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From: Parkland Regional Library System <administration@prl.ab.ca>
Sent: January 23, 2025 2:00 PM
To: Cheryl Bergman
Subject: Parkland Update January 23, 2025



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Parkland Update

Thursday, January 23, 2025

Get the latest Parkland updates, library news, training, events, and more!
Stay up to date by visiting our [support site](#).

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Library boards must complete and submit the Public Library Survey and Annual Report by **February 28th** to be considered eligible for the Public Operating Grant. To access LibPAS portal click [here](#). If you encounter any login issues or require login information, please contact jen.pringle@gov.ab.ca. The Annual Report Statistics Master document is available in **One drive** here: [2024 Annual Report Statistics.xlsx](#).

New Year, New Professional Development Opportunities

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Parkland's 2025 Training Schedule has been finalized! Thanks to everyone who filled out the Member Library Needs Assessment we ran at the end of last year. We heard you and have tried to incorporate as many of the training needs expressed in the survey into this year's calendar. You can find the [full schedule attached here](#) or find more information (as it's made available) on the Events page of the PRLS Staff Support Site.

Don't see what you need here? We are still working out some of the training details for this year and there will be even more PD opportunities during this year's Parkland Conference, happening on Monday, September 15th at the Lacombe Memorial Centre. There are also a whole host of helpful training videos available on the PRLS Staff Training Academy, please check them out!

LIBRARY NEWS

Find out about important deadlines and see what's happening at other Parkland Libraries!

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Upcoming Grant Deadlines

- [Ethnocultural Grant](#) Deadline: January 24
- [Anti-Racism Grant](#) Deadline: January 24
- [Heritage Awareness Grants](#) Deadline: February 3

Notable Upcoming Dates

- [International Day of Education](#) - January 24
- [Family Literacy Day](#) - January 27
- [Black History Month](#) - February
- [World Read Aloud Day](#) - February 5
- [Library Lovers Day](#) - February 14
- [Family Day](#) - February 17

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- [Freedom to Read Week](#) - February 23 - March 1

Canada Reads 2025 Longlist Announced

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[Canada Reads](#) is back! This year, the great Canadian book debate is looking for one book to change the narrative. The books on this year's longlist all have the power to change how we see, share and experience the world around us. For a full look at this year's longlisted books, [check out this article exploring each title](#).

Health & Safety Conference 2025

The Health & Safety Conference Society of Alberta is excited to announce the return of its annual conference and trade fair on **April 2-3, 2025**, at the Westin Calgary Airport in Calgary. This year's theme is *Beyond Compliance: Pioneering Health and Safety Excellence*. This event promises to bring industry leaders and innovators together to share insights and strategies. Don't miss out on this opportunity—[register now to secure your spot](#).

Career Assistance Network

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Career Assistance Network is back for 2025 to connect job seekers with their next job and employers with their next hire! Trained professionals will be visiting various communities within rural Central Alberta, offering booked appointment or walk-in sessions to assist individuals with their employment and recruitment needs. Sessions will be offered on a recurring basis in **Camrose, Olds, Ponoka, Rimbey, and Rocky Mountain House**. For more information or to help your patrons book a session, [you can visit the website here](#) or email ashton@rdcan.ca.

Read Alberta Book Blast

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Are you looking to learn more about new, quality, local books? Do you need new titles for library programs or to add to your collections? Presented by the [Book Publishers Association of Alberta \(BPAA\)](#), the “Read Alberta Book Blast” series will showcase the latest and greatest in Alberta-published books. Through a series of bite-size presentations (we won’t take up too much of your time), library staff can learn about what’s new in the world of locally published titles. Register for the free event on **January 28, 2025 from 1:30-3:00pm** by [clicking this link](#).

Discovering AI - Resources for Libraries

AI is becoming more and more prominent in our lives and more libraries are investigating whether AI is something that could be useful for them. At the same time, environmental activists are waving red flags asking us to consider the impact on the planet when using this new technology.

Register for the Library 2.025 mini conference **AI and Libraries: Literacy, Ethics, and Responsible Use** to dive deep into this topic. The free event will be held online on **Thursday, March 13 from 1-4pm** and [you can register here](#).

In the meantime, [give this article from the United Nations Environment Programme](#) a read. It dives into the considerable environmental impacts of using AI technology and is a valuable read for anyone who uses it. This technology is not without negative side effects that are important to understand.

Alberta Library Trustees' Association Coffee Chat

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[ALTA](#) has an amazing network of members, so grab a coffee and let's talk! This is an opportunity to engage with fellow library board members to discuss this ever-changing landscape. This is an informal 45-minute virtual chat on ZOOM hosted every month. Attendance is limited to 20 trustees and available on a first-come first-served basis. Please know you must be a current ALTA member to participate. If you're interested in registering for the next open chat on **February 12, 2025 at 7:00pm**, [click this link and enter your information](#).

