phone 1-866-922-0229

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Warden James Fuller
Chair, Eastern Counties Regional Library Board
P.O. Box 2500
390 Murray Street
Mulgrave NS B0E 2G0
Sent via email: james.fuller@saint-marys.ca

July 24, 2026

Dear Warden James Fuller,

This letter is my acknowledgment of receipt of your letter re: a One Library Card Alliance issue dated July 21, 2026.

The AVRL's next Board meeting is on September 17, 2026 and I will add this matter to the agenda.

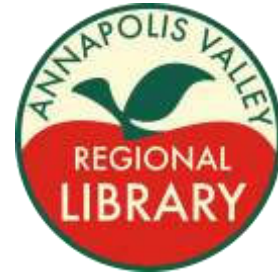
In the meantime, as the management of the Alliance is set up to be through the CEOs of each region, AVRL will be referring the issue back to the Alliance for a report at our next scheduled meeting.

Sincerely,

Janet Ness, Chair
Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board

CC: all member libraries of the One Library Card Alliance

Report



To: AVRIL Board
From: Julia Merritt, CEO
Date: September 17, 2026
Re: Municipal and Fundraising Financial Updates

This report is presented for information.

On July 17, 2026, the AVRIL reiterated its original request to the funding municipal partners for support in the 2026-27 fiscal year. As of September 11th, the following is the final summary of decisions:

Municipality	Amount Requested	Initial Amount Granted	Final Amount Granted
Annapolis County	\$65,350	\$16,991	\$16,991
Annapolis Royal	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$1,700
Berwick	\$6,500	\$4,350	\$4,350?
County of Kings	\$165,800	\$82,900	\$82,900
Kentville	\$21,400	\$21,400	\$21,400
Middleton	\$6,150	\$1,600	\$6,150
West Hants	\$67,200	\$67,200	\$67,200
Wolfville	\$15,150	\$3,939	\$3,939
Totals	\$351,450	\$200,080	\$204,630

Correspondence from the municipalities received by the deadline for the Board package is included in the Correspondence section and outlines their decision rationales. To date, a response from the Town of Berwick is outstanding.

Of the \$351,450 in support originally requested, the AVRIL will receive \$204,630, or 58% of its request. This is a difference in funding of \$4,550 from June 2026. The additional funds represent only several days of additional service continuity for all ten branches at AVRIL. However, the reinstatement of the contribution from West Hants will substantively support AVRIL for , in combination with the Rachel Reid donation. The 2026-27 budget needs to be updated once more to reflect that information. And estimated figures for 2027-28 have yet to be confirmed.

It is recommended that the AVRIL Board make a decision at its November 19th, 2026 meeting regarding any requests it will make of funding partner municipalities for the 2027-28 fiscal year.

Rachel Reid Donation

At the end of July, in response to the planned branch closures, Nova Scotia author Rachel Reid made a donation of \$300,000 to AVRL with no restrictions attached.

This donation will enable service at Hantsport, Kentville, Middleton, and Port Williams for roughly an additional seven months. Based on the Board's decisions about the use of its unrestricted reserve funds, this donation will begin to be used as of October 1st, 2026.

Other Donations 2026-27

Prior to and since the announcement of Rachel Reid's donation, other community members were responding with donations.

As of August 31, 2026, the total amount donated to AVRL is \$41,444.70.

Some donations are restricted to the use of specific branches. Notably, a \$20,000 donation was made for the exclusive use of the Berwick Branch.

September 12th Fundraising Event

Rachel Reid also offered a donation of her time and platform to engage in a fundraising exercise with AVRL. The University Hall at Acadia University was booked as the largest theatre-style venue in the area, with over 1,200 seats. Tickets were set at \$65 based on the lowest pricing of Rachel Reid's ticketed events.

Based on the venue capacity and speaker's popularity, AVRL staff set an internal goal of raising \$100,000 to support an additional two months' worth of extended service at AVRL in 2027-28.

The event featured:

- Rachel Reid in conversation with a host, with audience Q&A;
- Silent auction of unique, donated *Heated Rivalry* items that would not be available anywhere else, such as copies of the book signed by multiple cast members; and
- Signed books with local independent bookseller The Inside Story.

Financial Performance of Fundraising Event

As of September 14th, the current tally for the fundraising event is as follows:

- Ticket Sales \$38,870 net of box office fees (approx 600 tickets)
- Silent Auction Sept 12th: \$16,775
- Canada Helps: \$11,439 donated since the August 17/26 news release

- Sticker Fundraiser (independent): \$4,400
- Acadia platform donations: \$750 (Sept 8 data)

Total Raised: \$72,234

Costs for the event were limited to the venue rental and box office fees, as Rachel Reid donated her time and the silent auction items.

Successes and Challenges

Successes

The event itself went extremely smoothly and received a great deal of positive feedback from attendees and presenters. There were multiple ways for people to donate even if they couldn't attend the event, and multiple ways to participate at the event at different price points (buying a signed copy of the book, versus participating at the silent auction).

Challenges

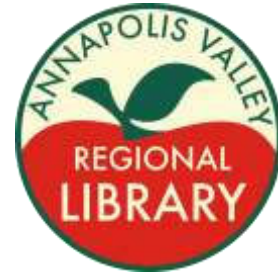
The initial three posts launching the donation and fundraising event on Instagram and Facebook yielded over a million views on each platform (over two million views total). However, despite the popularity of the author's work and the extensive media reach, this did not translate directly into ticket sales. Only 50% of seats were sold, or approximately 600 tickets purchased (excluding comps).

A significant portion of the funds raised came from small individual donations made on Canada Helps and through the independent sticker fundraiser. Collectively, these small donations add up to almost the same amount as was raised at the silent auction.

The challenges encountered in pushing engagement with the event highlights the difficulty of fundraising for large quantities of operational funds, even with significant talent and marketing reach combined with low costs. Further, this type of event should not be considered replicable. Rachel Reid is arguably the most famous author in North America in 2026, and the donation of her time, talent, and media platform is exceptional.

