



Parkland Update

Thursday, March 6, 2025

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



Welcome Robyn! New Collections Technician at Parkland

Robyn grew up in Lacombe and earned her Library Technician diploma from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in 2017.

She has a diverse background in library services, with six years of experience at Lacombe Composite High School and casual weekend shifts at the Blackfalds Public Library. Robyn also worked as a Cataloguing Technician at Parkland Regional Library System during the summers of 2018 and 2019.

A passionate reader, Robyn enjoys fantasy, romance, and thrillers. Outside of work, she enjoys curling, hockey, golfing, quilting, camping, and teaching/practicing yoga.

Recognizing long-serving staff at Parkland

Parkland has an excellent team of dedicated employees that work hard every day to support our member libraries. We have several staff that received long service awards this year and we would like to take this opportunity to celebrate them! Thank you all for your dedicated service!

Janelle Johnson - 5 years
Russell Adams - 10 years
Steven Dobrowolski - 10 years
Ron Sheppard - 20 years
Sandie Bilik - 20 years
Alida Burnard - 20 years

Cooperative Collection Sign Up Happening Now

Parkland is running the Cooperate Collection for another year to help support regional library collections by selecting and purchasing titles currently unavailable in the system. These titles are then sent to your library for you to keep and circulate as your own. In 2024, each of the participating libraries received an average of 34 free books for their collection. This year we are focusing on adult fiction and nonfiction, junior fiction and nonfiction, graphic novels, and movies.

If you would like to be part of the collection for 2025, please reach out directly to Karyn Goodwillie at kgoodwillie@prl.ab.ca before March 18.

LIBRARY NEWS

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

Upcoming Grant Deadlines

- [Donald Hamilton School Library Advocacy Fund](#) - Ongoing
- [Provincial Operating Grant](#) - June 15

Notable Upcoming Dates

- [Women's History Month \(US\)](#) - March
- [World Book Day](#) - March 6
- [International Women's Day](#) - March 8
- [Canada Reads Debates on CBC](#) - March 17-20
- [Rural Municipalities of Alberta Spring Convention](#) - March 17-19
- [International Read to Me Day](#) - March 19
- [World Storytelling Day](#) - March 20
- [World Poetry Day](#) - March 21
- Orders for Hotlist (Fiction & Non-Fiction) are due - May 7

Community Partnership Launch



Parkland has partnered with the Central Alberta Woodworkers' Guild to create really cool wooden toys and puzzles for library programming for children and seniors. Patty has been working hard to put these items into programming boxes, and we are excited to announce that we are having a launch party to celebrate this new partnership! We would like to invite anyone who is interested and available to attend on **March 21 at the Blackfalds Public Library from 1:30-3pm**. We hope to facilitate some intergenerational programming and will provide snacks and drinks for all!

Indigenous Perspectives Conference



Red Deer Polytechnic is hosting the 2025 Indigenous Perspectives Conference on **Friday, March 7**. Sessions will be running throughout the day from 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Registration is free for this conference and everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. The theme for this year's conference is "Mental Health and Channeling Resilience". For more information on this conference and to see the full schedule, [visit the conference website here](#).

Behind the stacks: research exposes sexual harassment of library workers

The University of Alberta has just published a research article looking at harassment of library workers across Canada. Researchers surveyed 500 library staff across the country and found that only seven per cent had never experienced sexual harassment. To read the entire article and learn more about this topic, [click here](#).

Canadian authors frustrated by AI dupes of their books

[In this article from the CBC](#), Canadian authors speak out about finding dupes of their books

on Amazon, clearly written by artificial intelligence. Amazon's self-publishing tool makes this easy to do, and hard to report. Read the full article to learn more about the hurdles Canadian authors are encountering in the face of AI publishing.

Libby Book Awards finalists announced

The votes are in and Libby has announced this year's finalists for The Libby Book Awards. These awards celebrate the stories that have captivated and intrigued readers across several different literary categories. For the full list of finalists, [check out the Overdrive website here](#).

Spring Webinars from the Community Engagement Branch

The Government of Alberta has released their Spring Webinar list for non-profit board governance and strategic planning. Click on the individual links to register for these events if they are of interest to you.

- [Committees & Meetings - Wednesday, **March 12, 2025** \(1:30 - 3:00 pm\)](#)
- [Building Strong Teams & Effective Relationships - Wednesday, **March 19, 2025** \(1:30 - 3:00 pm\)](#)
- [Asset Mapping - Lunch & Learn - Monday, **March 31, 2025** \(12:00 - 1:00 pm\)](#)
- [Understanding your Legal Landscape – Wednesday, **April 16, 2025** \(1:30 to 3:00 pm\)](#)
- [Board Roles and Responsibilities – Wednesday, **April 23, 2025** \(1:30 to 3:00 pm\)](#)
- [Demystifying Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) for Non-Profit Organizations – Tuesday, **April 29, 2025** \(10:00 to 11:30 a.m.\)](#)
- [Legal Responsibilities and Conflict of Interest – Wednesday, **April 30, 2025** \(1:30 to 3:00 pm\)](#)

TRAINING & EVENTS

Dates and registration information for upcoming library training and events.

