



Parkland Update

Thursday, February 20, 2025

Get the latest Parkland updates, library news, training, events, and more!

Stay up to date by visiting our [support site](#).

Programming Updates from PRLS

Parkland has decided to discontinue the Programmer's Virtual Coffee Breaks in favour of a new Collections & Programming Newsletter that is currently in development and will launch in the spring. This newsletter is aiming to bring you news about the cool stuff PRLS is putting together programming wise (think kits and book clubs and more), highlights from other member libraries doing incredible programming, and tons of information about collections!

We would also like to announce a few new kits that will be available for booking! We have a new adult book club kit (*Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books*), a new teen book club kit (*UnOrdinary* graphic novel), and two new tech kits (Meta Quest 3 VR headset and Nintendo Switch).

Finally, we are excited to announce that we now have a full list of PRLS book club kits on our Support Site! The kits are divided by age group to make it super simple for you to look up. [Check out the lists here](#).

LIBRARY NEWS

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

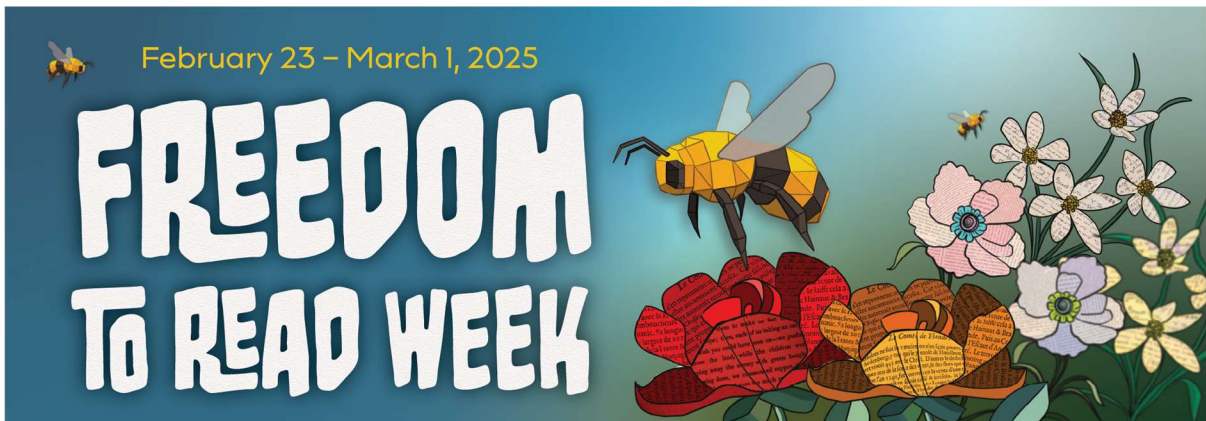
Upcoming Grant Deadlines

- [Community Foundation Grant \(Canada Post\)](#) - Deadline February 28
- [Literacy Fund Grant \(Indigo Love of Reading *for school libraries only*\)](#) - Deadline February 28
- [Donald Hamilton School Library Advocacy Fund](#) - Ongoing

Notable Upcoming Dates

- [Black History Month](#) - February
- [Freedom to Read Week](#) - February 23 - March 1
- [Pink Shirt Day](#) - February 26
- [Big Talk from Small Libraries Conference](#) - February 28
- [Women's History Month \(US\)](#) - March
- [World Book Day](#) - March 6
- [International Women's Day](#) - March 8

Freedom to Read Week



[Freedom to Read Week](#) is an annual event that encourages Canadians to think about and reaffirm their commitment to intellectual freedom. As of 2024, Freedom to Read Week entered a new phase led by Library and Archives Canada, the Canadian Urban Libraries Council, and the Ontario Library Association in partnership with the Book and Periodical Council. These organizations are coordinating to enhance Freedom to Read Week for years to come. [You can find digital and print marketing materials online here.](#)

The Shadow War on Libraries

The CBC recently released a [investigative article](#) and [Fifth Estate documentary](#) that explores what they have dubbed the "shadow war on libraries" happening throughout Canada, but especially in rural Alberta. The pieces are both quite intensive and provide an intriguing look into the challenges some communities and libraries are facing. Since the story went live, the Valleyview Municipal Library, which is featured in the article and documentary, has seen an outpouring of support from folks around the country. The Canadian Anti-Hate Network has been collecting letters of support for the library and [publishing some of them here](#) for people to read.

On a similar topic, the Centre for Free Expression has partnered with various Canadian libraries and organizations to host *Censoring Books in Schools and Libraries: What does it mean for our future?*, a free webinar on **February 26 at 5pm**. No registration is required for this event and you can watch the webinar simply by [clicking on this link](#) after the event has started. For more information about the webinar and who will be speaking, [you can visit the event page here.](#)

Canadian Copyright Training Now Available

A new video tutorial is now available on Niche Academy that looks at Canadian Copyright. This Opening Up Copyright Instructional Module is an open educational resource created by the University of Alberta. The training will cover many things including, but not limited to, photocopying in the library, the public domain, copyright in the Makerspace, and more. This [training can be accessed here](#) at any time by PRLS members.