Additional fundraising efforts would require dedicated labour and cannot be a replacement for sustainable public funding.

Report



To: AVRIL Board
From: Julia Merritt, CEO
Date: September 17, 2026
Re: Income Statement April – August 2026

This report is presented for information.

Notes on the Income Statement April – August 2026, 41.6% YTD

General Note: although this budget was altered in June 2026 to reflect the decisions of the Board and the information available at the time, additional changes to need to be made to reflect the updated decisions of the funding municipal partners, the extension of service at all ten branches with corresponding staffing costs, etc. The updates will be made for the November AVRIL Board meeting.

Revenue

- 4020 Provincial Revenue: \$58,000 from the reallocated Library Development Fund is reflected here. The Library Development Fund is a \$500,000 application-based grant fund for Nova Scotia's public libraries that is already part of the government's budget and which was reallocated to the libraries' operational expenses in 2026-27.
- 4030 Municipal Revenue: as noted above, some of these budget estimates need to be updated in response to the municipal funding decisions.
- 4703 Grant Revenue: The estimated revenue of \$76,200 is made up of the revenue received from the Library Development Fund in 4020 Provincial Revenue, and the postage grant from the One Card Library Alliance listed in 4100. The postage grant funds were from 2025-26 funding but were not sent to the OCLA libraries until the 2026-27 fiscal year.
- 4991 Transfer from Restricted Fund: the withdrawal from the Evans fund for the staffing at the Annapolis Royal Branch has been completed and is reflected on the Income Statement.

Expenses

- 6400 Salaries and Wages: this is slightly lower than forecast due to the resignation of two senior managers in May and June. This budget line will need to be adjusted to reflect service at all ten branches being extended through March 2027.
- 6900 Extraordinary Expenditures:
 - 6910 Severance Costs: all severance payments for layoffs have been completed.

- 6920 Restructuring Costs: this includes the amount paid to the facilitators for the Board's April and May meetings, as well as additional shelving for the Administration office to take on the collection from the Lawrencetown Branch, and to make better use of the space now that the Administration staff has been reduced by over 50%.
- Further expenses under 6900 are expected to be minimal. Some of these funds will be able to be redirected to 2027-28 operations if the Board chooses to do so. Further updates on this item will be available as the fiscal year progresses and the budget estimates for 2027-28 begin.

Deferred Revenue April – June 2026

Note that this report is current as of June 30, 2026, prior to any withdrawals from the Evans fund for the Annapolis Royal Branch. This report will be updated for the November Board meeting.

Board Reporting

Annapolis Valley Regional Library
For the period ended August 31, 2026



Prepared by
MNP Ease Cloud Accounting

Prepared on
September 11, 2026

Management Reports - Internal: Budget vs. Actuals FY27

April 2026 - March 2027

	Actual	Budget	over Budget	Total % of Budget
INCOME				
4010 Revenue - Lost Books	650.40		650.40	
4020 Revenue - Province	1,018,000.00	1,919,600.00	-901,600.00	53.03 %
4030 Revenue - Municipal				
4031 Annapolis County	73,845.50	147,691.00	-73,845.50	50.00 %
4032 Annapolis Royal	2,550.00	5,100.00	-2,550.00	50.00 %
4033 Berwick	10,875.00	21,750.00	-10,875.00	50.00 %
4034 Kentville	21,400.00	16,050.00	5,350.00	133.33 %
4035 Kings County	207,250.00	414,500.00	-207,250.00	50.00 %
4036 Middleton	3,075.00	3,075.00	0.00	100.00 %
4037 West Hants	67,200.00	134,400.00	-67,200.00	50.00 %
4039 Wolfville	17,119.50	34,239.00	-17,119.50	50.00 %
Total 4030 Revenue - Municipal	403,315.00	776,805.00	-373,490.00	51.92 %
4100 Revenue - One Card Library Alliance	20,783.38		20,783.38	
4105 Revenue - Printing	14,918.90	27,000.00	-12,081.10	55.26 %
4701 Revenue - Book Sales	975.50		975.50	
4702 Revenue - Donations	352,949.29	20,000.00	332,949.29	1,764.75 %
4703 Revenue - Grants	8,031.32	76,200.00	-68,168.68	10.54 %
4704 Revenue - Misc	489.80		489.80	
4705 Revenue - Wages External Funding	1,015.42		1,015.42	
4706 Revenue- Donation Specific	1,222.00		1,222.00	
4901 Revenue - Interest	9,562.69	20,000.00	-10,437.31	47.81 %
4990 Funds transfer				
4991 Transfer from Restricted Funds	96,000.00	96,000.00	0.00	100.00 %
Total 4990 Funds transfer	96,000.00	96,000.00	0.00	100.00 %
Total Income	1,927,913.70	2,935,605.00	-1,007,691.30	65.67 %
GROSS PROFIT	1,927,913.70	2,935,605.00	-1,007,691.30	65.67 %

