

REGULAR MEETING of the NVDPL BOARD

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026 – 6:00 PM

In person, Lynn Valley Branch, The Boardroom

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

LIBRARY BOARD

Barb Lawrie – Board Chair
Cyril Lopez – Board Vice-Chair
Shiva Badiie - Trustee
Deb Blaney - Trustee
Tyler Elkington - Trustee
Kulvir Mann – Trustee
Lindsay Smilgis – Trustee
Betty Forbes – Council Representative

Regrets

Gerald Baier – Trustee

LIBRARY STAFF

Jacqueline van Dyk – Library Director
Suzanne Hendriks – Executive Assistant
Meghan Crowe – Communications/Events Coordinator
Jill Klaponski – Manager, Collections Services

Regrets - STAFF

Daria Hrbacek – Business Manager

Regrets - GUESTS

Annerieke van Hoek - Partner, Architect AIBC, studioHuB architects ltd.

MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

Valerie Dong

0. BOARD GROUP PHOTO

1. BOARD CHAIR CALLED MEETING TO ORDER – 6:15 PM

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Board Chair requested a motion to adopt the Agenda.

MOVED Kulvir Mann **by** and **SECONDED** by Tyler Elkington

THAT the Agenda for the February 26, 2026 Meeting of the Board be approved. (26-02-01)

MOTION CARRIED

3. REPORTS

3.1 Chair's Report – Board Chair attended 'Shared Spaces, Shared Futures' event in January at Vancouver Public Library, put on by VPL Foundation with several other trustees who attended. Board Chair encouraged all trustees to visit the downtown VPL location. This event sparked preliminary conversations around what a foundation would look like for NVDPL. Met with contact from Lions Gate Foundation to support this discussion. All agree strong interest in learning more – Board Chair to bring further information back to the Board to advance the idea. In addition, since the last meeting, she met with all the new Board members.

3.2 Director's Report – Director of Library Services wished everyone a happy Freedom to Read Week. Informed the Board of the upcoming screening of the film 'The Librarians' at Rio Theatre.

In addition, the Director reported that she met with the new CAO, who expressed strong support for the library's role in the community.

MOVED by Deb Blaney and SECONDED by Cyril Lopez

THAT the reports be received by the Board. (26-02-02)

MOTION CARRIED

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Operational Approval

4.1.1 Approval of Inaugural Minutes of the Board – *January 22, 2026*

4.2 Reports

4.2.1 Media Report

4.2.2 Board Action Items

4.2.3 2026 Board Work Plan

4.2.4 Provincial Libraries Grant Report

4.3 Correspondence

4.3.1 Letter to Councillor Herman Mah

4.3.2 Tumbler Ridge Secondary Letter

4.3.3 Tumbler Ridge Note to Library

Trustee thanked staff for the thoughtful letters to Tumbler Ridge School and Library in the wake of their tragedy.

MOVED by Cyril Lopez and SECONDED by Tyler Elkington

THAT the Consent Agenda be adopted, and the motions contained therein be received for adopted;

AND THAT the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board – January 22, 2026 be approved and amended as discussed. (26-02-03)

MOTION CARRIED

5. BOARD MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

5.1 Strategic Facilities Plan – item removed from agenda.

5.2 Requests for Reconsideration of Library Materials 2025 – The Director of Library Services introduced Jill Klaponski (JK), Manager of Collections Services, who gave an overview of the annual Request for Reconsideration report. The report highlighted that formal complaints have been rare, with the last one in 2022. With an increase in Intellectual Freedom training across the organization, staff have been effectively managing concerns at the branch level.

Query from trustee about who else is informed about this challenge. JK responded that NVDPL reports formal challenges made to the Canadian Centre for Intellectual Freedom where it is captured in a database along with other libraries' book challenges.

MOVED by Deb Blaney and SECONDED by Tyler Elkington

THAT the Board receive the report on Requests for Reconsideration of Library Materials 2025 for information. (26-02-04)

MOTION CARRIED

5.3 2024-2027 Strategic Plan Update – Director of Library Services presented the annual update on the progress of the Strategic Plan, highlighting stable accomplishments and sustained focus in 2025, marking the midway point. Notable projects included the completion of renovations at Parkgate Library, the addition of new collections, and the installation of art pieces by Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish Nation artists in the Lynn Valley Children's Department. Query from trustee about planning of the next strategic plan. The Director responded that the process is shepherded by the Governance Committee and will begin in 2027. Trustee shared thoughts around language on the current strategic plan, specifically under values for intellectual freedom and the word 'support', suggesting may want to consider the word 'sustaining' instead. The Director thanked the trustee for their thoughtful suggestion and noted that changes like these would be welcomed and discussed for the next strategic plan.

MOVED by Kulvir Mann and SECONDED by Tyler Elkington

THAT the Board receive the 2024-2027 NVDPL Strategic Plan report for information. (26-02-05)

MOTION CARRIED

5.4 Library Experience Survey Report – Board Chair invited Meghan Crown (MC), Communications & Event Coordinator, to share the results of the survey in a presentation. MC said there was an increase in participants from 2,900 in 2023 to 3,400 in 2025. Survey data will be used by the Strategic Leadership Team to support planning and decision-making. MC shared that a data analyst was used to support the organization and analysis of the data. This was the first year a specific question on disability was included, giving us an idea of survey respondents who may have accessibility needs. Discussions ensued and suggestions included gathering deeper data in future regarding how people are spending time in the library (e.g. study, work, leisure) and length of visit. Suggestion from trustee for a deeper understanding on the data on how people get to the library (car, bus, walk, etc.) and adding a question around their travel distance to support data around new library location planning.

MOVED by Cyril Lopez and SECONDED by Shiva Badiee

THAT the Library Board receive the 2025 library experience survey results for information. (26-02-06)

MOTION CARRIED

6. STANDING ITEMS

6.1 Updates – Committees: no updates as Committees have not met since last regular Board meeting.

- 6.1.1 Finance and Audit** – next meeting April 16, 2026
- 6.1.2 Governance** - next meeting April 2, 2026
- 6.1.3 Human Resources** – next meeting March 11, 2026
- 6.1.4 Advocacy** – next meeting June 25, 2026

6.2 Updates –Affiliates

- 6.2.1 **InterLINK** – The first Board meeting was this week. Updates were shared on Interlink's governance transition and advocacy efforts regarding Bill C-15, which were successful.
- 6.2.2 **Friends of the Library** – Had their book sale and raised \$7,300.
- 6.2.3 **Council** – no updates.

7. **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES**

Trustees noted important upcoming dates on the Agenda.

8. **ADJOURN MEETING –7:34 PM**

MOVED by Kulvir Mann and **SECONDED** by Tyler Elkington

THAT the Regular Board Meeting of February 26, 2026 be adjourned. (26-02-07)

MOTION CARRIED



Library Board Chair



Date



Director, Library Services



Date