Upcoming Parkland Training

- **PLC Meeting**
 - March 10 @ 10am at Parkland HQ/Virtual
- **Post-PLC Advocacy Training**
 - March 10 @ 1:15pm at Parkland HQ/Virtual

Readers' Advisory: Ideas & Practice 2025

**March 12
12pm**

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!](#)

Social Media and the Law

**March 12
12pm**

Curious about your rights on-line? Join the Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta's (CPLEA) free, live webinar as we explore hot-button issues like defamation, cyberbullying, social media at work, and more. Make sure to register for this free webinar in advance by [following this link](#).

Supporting communities impacted by incarceration through library services

**March 13
1pm**

Public libraries are often on the frontlines of serving communities impacted by incarceration, with many patrons facing

Championing Trans Inclusion for Library Leaders

March 18
12pm

Throughout the country, libraries face an increasing backlash targeting everything from books and displays to programs and presenters to institutions and staff. One group currently being targeted is the transgender community; as a result, trans librarians face a uniquely hostile work environment. Yet their safety is often overlooked because bias, outdated protocols, and antagonism impact what support is available to them.

This webinar will examine the interlinked concepts of safety and support in libraries through a conversation between two librarians: a cisgender administrator offering perspectives on hiring and supporting trans employees, and a trans librarian giving insight into the daily experience of “working while trans” in a public library. [This webinar does have a fee and you can register for it here.](#)

From Surviving to Thriving: 10 Essential Financial Tips for all NPOs to Navigate Uncertainty in 2025

March 20
11am

With political and economic uncertainty on the horizon, many NPOs are preparing for challenges like tighter funding, shifting donor priorities, and rising operational costs. While 2025 may bring

the challenges of trauma, stigma, and reintegration. [This webinar](#) will explore how libraries can effectively support individuals and families affected by incarceration—whether through outreach to local jails or providing services to those re-entering society. Learn about successful initiatives, funding opportunities, and service models that address the lasting impacts of incarceration. Gain strategies and resources to enhance your library’s role in creating supportive, inclusive services and spaces to help build stronger, safer communities for all.

Overdrive Marketing Made Easy: Top Tips to Engage Your Community

March 19
12pm

Ready to boost your library's presence and raise awareness of your digital collection? Don't miss this [exciting 60-minute webinar](#), where OverDrive Marketing experts will share real-world strategies, actionable tips, and ready-to-implement resources to elevate your library’s brand and connect with more of your community. Learn how to leverage the power of the Check Out Your Library movement, promote services like Libby and Kanopy, and discover creative ways to reach more users.

unpredictability, it also presents new opportunities. Some of the financial constraints that held organizations back in recent years have eased, and with the right approach, your NPO can move beyond survival mode and into a position of strength. By maximizing funding, optimizing expenses, and strategically resourcing your organization, you can turn uncertainty into a foundation for long-term success. [Join us to learn essential financial strategies](#) that will help your NPO not only navigate 2025 but thrive in it.

The Social Media Marketing Conference Multiple Dates in March

This conference was designed to help you navigate the "first tier" and "second tier" platforms, boost your social media marketing savvy, and discover how to reap the many benefits that go hand in hand with a smart, well-thought-out social media marketing campaign. Explore the latest trends in social media, take a look at exciting new marketing techniques, and gain a social media "toolbox" chock full of tools, tips, tricks, and how-to's. To see the available dates and register for this conference, [visit this site](#). There is a fee for this conference.

On the rise: Book subjects on the move in the Canadian market

**March 27
12pm**

[This webinar](#) explores emerging trends in the types of books Canadians are buying. Using the most up-to-date data, we'll find out if Romantasy titles are still flying off the shelves at a feverish pace, whether Taylor Swift can sell books as well as she sells concert tickets, and how other sociocultural and demographic shifts are reflected in book-buying behaviour.

Invitation to Conscious Service: A webinar for social service professionals

**April 10
11am**

We'll engage in reflection, interaction, and embodiment practices, with the goal of developing strategies to enhance your experience of wellbeing, engagement, connection, and contribution. We will discover what it means to bring ourselves fully to the service-based work we engage in, including by developing in-the-moment practices to elevate our experience of self-love and self-responsiveness. [Register for this webinar here.](#)

PARKLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

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