	Actual	Budget	over Budget	Total % of Budget
EXPENSES				
5000 Capital purchases				
5001 Books, Periodicals & related costs		340,000.00	-340,000.00	
5010 Book Processing Expenses	10,630.49		10,630.49	
5015 Books Purchases	78,806.67		78,806.67	
5016 DVD & Digital Purchases	50,154.42		50,154.42	
5035 Periodical Purchases	5,679.80		5,679.80	
Total 5001 Books, Periodicals & related costs	145,271.38	340,000.00	-194,728.62	42.73 %
5020 Equipment Purchases		5,500.00	-5,500.00	
5025 Furniture Purchases		3,000.00	-3,000.00	
5026 Capital Purchases - Other	207.71		207.71	
Total 5000 Capital purchases	145,479.09	348,500.00	-203,020.91	41.74 %
6005 Advertising & Promotion	1,053.02		1,053.02	
6010 Bank Charges	963.40	2,500.00	-1,536.60	38.54 %
6560 VISA Charges	120.00		120.00	
Total 6010 Bank Charges	1,083.40	2,500.00	-1,416.60	43.34 %
6015 Communication & Internet Expenses	2,731.19	7,000.00	-4,268.81	39.02 %
6017 Computer Application & Service Costs	7,129.60		7,129.60	
6020 Dues, Fees, & Memberships	102.82		102.82	
6040 Insurance	7,430.40	19,500.00	-12,069.60	38.10 %
6050 Miscellaneous Expenses		500.00	-500.00	
6055 Office Expenses	12,030.28	40,000.00	-27,969.72	30.08 %
6060 Postage	16,524.01	30,000.00	-13,475.99	55.08 %
6065 Professional Fees	61,242.75	95,000.00	-33,757.25	64.47 %
6200 Program Costs				
6201 Advertising & Marketing	815.07	6,000.00	-5,184.93	13.58 %
6205 Misc	1,377.55		1,377.55	
6207 Staffing Expenses	6.17		6.17	
6209 Supplies	1,393.82	11,000.00	-9,606.18	12.67 %
Total 6200 Program Costs	3,592.61	17,000.00	-13,407.39	21.13 %

				Total
	Actual	Budget	over Budget	% of Budget
6300 Rent	28,909.11	69,550.00	-40,640.89	41.57 %
6305 Repairs & Maintenance	1,059.91		1,059.91	
6350 Service Contracts		35,000.00	-35,000.00	
6351 Alliance	29,812.54	63,300.00	-33,487.46	47.10 %
6352 Photocopying	2,103.86		2,103.86	
Total 6350 Service Contracts	31,916.40	98,300.00	-66,383.60	32.47 %
6400 Salaries & Wages	830,315.70	2,115,214.00	-1,284,898.30	39.25 %
6401 Blue Cross Expenses	14,911.89		14,911.89	
6403 CPP Expense	42,159.64		42,159.64	
6405 EI Expense	18,379.30		18,379.30	
6406 Payroll Service Chrg	4,112.03	12,000.00	-7,887.97	34.27 %
6407 Pension Expense	42,671.30		42,671.30	
6408 Union Dues	0.00		0.00	
6410 WCB Expense	8,707.58		8,707.58	
Total 6400 Salaries & Wages	961,257.44	2,127,214.00	-1,165,956.56	45.19 %
6600 Vehicle Expenses		22,000.00	-22,000.00	
6601 Fuel	2,793.54		2,793.54	
6603 R&M	886.32		886.32	
Total 6600 Vehicle Expenses	3,679.86	22,000.00	-18,320.14	16.73 %
6650 Board Expenses	117.34	1,700.00	-1,582.66	6.90 %
6651 Meals & Ent	530.69		530.69	
Total 6650 Board Expenses	648.03	1,700.00	-1,051.97	38.12 %
6700 Staff Expenses		30,000.00	-30,000.00	
6455 Staff Training/Conferences	952.65	750.00	202.65	127.02 %
6701 Meals & Ent	275.71		275.71	
6702 Travel	1,476.60		1,476.60	
6703 Misc	3,062.77		3,062.77	
Total 6700 Staff Expenses	5,767.73	30,750.00	-24,982.27	18.76 %
6900 Extraordinary expenditures				
6910 Severance Costs	132,511.83	231,200.00	-98,688.17	57.31 %

				Total
	Actual	Budget	over Budget	% of Budget
6920 Restructuring Costs	43,492.92	100,000.00	-56,507.08	43.49 %
Total 6900 Extraordinary expenditures	176,004.75	331,200.00	-155,195.25	53.14 %
Total Expenses	1,467,642.40	3,240,714.00	-1,773,071.60	45.29 %
NET OPERATING INCOME	460,271.30	-305,109.00	765,380.30	-150.85 %
NET INCOME	\$460,271.30	\$ -305,109.00	\$765,380.30	-150.85 %

Annapolis Valley Regional Library

Deferred Revenue Report - Detailed

March 31, 2024-June 30, 2026

Item class	2600 Deferred Revenue
AR- Bequest (Evans Estate)	1,231,897.08
AR- General	564.80
AR-Innovation-Lab	0.00
AR- Peter Mansour Donation	168.77
AVRL-Adaptive Equipment	4,105.17
AVRL- BookBikes - Libracycle	0.00
AVRL- Bookclub in a Bag	2,422.33
AVRL- Bridge Funding	0.00
AVRL- Cancer Resources	734.27
AVRL- CFUW	3,835.23
AVRL- CPI Trainer	882.91
AVRL- CNet 150 Makers	689.95
AVRL- Curtis Chipman	11,072.99
AVRL- FLIEF	4,292.54
AVRL-Food Security Init	0.00
AVRL- General	1,023.10
AVRL-Grant-Tax	0.00
AVRL-LDF-Comm Consultation	0.00
AVRL-LDF-Comm with Library	0.00
AVRL-LDF-Sharing NS	1,352.64
AVRL-LDF-Staff Training	858.37
AVRL- Moving Through Grant	2,034.14
AVRL- Period Poverty	24,865.48
AVRL- SERAD	3,369.79
AVRL- Teen Zone	29,804.07
BE- Harry Potter	2,201.08
BE-Library Fund	4,080.81
BE- Outdoor Reading Room	334.34
BE- Programming	2,177.56
BR- Anonymous Funds	2,158.90
BR- Book Sales	294.71
BR- Expansion	605.07
BR-Friends-Fund	491.08
BR-Friends-Programming	91.74
BR-Roberta White	10,000.00
BR- Wellness	136.53
HA- Book Sales	18.00
HA- Donations	13.55
HA-Program Room	46.23
KE- Book Sales	1,331.69
KE- Computer Classes	2,418.64
KE- Valerie Goldin Donation	7,454.92
KI- Book Sales	1,011.42
KI- Canada Helps Building	2,078.43
KI- Canada Post	8,247.68
KI- General	53,621.08
KI-Grant-Tax	1,594.96
KI- Programming	160.65
LA- Book Sales	678.30