TD Summer Reading Updates

TD Summer Reading Club has announced their official list of [2025 Top Ten Recommended Reads](#) for this year's program. With the [Staff Site](#) live and full of valuable [resources](#), now is the time to start thinking about your summer programs. Make sure to sign up for the TD Summer Reading Club Newsletter to stay up to date with all the latest news announcements. You can [sign up for the newsletter and see the newest developments here](#).

Winter Webinars from the Community Engagement Branch

The Government of Alberta has released their Winter 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.

- [Financial Responsibilities - Wednesday, **February 26, 2025** \(1:30 - 3:00 pm\)](#)
- [Risk Management - Wednesday, **March 5, 2025** \(1:30 - 3:00 pm\)](#)
- [Committees & Meetings - Wednesday, **March 12, 2025** \(1:30 - 3:00 pm\)](#)
- [Building Strong Teams & Effective Relationships - Wednesday, **March 19, 2025** \(1:30 - 3:00 pm\)](#)
- [SWOT Analysis - Lunch & Learn - Thursday, **February 27, 2025** \(12:00 - 1:00 pm\)](#)
- [Strategic Thinking, then Strategic Planning - **Tuesday, March 4, 2025** \(1:30 - 3:30 pm\)](#)

- [Asset Mapping - Lunch & Learn - Monday, March 31, 2025 \(12:00 - 1:00 pm\)](#)

Storytelling Contest for Youth Patrons

Do you have a young patron that is always writing and scribbling away? A future author in the making? Submissions are now open for the [Robyn Herrington Memorial Short Story Contest](#) for young writers in Alberta and the Northwest Territories. Writers younger than 18 are invited to submit their original, unpublished written works of fiction to the contest with the theme of "In Places Between". There is no entry fee for the contest, the author retains their copyright, and ten selected stories will be published in the annual contest book. For more information and to submit a story, [please read more here](#).

Library Trends Shaping The Way You Work

Libraries are as fluid and dynamic as the communities they serve — it's the nature of libraries! Sometimes, that means library staff chase trends to see how their community will respond — some things stick, some things don't. In honor of this pursuit, [Novelist researched what trends seemed to stick in 2024](#). Dive deeper into topics such as how generative AI is impacting libraries, staff retention policies, connecting communities with collections, and how libraries are taking a stand in this great article from Novelist.

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

Turn Strategy Into Action With Theory of Change

**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 here.](#)

Canva for Libraries: Page Layout, Social Media & More Design Tools

**February 27
1pm**

In this workshop-style webinar, you will learn basic skills in Canva, the popular web-based platform that companies and organizations use for design and marketing. You will learn how to format your designs according to design type and learn skills and design principles that help you develop a design for print and digital media. You will also learn tips in stock photography and basic image editing. This training session is ideal for beginner-intermediate and is available at a fee of \$49USD. [Make sure to register at this link.](#)

Elements of Indigenous Style: Insights and applications for the book industry

**February 28
12pm**

From acquisitions and editorial to marketing and sales teams, every team member plays a role in accurately, respectfully, and ethically championing Indigenous and traditionally underrepresented voices. This session,

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.

led by Warren Cariou, Lead Editor of the second edition of Gregory Younging's [Elements of Indigenous Style](#), is for book industry professionals eager to learn and apply Indigenous teachings to their work. Using *Elements of Indigenous Style* as a foundation, this session delves into its mind-opening content, which goes beyond the scope of a traditional style guide. [Register for this webinar here.](#)

Embracing neurodiversity: Cultivating an inclusive workplace for neurodivergent staff

**March 4
1pm**

Work environments that are made up of people who think differently bring more ideas and perspectives to the table. In fact, research consistently shows that diverse teams are better at problem solving, are more innovative, and are more effective. As our workplaces become more diverse, it becomes everyone's responsibility to learn how to embrace differences. [In this webinar](#), gain an understanding of the term 'neurodiversity' and learn about the strengths of those who are neurodivergent. In addition, attendees will learn about ways they can support inclusion of neurodivergent colleagues to help create a more supportive and welcoming environment for all.

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.

Meeting Procedure and Effectiveness Training for Library Boards

**March 1
9:30am - 4pm
Leduc Public Library**

Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) invites you to participate in a training seminar on board governance, effective meetings, Robert's Rules of Order and parliamentary procedure. Registration is open to all municipal, intermunicipal, and library system board members and must be completed by February 22. For more information on this training and [to register, click here.](#)

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

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 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.

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

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!](#)

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.

reflected in book-buying behaviour.

PARKLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

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