

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Activity

Library Visits by Location		
	2018-2019	2019/2020
Antigonish	180,670	156,859
Books-By-Mail	N/A	N/A
New Glasgow	69,481	67,661
Pictou	36,400	41,049
River John	9,256	12,038
Stellarton	19,344	19,032
Trenton	2,756	4,966
Westville	11,544	18,956

Population Served	64,369
Total Holdings	149,327
Summer Reading Program Participants	591
Number of staff	61

19/20 Income		19/20 Expenditure	
Provincial Grant	\$ 1,177,567	Salaries/Benefits	\$ 1,567,244
Municipal Grant	\$ 581,663	Books & Materials	\$ 118,607
Board Income	\$ 212,530	Administration	\$ 341,102
TOTAL	\$ 1,971,760	TOTAL	\$ 2,026,953

Accumulated Deficit	- \$ 240,170
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Major Sponsors

Adopt-A-Library Literacy Program
 Friends of the Antigonish Library
 Friends of the River John Library
 Our Communities

Library Board

Province of Nova Scotia:
Ms. Tammy MacLaren
Mr. John Blackwell, Chair

Municipality of the County of Antigonish:
Coun. Mary MacLellan
Library Boards of Nova Scotia representative

Municipality of Pictou County:
Coun. Deborah Wadden

Town of Antigonish:
Deputy Mayor, Willie Cormier

Town of New Glasgow:
Coun. Clyde Fraser

Town of Pictou:
Deputy Mayor, Dan Currie

Town of Stellarton:
Coun. Simon Lawand

Town of Trenton:
Coun. Steven Stewart

Town of Westville:
Coun. Lynn MacDonald

REGIONAL LIBRARY

Annual Report



April 2019 – March 2020

www.parl.ns.ca

Library Management Staff

ERIC STACKHOUSE
 Chief Librarian/ Board Secretary

TRECIA SCHELL
 Community Services Librarian

GREG HAYWARD
 Technical Services Librarian

KAREN MACNEILL
 Office Manager

JEAN ROZEE
 Finance Manager

JESS DAVEY
 Manager of Web Services

MELANIE PAULS
 Community Access to
 Technology Coordinator

KRISTEL FLEUREN-HUNTER
 Children's Services Librarian

Chairperson's Report 2019/2020

The anticipated funding formula increase for the fiscal year 2020-2021 was confirmed in the Nova Scotia Provincial budget of February 2020. After 10 years of no provincial increase, this is welcome news and enables the Board to plan ahead.

However, with no increase in provincial core operating funding this fiscal year, the Board requested an increase in municipal funding amounting to a 2% cost of living increase for employees. All eight municipal units agreed and the Board thanks all councils for their steadfast support of library services.

Despite fiscal restraints, the Board took on several new initiatives during the year and expanded many current ones. From strengthening partnerships to ensuring all communities are equally served, these projects help build caring places throughout our two counties. I would also recognize the central role our Board is playing in the development of the province-wide one library card initiative. We are greatly indebted to Eric Stackhouse for taking the lead in this important project which will benefit all Nova Scotians.

On behalf of the entire Board, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate staff member Karen MacNeill for receiving the 2019 Emile Theriault Library and Information Technology Award from the Nova Scotia Library Association. Ms. McNeill is an example of the dedication of all Nova Scotia library workers and a worthy recipient of this distinguished award.

As the fiscal year ended, a new reality descended on our communities with the COVID-19 pandemic. It is with deep regret we closed our doors to the public March 16, 2020 after reviewing public health advisories and recommendations. Fortunately, the regional library was well placed with online offerings and a robust virtual library presence with parl.ns.ca. The Board is deeply grateful to all staff members who are providing strong support to our library users during this very challenging time.

Thank you to all Board members for their work. Despite the current health conditions, I am confident the Regional Library will be stronger than ever.

John Blackwell, Chair
Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Board

June 2020

Chief Librarian's Report 2019/2020

In fall of 2019 the Board approved a revised planning and priorities report prepared by staff. Almost all objectives of the previous report were met, including branch improvements and significant staff professional development.

The Board reviewed the new provincial order prescribing regional libraries as public sector bodies for the purposes of the Accessibility Act. In accordance with the order, terms of reference were approved to form an Accessibility Advisory Committee. The committee will advise the Board as it makes plans to comply with the Act.

Work to replace the Pictou Library continues. A business plan was completed, municipal funding amounts were secured, and a major donor was announced. The Project Committee is now seeking provincial and federal government infrastructure funding so construction can begin.

Board staff members are playing a significant role in the development of the One Card Library system. This includes co-chairing two central committees, holding project funds and contracts, as well as the fiscal oversight of the project.

With a renewed public library funding formula in 2020- 2021 there is hope the next number of years will see stability, improved collections, and improved compensation for staff.

In February, with a looming global health and wellness emergency, staff members revisited the pandemic plan prepared in 2009. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 emergency quickly developed as a dangerous event, forcing branch libraries to close in March and staff to work from home. This created a need to quickly prepare staff members for remote working. This, in turn, created overrun in a few budget areas.

Thank you to all staff members as we prepare to meet this emergency. There will be much asked of everyone to ensure our libraries and services re-open safely in the new fiscal year.

Eric Stackhouse, Chief Librarian and Board Secretary
Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Board

June 2020

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Activity

Library Use	2018/19	2019/20
Materials Borrowed	267,647	256,404
Active Users	17,160	16,928
Library Visits per year	328,106	320,561
Information Questions	34,009	28,811
Virtual Library Visits	137,253	122,433
Electronic Database Sessions	10,351	11,942
Internet Bookings	55,003	48,079
Internet Training Programs	903	736
Library Programs	2,485	2,414
Library Program Attendance	24,866	25,573
Items Borrowed from Other Libraries	6,194	5,935
Items Lent to Other Libraries	6,356	6,447
Nova Story Page Views (Ant. & Pic.)	127,299	93,779

Materials Borrowed by Location (Renewals excluded)	2018/19	2019/20
Antigonish	72,247	67,120
Books-By-Mail	7,742	7,141
New Glasgow	56,460	58,272
Pictou	35,978	32,651
River John	11,606	10,127
Stellarton	21,089	19,377
Trenton	3,536	2,979
Westville	12,003	11,750

Digital Materials	24,237	24,890
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