Item class	2600 Deferred Revenue
LA- General	0.00
LA- Literacy	61.67
MI- Book Sales	1,299.31
MI- Estate of C Harvey	1,357.75
MI- Estate of David Arthur Ritchie	86,905.43
MI-Friends-Programming	495.38
PW- Book Sales	488.20
PW-Friends-Donations	3,670.24
WI- Book Sales	1,835.16
WI- General	1,607.18
WI-Nordic Walking Poles	72.66
WO- eBikes	441.34
WO- General	7,331.99
WO-General-Donations	50.00
WO-Hammett Donations	3,971.48
WO-Innovation-Lab	9,035.54
WO-New Building	175,342.86
WO- NS Tech	42.96
	0.01
Total	1,719,230.16

September 14, 2026

Report to the Board of Trustees

Annapolis Valley Regional Library

A current investment statement and investment performance statement are attached. The current value of the consolidated account is \$2,017,106. Annualized return from inception is 6.03%

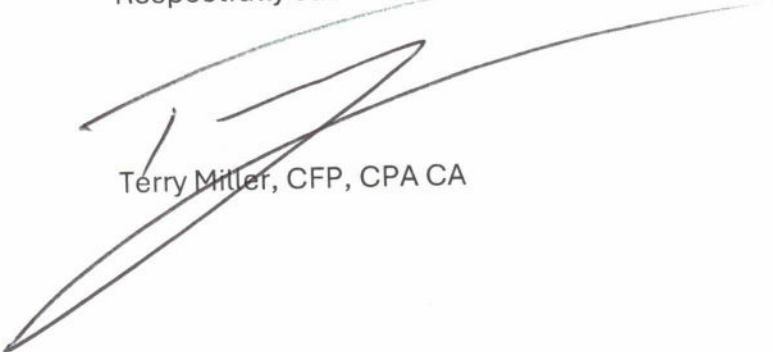
The accounts have seen a \$68,159 increase in market value during this fiscal year from April 1/26 – 3.0%

There were two cash withdrawals from the account in July. \$220,000 from the working capital account leaving a current balance of \$88,000. That account has a \$108,000 increase in value from inception.

The second withdraw was from the endowment fund for \$96,000 on July 22. This account has seen \$379,000 from inception.

Fixed income markets have been stressed due to global geopolitical and fiscal debt concerns. This has impacted balanced portfolios as fixed income has been a negative drag on the account this fiscal year. The 3% year to date return has come entirely from the equity side of the account.

Respectfully submitted



Terry Miller, CFP, CPA CA

Terry Miller, CFP, CPA CA

Financial Advisor - Investia Financial Services Inc.

35 Webster Street, Kentville, Nova Scotia B4N 1H4

Tel: (902) 678-9846 Fax: (902) 678-9845 Cell: (902) 670-0070 Toll Free: 1-866-535-8433

terry.miller@holliswealth.com

Portfolio Listing For ANNAPOLIS VALLEY REGIONAL LIBRARY

Client ID: 398202127

Rate of Return Method: IRR

Market value as of: 11-Sep-2026

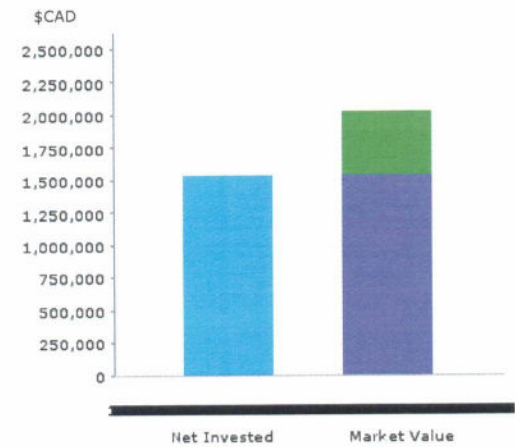
ROR Timeframe: - 6. mm 75.