Sasquatch Indigenous Teachings Webinar

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Sasquatch, Sabe, Bigfoot Known by Many Names

Indigenous Wisdom Teachings Webinar

This free Facebook webinar on **February 6, 2025 at 12pm** is called *Bigfoot/Sasquatch Indigenous Teachings Webinar* and will feature Knowledge Holders Elder Be'shar Blondin, Isaac Murdoch and Dr. Kevin Lewis. Join them in exploring the mysteries of the Sasquatch in this free webinar that is open to all. No registration is required for this event but you can [find more information and participate in the webinar here](#).

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TRAINING & EVENTS

Dates and registration information for upcoming library training and events.

Introduction to Disability Management and Occupational Health & Safety

**January 28
9am**

Representatives from WCB will discuss how you can support your workers with effective disability management practices. As an employer, you play a critical role in a worker's recovery by being supportive and

The Role of the Board Chair

**January 28
1:30pm**

What is the role of the board chair in a nonprofit organization? How is it different from the rest of the board members? This 2-hour webinar will discuss the key expectations of a chairperson to better perform their leadership role in a nonprofit organization. The session focuses on

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offering suitable return-to-work opportunities. You will learn about the resources available to build strong return-to-work plans to help your injured workers get back to work safely. Providing timely and appropriate modified duties can help you reduce your worker's time away from work, which can also reduce your overall premium costs. [You can register for this free webinar here.](#)

**Building Community Connections
by Hiring for Cultural Knowledge**
January 30
1pm

Staffing demographics rarely match those of the communities they serve. Learn how valuing specific knowledge, skills, and abilities during the hiring process can develop a staff ready to serve a diverse community. Hear from Cultural Liaison Library Assistant staff representing Hispanic and Tribal communities, including the results of their efforts to build connections with and share stories of these communities. Attendees will be challenged to reconsider some common hiring practices and how to make them more inclusive. Hear a success story from a library that identified cultural knowledge gaps and worked with community stakeholders during the job posting and

'chairing effective meetings,' 'chair as facilitator,' 'dealing with difficult board/organization challenges,' and 'building a strong board team.' [Make sure to reserve your spot here.](#)

**Ontario Library Association (OLA)
Super Conference 2025**
January 29 - February 1

[This year's conference is special](#) — as when we focus on building bridges, we also focus on bridging gaps. We commit to strengthening the fundamental goal of libraries as welcoming places for all. We

commit to upholding our core values while dynamically responding to the changing needs of our communities. We commit to facilitating connections so that knowledge-sharing can take place. These commitments will run through every facet of OLA Super Conference 2025, from carefully considered programming to attendee experience to creative resource sharing.

Libraries are more than just buildings; like bridges, they are essential structures and dynamic spaces that facilitate community building through connection. We invite you to create those connections — build bridges with us — at this year's Super

selection process [during this engaging webinar](#).

Conference.

Board Roles & Responsibilities

February 5

1:30pm

What is governance? What are the board's roles? What are the board's responsibilities? The truth is, there is no one answer to any of these questions. Join us as we help you understand governance from different perspectives. We will start with governance and what it means to the board. Then we will take you through how

Empowering Teens: Enhancing information literacy through games and interactive programming

February 6

1pm

You're getting ready to implement a change at your library, from a new strategic plan to a major project. How do you get your staff, partners, or community to understand and align with this new direction? Theory of Change is a powerful

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governance touches the entire organization, the structure of the organization, and the volunteers and staff that work in the organization. You will also have many opportunities to speak directly with others and share your experiences, test your knowledge, and ask your questions from the presenters. This webinar is hosted by the Government of Alberta and [you can reserve your spot here](#).

tool to help you define a shared vision that everyone can strive for together, while allowing flexibility and autonomy in how they get there. In this webinar, you'll learn how one library is using Theory of Change to drive strategic alignment while reducing bureaucracy. [Register for this webinar here](#).

Turn Strategy Into Action With Theory of Change

Readers' Advisory: Ideas & Practice 2025

March 12

12pm

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February 26

1pm

You're getting ready to implement a change at your library, from a new strategic plan to a major project. How do you get your staff, partners, or community to understand and align with this new direction? Theory of Change is a powerful tool to help you define a shared vision that everyone can strive for together, while allowing flexibility and autonomy in how they get there. In this webinar, you'll learn how one library is using Theory of Change to drive strategic alignment while reducing bureaucracy. [Register for this webinar](#)

Booklist is back with a new series of free readers' advisory workshops designed to keep you up to speed on both the ideas and practice that will enhance your RA game. Learn from experts in the field about how genres relate to each other, how to talk to patrons about their leisure reading, and how to write an effective book annotation. Participants should have an understanding of the basic readers' advisory concepts of appeal elements (character, pace, storyline, tone, and writing style). [Make sure to reserve your seat today!](#)

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[here.](#)

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