



Who we are

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL) serves 63,049 people in Antigonish and Pictou Counties, including newcomers and visitors.

- Antigonish Library
- New Glasgow Library
- Pictou Library
- River John Library
- Stellarton Library
- Trenton Library
- Westville Library
- Books by Mail and Rural Outreach
- Virtual Library – www.parl.ns.ca
- Digital History Collections – www.novastory.ca

Support for Community Technology Sites in Garden of Eden, Havre Boucher, Lakevale, Pictou Island, St. Andrews, and St. Joseph's.

Funding and Governance

PARL is one of nine highly collaborative regional libraries in Nova Scotia. The Regional Library is governed by 10 board members, one from each participating municipality and two appointed by the Province of Nova Scotia.

For further information or to arrange a meeting

Please contact Karen MacNeill, Office Manager, at (902) 755-6031 or kmacneil@nsngp.library.ns.ca.

Dear Candidate,

Congratulations on your decision to run in the 2017 provincial election. Through this brochure, we are providing you with information about your public library.

During tough fiscal times public libraries are used more than ever by people of all ages for many different reasons. Not only are libraries community hubs, they ensure all citizens have access to educational opportunities, internet access, and much more.

Over 8 years, through successive governments, the core operating funding for public libraries increased once, by less than 1%. To cope, we have increased collaboration, made efficiencies, and sought innovative ways to deliver service. However, we also cut staff, collections, and services. There are few options left but to cut open hours and eliminate services.

But the Province of Nova Scotia has the opportunity to support literacy and education for all Nova Scotians by providing increased core funding to public libraries. Also, we all have the chance to work proactively together to help offer government services and use established library facilities and skills effectively and efficiently. Collaboration is the way forward.

Our question to you, as candidate, will you and your party commit to increased core funding for public libraries and help us investigate ways to collaborate with government? We extend an invitation to meet with us regarding these issues and to learn more about this important public service.

Cllr. Troy MacCulloch
Board Chair, Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library

Mission and Core Services of Public Libraries

In alignment with the Nova Scotia Libraries Act, regional library boards support personal learning, literacy, culture and communities by acquiring and making accessible books, materials, information and technology, providing programs and services, and supporting opportunities for community engagement and collaboration.

The core services of a regional library board are the development and provision of:

- Diverse and stimulating collections, including digital and multi-format resources, and make these available through publically accessible information and organization systems.
- The collection and dissemination of Nova Scotia information and knowledge.
- Accessible information technology, services, and assistance to the community for communication, information, and learning needs.
- Services and programs supporting literacy, personal learning, and community development for all ages and backgrounds.
- Welcoming and safe physical and virtual spaces that encourage community engagement.
- Regional library board support services in accordance with the Nova Scotia Libraries Act.

For core services to be implemented and maintained in accordance with the Nova Scotia Libraries Act a highly skilled team of expert and knowledgeable staff are to be employed by the Regional Library Boards.

A free public library card offers learning opportunities to each and every citizen regardless of age, ability, or income.

An annual snapshot of Antigonish and Pictou Library use.

- One third of citizens are regular library users.
- 250,000 books and other materials are borrowed, including 20,000 e-books and e-magazines.
- 315,413 people visit one of our libraries.
- 242,000 people visit our online services.
- 60,100 people use our internet and computer services.
- 1643 people are trained in the use of the Internet.
- 20,173 people attend a library led program (does not include community programs held in a library).
- Nationally recognized services, programs, facilities, and projects.

A few of our services available with a free library card.

- Access to a province-wide collection of books, magazines, e-books, e-magazines, audio books, specialized collections for the visually impaired and much more.
- In-person reader's advisory service at all locations.
- Internet and computer access, high speed wifi, and specialized technology.
- Online databases available 24/7 for language learning, genealogy, local history, and auto repair.
- Information and services for newcomers to the community.
- Reading programs for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.
- Reading and conversation clubs for teens, adults, and newcomers.
- Educational programs for adults and older adults.
- Technology programming and training for all ages, from robotics for children to mobile device training for seniors.
- Community meeting spaces for social interaction and discovery.