Portfolio is grouped by: Plan, then Investment Type, then Manager

Description	% Portfolio	Net Invested	Book Value	Market Value	RoR %
SD Open / Non-Registered, Investia Financial Services Inc. (INV) (Plan Acct # 398208899)	4.38	-20,051.78	74,507.92	88,329.46	4.94
Cash Management Account	0.04	8,947.46	870.76	870.76	
Investia Financial Services Inc. (Cash)	0.04	8,947.46	870.76	870.76	
Cash Control Account (CAD) INVXCCA NL 398179816		8,947.46	870.76	870.76	
Mutual Fund	4.34	-4,222.04	73,637.16	87,458.70	5.48
Dynamic Funds (DYN)	0.00	-23,948.45	0.00	0.00	5.44
Dyn. Asset Allocation Private Pool Series F DYN3912 FCL 458672326		-23,948.45	0.00	0.00	5.44
Fidelity Investments	4.34	27,001.04	73,637.16	87,458.70	5.52
Fid. Conservative Income Private Pool Series F FID2706 FCL 108206802		55,267.30	73,637.16	87,458.70	3.12
Fid. Asset Allocation Private Pool Series F FID135 FCL 108206802		-28,266.26	0.00	0.00	6.25
Northwest and Ethical Investments L.P. (NWT)	0.00	-7,274.63	0.00	0.00	0.76
NEI Conservative Yield Portfolio Series F NWT599 FCL 65929137		-475.08	0.00	0.00	
SD Open / Non-Registered, Investia Financial Services Inc. (INV) (Plan Acct # 405486940)	95.62	1,549,976.28	1,892,021.43	1,928,776.06	3.03
Cash Management Account	0.00	20,506.45	0.00	0.00	
Investia Financial Services Inc. (Cash)	0.00	20,506.45	0.00	0.00	
Cash Control Account (CAD) INVXCCA NL 405486941		20,506.45	0.00	0.00	
High Interest Savings Account	11.04	153,605.72	222,704.66	222,704.66	1.05
Dynamic Funds (DYN)	10.51	147,191.88	211,942.67	211,942.67	1.05
Dyn. BNST Corporate Tiered Investment Savings Account DYN5002 NL 460934615		77,191.88	106,311.39	106,311.39	1.05
Dyn. BNS Corp. Tiered Investment Savings Account DYN6002 NL 460934615		70,000.00	105,631.28	105,631.28	1.05
Home Trust Company (HOM)	0.53	7,163.83	10,761.99	10,761.99	1.05
HOM. Home Trust High Interest Saving Account HOM100 NL 150345001		7,163.83	10,761.99	10,761.99	1.05
Mutual Fund	84.58	1,421,368.26	1,669,316.77	1,706,071.40	3.68
AGF Investments Inc.	3.13	60,000.00	70,178.03	63,176.30	10.74
AGF Global Select Series F AGF808 FCL 51851127		60,000.00	70,178.03	63,176.30	10.74
BMO Investments Inc. (BMO)	4.08	73,100.00	85,456.15	82,367.66	15.22
BMO Global Equity Series F BMO95743 FCL 102664345		80,231.39	85,456.15	82,367.66	
BMO Concentrated Global Equity Series F BMO95213 FCL 102664345		-7,131.39	0.00	0.00	12.44
Dynamic Funds (DYN)	4.48	68,100.00	89,843.04	90,302.81	5.28
Dyn. Global Dividend Series F DYN1131 FCL 460934615		68,100.00	89,843.04	90,302.81	5.28
Fidelity Investments	8.74	-3,730.92	122,397.64	176,194.59	12.34
Fid. Canadian Disciplined Equity Series F FID624 FCL 117077766		124,800.00	122,397.64	176,194.59	12.34
IA Clarington Investments Inc. (CCM)	15.60	314,345.35	327,395.54	314,765.49	0.44
IA Clarington Agile Global Total Return Income Series F CCM5604 FCL 2116694001		314,345.35	327,395.54	314,765.49	0.44
Lysander Funds Limited (LYZ)	15.43	314,345.34	327,467.12	311,139.29	-0.26
Lysander-Canso Corporate Value Bond Series F LYZ801F FCL 1631260		314,345.34	327,467.12	311,139.29	-0.26
Mackenzie Investments (MFC)	17.41	291,800.00	315,072.30	351,111.78	6.14
Mack. Bluewater Canadian Growth Series F MFC091 FCL 78052129		239,300.00	255,345.25	273,404.45	4.68
Mack. Global Dividend Series F MFC2422 FCL 78052129		52,500.00	59,727.05	77,707.33	11.61
PIMCO Canada Corp. (PMO)	15.72	314,439.66	331,506.95	317,013.48	-0.46
PIMCO Monthly Income (Canada) Series M (F) PMO505 FCL 101680263001		314,844.72	331,506.95	317,013.48	-0.46
Total*	100.00	1,529,924.50	1,966,529.35	2,017,105.52	3.25

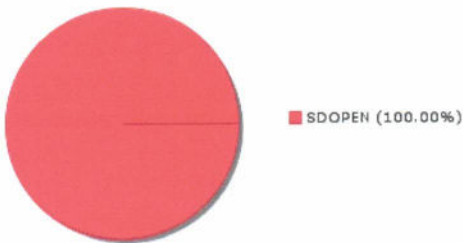
PortfolioINSIGHTS - Portfolio Overview For ANNAPOLIS VALLEY REGIONAL LIBRARY

Client ID: 398202127
Rate of Return Method: IRR
Net Invested and Market Value
Inception Date: 31-Jan-2022

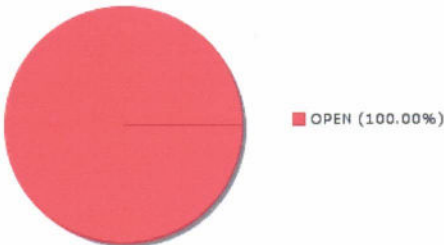


Market Value	\$2,017,105.52
Net Invested	\$1,529,924.50
Invested	\$2,079,037.79
Withdrawn	-\$549,113.29
Gain	\$487,181.02

Assets by Plan Type



Assets by Plan Group



Group By: Plan Type

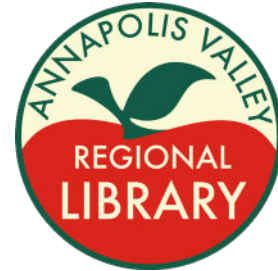
Performance (IRR)							
1-month	3-month	6-month	1-year	3-year	5-year	10-year	Inception
-1.66	-0.88	3.25	2.48	7.17	-	-	6.03

Group By: Plan Group

Calendar Performance (IRR)										
2026 (YTD)	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	Prior
1.79	6.26	10.16	7.10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Disclaimer: "This is an unofficial record for information purposes only."

CEO Update



To: AVRL Board
From: Julia Merritt
Date: September 17, 2026
Re: CEO Report to Board

Operations Update

- **Staffing:**
 - The Manager of HR and Regional Branch Manager resigned in May and June 2026, respectively. The CEO has been completing the tasks associated with these positions.
 - Leah Campbell has been hired as the new Regional Branch Manager and started in late August.
 - Casual staff have been taking the majority of shifts at the four branches where service was extended. Service disruption has been relatively minimal during this time.
 - Following the Rachel Reid donation and agreement with NSUPE Local 23 regarding process, hiring for contract staff is under way for Hantsport, Kentville, Middleton and Port Williams. The incumbents are expected to start by mid-October. Contracts are being issued for six months with the possibility of extension.
- The first self-checkout station will be launched in October in the Wolfville Branch. AVRL will be using the Meescan platform, which is already in use at South Short Public Library and configured in the Alliance systems. The infrastructure needed is minimal, requiring only an iPad and a receipt printer. Wolfville will be undertaking some rearranging of collections and workflows to make this process smooth for staff and patrons.

