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# *Parkland Update*

**April 16, 2026**

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

Stay up to date by visiting our [support site](#). For programming and collections news, [subscribe to our Libraries in Focus newsletter](#).

## Library News

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

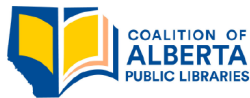
## Notable Dates

- [Parkland Conference Call for Submissions Deadline](#) - April 24
- [Universal Class Staff Training](#) - April 29
- [Spring Bingo](#) - May
- [Customer Service Training at Parkland](#) - May 4
- [Customer Service Training at Olds Library](#) - May 11
- [Customer Service Training at Sedgewick Library](#) - May 19
- [ULS Spring/Summer Hot List Cut Off](#) - June 3

For more notable dates, visit our [support site](#).

## Updates

**TAKE ACTION NOW**  
LET DECISION-MAKERS HEAR  
YOUR VOICE ON BILL 28



[www.capllibraries.ca](http://www.capllibraries.ca)

Your voice matters! We encourage you to send a digital postcard to Premier Danielle Smith, Minister Williams to express your concerns about limits on access to library materials and provincial overreach into local governance. It only takes two minutes! Please also share this form with your library users and community.

Take Action

Parkland Services Highlight - Van Delivery



Staff at Parkland receive, sort, and send books in weekly van deliveries to libraries. In 2025 we sent and received almost a million books. Our dedicated van drivers make 3,120 stops per year to ensure that libraries and communities in our region have access to more materials. This process is time consuming and expensive and wouldn't be possible without the collaboration of municipalities that form Parkland Regional Library System.



## Call for Submissions

 **Monday,  
September 21**

 **Lacombe  
Memorial Center**

We are looking for presenters at the 2026 Parkland Regional Library System Conference! [Here are the details on what we're looking for and how to submit.](#)

**Welcome, Joni!**



Joni is the new library manager at Penhold Library. She is excited to be back working in a public library again after being a Learning Commons Librarian for the last 6 years in a K-9 school and high school. Before that, Joni was previously working at the Bentley Library as Manager and enjoyed that immensely. Joni is passionate about learning, children, literature, art, and being an active part of the community.

## Marketing Hub

### Materials Highlight:

- [Spring Bingo Materials](#)
- [Universal Class Materials](#)
- [PressReader Templates](#)

## Advocacy News

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Keep up with advocacy initiatives happening locally and provincially.

### Advocacy Updates

Earlier this month, the Government of Alberta introduced Bill 28 which would have a significant impact on public libraries if passed. Parkland Regional Library System Director, Ron Sheppard, has been advocating at the provincial level against censorship with the [Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries](#) since well before the bill was introduced, and has continued to do so since its announcement. As a result of Ron's efforts, there have been many news articles to gather public support for libraries in

light of this legislation. We've gathered a few articles below; there are many more available to read if you want to explore further.

[Bill 28 a concern for the Sylvan Lake Municipal Library | Sylvan Lake News](#)

['Serious privacy concerns' — Library leaders raise alarm over proposed gov't restrictions | Calgary Herald](#)

[Bill 28 'threatens' viability of library services across Alberta - The Albertan News](#)

[Survey finds Albertans trust libraries over province on book access | Sherwood Park News](#)

Show your support by using the [CAP Libraries Social Media Templates](#) and encouraging your board and municipality to write to MLAs with concerns about this legislation.

**Current resources:**

- [Advocacy webpage](#)
- [Support Site Resources](#)
- Advocacy Resources available on the Q drive for library staff

**Support available:**

- Advocacy campaigns addressing specific issues for your library
- Assistance in creation of presentations to your municipal council
- Advocacy training for library boards

If your library board would like any assistance with library advocacy, Parkland is happy to help! Contact Hailey at [hhalberg@prl.ab.ca](mailto:hhalberg@prl.ab.ca) to request training or assistance.

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## Training and Events

[Language Courses for Library Staff](#)

**April 22**  
**12pm**

[Join this webinar](#) for a deep dive into three courses designed specifically for library staff. Learn how to sign up for free, see what's covered, and explore cool course features.

- Survival ASL for Librarians
- Spanish for Library Professionals
- French for Library Professionals

[In Person Library Board Basics Workshop \(Fort Saskatchewan\)](#)

**April 25**  
**9am - 4pm**

Whether you're new to the board or a seasoned member, [this workshop](#) offers a valuable opportunity to build confidence, deepen your understanding of library governance, and share insights with peers from across the province.

[How to Use Media and Information Literacy Events to Engage Teens and Communities](#)

**May 12**  
**1-2pm**

[Where is AI in 2026 and where is it Going?](#)

**May 21**  
**1-2pm**

AI has progressed at a rate that even top experts find astonishing. These systems are no longer science fiction - they are transforming work, relationships, and even crime in real time. [Join this webinar](#) for a quick, beginner-friendly overview of today's most powerful AI tools, including AI's current capabilities and safety concepts that will help you and your library better serve your communities.

[Reconciliation in the Workplace](#)

**May 21**  
**9am - 4pm**

Reconciliation in the Workplace - Meaningful Action for Teams is a [practical workshop](#) designed to support social service teams. You'll build shared understanding, strengthen cultural awareness, and explore reconciliation in ways that support real-world practice and respect both the work and the people involved.

[In Person Library Board Basics Workshop \(Rocky Mountain House\)](#)

This session will provide a brief overview of two programmatic models, A Day for an Informed Public and Media Mentorship, that libraries and their partners can use in their own communities. [Hear about](#) how you can engage with a mix of different formats such as games, small group activities, and intergenerational learning.

### [Parliamentarian Training Seminar](#)

[\(Airdrie\)](#)

**May 13**

**9:30am - 4pm**

Public Library Services Branch is coordinating a [full-day training seminar](#) on governance, effective meetings, Robert's Rules of Order, and parliamentary procedure, and we are pleased to invite library board members to participate.

### [Marigold Library Conference](#)

**May 13**

**8:30am - 4pm**

The Marigold Library System Conference is an annual, one-day event with sessions for library staff and board members in Marigold and beyond. Collaboration, vital to library work with communities, teams, stakeholders, or other libraries, is

**June 13**

**9am - 4pm**

Whether you're new to the board or a seasoned member, [this workshop](#) offers a valuable opportunity to build confidence, deepen your understanding of library governance, and share insights with peers from across the province.

### [Non-Profit Basics & Beyond](#)

The Government of Alberta Community Development Branch offers regular, free webinars on a variety of topics including, grant writing, risk management, financial responsibilities, and board development. See their list of [upcoming webinars here](#).

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