- Beginning in the Fall/Winter of 2026, AVRL will be coordinating the reintroduction of Storytimes at all ten locations. This will be the first part of the plan to restart system-wide programming, based on sustainable staff capacity and as per the 2025-2028 AVRL Strategic Plan. Rollout will be staggered and will depend on completing training for staff at each branch (if those skill sets are not already in place).

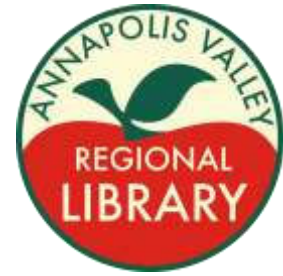
Statistical Reports

- Year-to-date circulation in 2026-27 is lower than 2025-26. Notable influences on this metric include:
 - All AVRL branches being closed for two weeks in June. Subsequent individual branches have experienced unanticipated closures due to staffing shortages.
 - AVRL did not have any summer students to activate the Summer Reading Challenge and encourage additional reading engagement during the summer holidays.
 - Other Same Page libraries have drastically reduced spending on collection materials, so the rate of items being borrowed from Same Page is reducing. AVRL still borrows more than it lends, however this ratio has significantly reduced.
- Use of E-content remains steady or growing.
- Computer and wireless access remains steady or is growing.

Strategic Items

- Wolfville branch update: in July, AVRL was notified that based on the assessment completed by Fathom Studio and Town staff's recommendation, the Town relocating all Town Hall and Recreation Centre staff to its Dykeland facility. This means that the project for a joint Library/Town Hall is no longer proceeding. Town Staff will facilitate further discussion in the Fall of 2026 with Wolfville Council to determine what the next steps may be for the Library facility.
- The Council of Regional Librarians has a meeting scheduled with staff at the Ministry of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage on Wednesday, September 16th.

Report



To: AVRL Board
From: Julia Merritt, CEO
Date: September 17, 2026
Re: Performance Measures April 2026 – July 2026

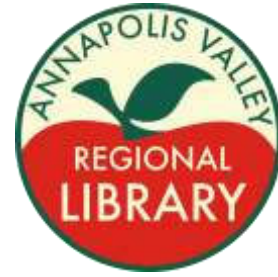
Circulation of Materials				Total Patrons			
Branch	April -July 2025	April -July 2026	% Change	Branch	2025	2026	% Change
Annapolis Royal	12,662	10,055	-20.59	Annapolis Royal	1,862	1,754	-5.80
Berwick	24,399	21,508	-11.85	Berwick	2,873	2,894	+0.73
Bridgetown	8,438	7,621	-9.68	Bridgetown	857	830	-3.15
Deposit Services	4,128	3,315	-19.69	Deposit Services	92	84	-8.70
Hantsport	3,670	3,790	+3.27	Hantsport	585	591	+1.03
Kentville	37,927	30,222	-20.32	Headquarters	144	125	-13.19
Kingston	19,366	16,916	-12.65	Kentville	5,126	5,081	-0.88
Lawrencetown	2,909	3,117	+7.15	Kingston	2,948	2,880	-2.31
Middleton	22,054	16,458	-25.37	Lawrencetown	492	474	-3.66
Port Williams	10,281	9,268	-9.85	Middleton	1,914	1,933	+0.99
Windsor	22,574	19,960	-11.58	Port Williams	748	769	+2.81
Wolfville	33,375	29,069	-12.90	Windsor	3,568	3,497	-1.99
Borrow By Mail	3,947	3,761	-4.71	Wolfville	4,320	4,155	-3.82
Audiobooks/ebooks	31,434	30,957	-1.52	Total	25,529	25,069	-1.80
Emagazines	12,046	13,005	+7.96				
Kanopy	1,393	1,988	+42.71				
Total	250,633	221,010	-11.82				

AVRL Computer Statistics April 2026 – July 2026

Branch	Number of Computers 2025	Number of Computers 2026	2025 Total Hours of Computer Usage for Period	2026 Total Hours of Computer Usage for Period	% Change
Annapolis Royal	4	4	427	416	-2.58
Berwick	4	4	431	509	+18.10
Bridgetown	4	4	347	305	-12.10
Hantsport	4	4	65	65	0.00
Kentville	6	6	1,489	1,184	-20.48
Kingston	4	4	1,064	1,098	+3.20
Lawrencetown	5	-	64	70	+9.38
Middleton	4	4	811	788	-2.84
Port Williams	6	6	172	115	-33.14
Windsor	9	9	1,693	1,635	-3.43
Wolfville	3 + 4 Lab= 7	4	621	593	-4.51
Total	57	49	7,183	6,777	-5.65

Branch	2025 Total Hours of Wireless Use for Period	2026 Total Hours of Wireless Use for Period	% Change	2025 Total Number of Wireless Connections for Period	2026 Total Number of Wireless Connections for Period	% Change
Annapolis Royal	11,278.04	21,806.81	+93.36	5,160	9,410	+82.36
Berwick	13,322.34	11,031.93	-17.19	4,578	5,327	+16.36
Bridgetown	3,157.09	3,617.93	+14.60	4,779	5,997	+25.49
Hantsport	2,222.69	2,516.49	+13.22	1,180	1,105	-6.36
Kentville	8,728.88	8,424.77	-3.48	7,171	7,069	-1.42
Kingston	5,087.04	2,759.28	-45.76	2,515	2,433	-3.26
Lawrencetown	3,562.00	2,948.88	-17.21	2,274	1,667	-26.69
Middleton	9,828.22	5,608.85	-42.93	6,519	4,592	-29.56
Port Williams	2,185.40	2,275.97	+4.14	1,612	1,701	+5.52
Windsor	7,163.49	9,441.22	+31.80	4,743	6,134	+29.33
Wolfville	5,526.30	4,415.23	-20.11	4,465	6,223	+39.37
Total	72,061.49	74,847.36	+3.87	44,996	51,658	+14.81

Report



To: AVRIL Board
From: Julia Merritt, CEO
Date: September 17, 2026
Re: Same Page Background

This report is presented for information and decision.

Background on the One Card Library Alliance AKA "Same Page"

In 2019, the eight rural regional library boards in Nova Scotia, including AVRIL, agreed to become members of what is now the One Library Card Alliance (OCLA, or "The Alliance"). Under the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, The Alliance is a registered Society (Reg #3331749) created to collectively operate and govern the shared library system to the public as Same Page. Same Page includes the shared database containing library collection and patron records of all eight regions, as well as the public online catalogue accessible through library websites. The Same Page catalog and service launched in April 2022.

Each regional library board is a member of the Society and appoints its Regional Director, Chief Librarian or Chief Executive Officer as its representative. Those representatives meet as the voting members of the Alliance and make decisions collectively on matters relating to the shared system. Under the bylaws, management of the Society rests with its members, and a motion requires the support of six of the eight voting members (a supermajority).

The Alliance also establishes common policies governing use of and access to the shared system, including requirements related to privacy and confidentiality of library records. The Privacy Policy approved January 11, 2022 article 9 states: "Personal information relating to a library user may only be accessed or used when required by library employees working within the scope of their duties."

These safeguards are particularly important because staff with system access may have access to personal patron information across the entire province. Within each regional library, employees are accountable to their employer for complying with these requirements. AVRIL employees, for example, are bound by confidentiality agreements as a condition of employment, and breaches may be addressed through the Library's disciplinary process, up to and including dismissal.

Further, the Alliance is responsible for licensing agreements held with SirsiDynix (for the staff catalog) and Bibliocommons (for the public catalog) which are in the name of, and paid for by, the Alliance. These contracts state that access by third parties is not permitted.

In practical terms, the individual library boards continue to govern their own regional library systems, while decisions concerning the shared Same Page system are made collectively through the Alliance. Regional representatives make decisions on these matters through the Alliance's established governance process. Recent Alliance discussions have reaffirmed that distinction: staffing decisions remain with the individual regional library, while access to the shared Same Page system is governed through the Alliance.

Whycocomagh Library Timeline

At the December 1, 2025 Alliance meeting, the ECRL CEO shared a draft Service Agreement with the County of Inverness for a new library in Whycocomagh. The agreement stated that it would not be an official ECRL branch and it would be staffed by municipal staff.

At this meeting, the members of the Alliance voted that allowing the operation of the catalog by a third party (the municipality) did not meet the requirements of the Privacy Policy, articles of incorporation, or the Alliance's existing agreements. However, in support of the creation of a new library branch, The Alliance identified changes that could be made to the proposed arrangement so that it would meet Alliance requirements, and referred the issue back to the ECRL Board/County of Inverness to determine a solution. The understanding at the Alliance table was that ECRL would come back with a revised arrangement for further consideration.

The Alliance did not subsequently receive a revised agreement or further information for review and the Whycocomagh Library project moved forward without satisfying any of the concerns raised.

When the Whycocomagh branch opened in June 2026, the Alliance learned that it was operating with a municipal employee under the arrangement that was previously deemed noncompliant. Despite not being an ECRL branch and being entirely staffed, governed, and operated by the municipality, it planned to use the Same Page catalog and access the same benefits as a full Same Page member.

From the Alliance's perspective, the important distinction is that it is not determining how ECRL staffs the Whycocomagh Library. ECRL remains responsible for its own staffing and operational decisions. The Alliance maintains the position that it has responsibility for determining who may access the shared Same Page system and under what conditions. That distinction was reaffirmed at the Alliance's recent special meeting.

Correspondence (see 5.1.2, 5.1.4, 5.1.5, 5.1.7, 5.2.10)

On June 18, 2026 The Alliance wrote to the ECRL Board addressing the noncompliant operational structure and advising that access to the computers in that facility would be suspended.

On June 23, ECRL wrote to The Alliance asking if the secondment of a staff person from the municipality to ECRL would satisfy the concerns.

On June 25, the Alliance confirmed that yes, provided the library is staffed by and employee of a regional library board, catalogue access could be restored.

On July 21, the ECRL Board Chair sent the same “formal complaint” to each of the other 7 library board chairs.

On July 24, the AVRL Board Chair replied to ECRL referring the matter to staff for further information. The other six member libraries sent similar letters. This report is the next step in this process.

ECRL’s Position as of July 21, 2026

ECRL argues that the Alliance exceeded its authority and that the decision regarding Same Page access interferes with ECRL’s authority to determine how library service is delivered in Whycocomagh. ECRL has therefore written directly to the individual library boards seeking support for its position and for reversal of the Alliance’s decision, including full access to the Whycocomagh Branch computers with no restrictions on who may access the system.

The Alliance’s Position

The Alliance met on July 28 to review the letter, the history of the matter and its governance authority.

It is the interpretation of the Alliance members that, as a legally independent organization, no individual member can commit the other members to a decision that circumvents the existing articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies, and other agreements including contracts for service and liability insurance.

The power of the ECRL Board to enter into agreements/partnerships with third parties does not extend to committing the entire Alliance to do so as well.

Therefore, as the County of Inverness is not a member of the One Library Card Alliance, their employees cannot access the technology licensed to the Alliance.

Further, given that the bylaws of the Alliance state that the representative of each member library is the CEO, and that the operation of the Alliance is limited in scope to administering the system technology, it is the majority opinion of the Alliance that this is an operations issue, not a governance one.

How the ECRL and the County of Inverness proceed is entirely up to them. From the Alliance/catalogue point of view, multiple options exist for the Whycomagh branch, including:

- proceeding as an independent library, operating outside of SamePage with its own collection, catalog, etc.;
- become an official ECRL branch, governed by ECRL, with ECRL employees; or
- a third undetermined model, such as holds pickup lockers or another arrangement that doesn't violate existing agreements made between the eight members.

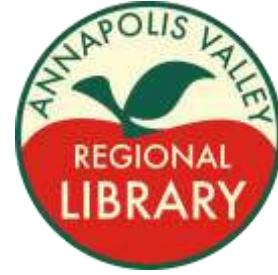
The Alliance remains firm in its position that decisions concerning access to the shared Same Page system fall within its authority and that the decision was made through the established Alliance governance process. The Alliance also remains open to reviewing a revised arrangement from ECRL that meets the requirements of the shared system.

From my perspective as ARVL's representative on the Alliance, the governance process followed in this matter is consistent with how the Alliance was established to operate and how decisions concerning the shared system are made.

Staff Recommendation:

THAT the AVRL Board reaffirm the by-laws and governance model of The One Card Library Alliance and reply to the Chair of the ECRL Board indicating its support of the operational structure that requires only library employees to access the Same Page system.

Report



To: AVRIL Board
From: Julia Merritt, CEO
Date: September 17, 2026
Re: Establishment of an AVRIL Board Fundraising Subcommittee

This report is presented for decision.

Background

At its May 2nd meeting, the AVRIL Board agreed to establish a fundraising subcommittee of the Board in the Fall of 2026.

As per the AVRIL Board By-laws Article XI, ad hoc committees of the Board may be established:

“The Board may appoint such other committees as from time to time it deems necessary.
The Chair and CEO are *ex-officio* members of all Committees so appointed.”

The purpose, composition, and meeting schedule of each committee may be determined as needed by the Board.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 23, 2026

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Launches *The Library Fund* to Support the Future of Public Library Services

(Pictou and Antigonish Counties) To help ensure public library services continue to thrive in our communities, the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library is launching a new fundraising initiative: ***The Library Fund***.

Public libraries are busier than ever. As costs continue to rise and expectations for library services, programs, and resources grow, funding pressures are increasing. However, core provincial government funding for public libraries has remained unchanged since 2020. For the 2026–2027 fiscal year alone, the regional library faces a funding gap of \$140,000.

"We heard loud and clear during our public awareness campaign last December that our communities value their public libraries," said Cllr. Nicole LeBlanc, Chair of the regional library's Marketing and Communications Committee. "But to continue providing the materials, services, programs, and hours that library users rely on, we need community support."

To address this challenge, the library has launched ***The Library Fund*** with a goal of raising \$300,000 by the end of the current fiscal year on March 31. Meeting this goal will not only close the current funding gap but also allow the regional library to make an initial \$160,000 investment in its long-term sustainability.

Over time, growing this fund will create a source of investment income that can help safeguard and strengthen free public library services, available to all, for future generations.

Library users, supporters, businesses, and community partners are invited to contribute. Donations can be made at any library branch through newly installed Donation Stations or online at www.parl.ns.ca. Supporters can also participate in fundraising raffles and auctions organized by their local library branch.

Those interested in making a larger contribution, including gifts of publicly traded securities or other forms of planned giving, are encouraged to contact the library at 1-888-779-7761.

Together, we can ensure that public libraries remain vibrant, accessible, and sustainable community spaces for years to come.

- 30 -

For further information, please contact Eric Stackhouse at (902) 331-0402 or estackhouse@parl.ns.ca; Kristel Fleuren-Hunter at (902) 971-0979 or kfhunter@parl.ns.ca.

Photo Caption: Staff Member Kristel Fleuren-Hunter tests out the tap feature on the Donation Station at the Antigonish Town and County Library.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 14, 2026

MAKING CONNECTIONS: NOVA SCOTIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION HOLDS ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN PICTOU

PICTOU, N.S. — Up to 100 library workers and stakeholders will gather at the deCoste Culture Hub in Pictou, Nova Scotia, this weekend to explore emerging trends in library services, share innovative approaches, and celebrate the vital role libraries play in the health and well-being of communities across the province.

The Nova Scotia Library Association (NSLA) welcomes membership from anyone interested in library service. Each year, the association's annual conference is hosted by a different regional library. This year, the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library is hosting the conference, which runs September 18 to 20 at the deCoste Culture Hub.

The conference will take place in the new facility shared by the Murray Family Public Library and the deCoste Performing Arts Centre, providing a fitting setting for this year's theme: Making Connections.

"From the venue itself to the multitude of essential services libraries provide, we rely on partnerships and on working closely with governments and communities," said conference co-convenors Trecia Schell and Kristel Fleuren-Hunter.

The conference keynote speaker will be Yaroslava Soshynska, Executive Director of the Ukrainian Library Association. Soshynska will present "Resilience and the New Roles of Libraries in Times of War," exploring how libraries and library workers respond and adapt in times of crisis.

Other conference sessions will address a range of issues facing libraries and the communities they serve, including "Public Libraries and Population Health," featuring Dr. Robert Strang, Dr. Pat Craig, and Dr. Christina Holmes. Another session will examine artificial intelligence and the role libraries can play in helping the public understand and navigate this rapidly changing technology.

A special event open to the general public will take place on Saturday, September 19, at 12:15 p.m., when the Nova Scotia Symphony Quartet performs in the library's Sunrise Atrium.

The NSLA annual conference brings together library professionals, partners, and stakeholders from across Nova Scotia to learn from one another, strengthen connections, and explore new ways libraries can support their communities.

- 30 -

For further information, please contact Trecia Schell at 331-0403 - tschell@parl.ns.ca or Kristel Fleuren-Hunter at (902) 971-0979 or kfhunter@parl.ns.ca. You can also visit the conference website at <https://parl.ns.ca/nslaconference2026/>.