

## Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Activity

Library Visits by Location		
	2024/2025	2025/2026
Antigonish	161,362	168,079
Books-By-Mail		
New Glasgow	62,828	59,717
Pictou	49,356	64,466
River John	9,510	9,017
Stellarton	19,126	17,233
Trenton	11,274	10,368
Westville	23,889	19,395

Population Served	64,369
Total Holdings	138,849
Summer Reading Program Participants	436
Number of staff	60

25/26 Income		25/26 Expenditure	
Provincial Grant	\$1,518,400	Salaries/Benefits	\$2,012,859
Municipal Grant	\$606,658	Books & Materials	\$131,377
Board Income	\$439,773	Administration	\$551,599
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,564,831</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,695,835</b>

Accumulated Deficit	\$342,909
---------------------	-----------

## Major Sponsors

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

## Library Board

### Province of Nova Scotia:

Rev. Greg Dickson  
 Vacant

### Municipality of the County of Antigonish:

Coun. Mary MacLellan

### Municipality of Pictou County:

Coun. Deborah Wadden

### Town of Antigonish:

Coun. Patrick McKenna

### Town of New Glasgow:

Coun. Clyde Fraser, Chair

### Town of Pictou:

Coun. Robert Fry

### Town of Stellarton:

Coun. Sandra Eis

### Town of Trenton:

Coun. Nicole LeBlanc

### Town of Westville:

Coun Helen Dunn

## Library Management Staff

ERIC STACKHOUSE  
 Chief Librarian/ Board Secretary

TRECIA SCHELL  
 Community Services Librarian

MANSI NISHIT TRIVEDI  
 Technical Services Librarian

KAREN MACNEILL  
 Office Manager

JEAN ROZEE  
 Finance Manager

JES DAVEY  
 Manager of Web Services

MELANIE PAULS  
 Community Access to  
 Technology Coordinator

KRISTEL FLEUREN-HUNTER  
 Children's Services Librarian

# REGIONAL LIBRARY

## Annual Report



April 2025 – March 2026

[www.parl.ns.ca](http://www.parl.ns.ca)

**Chairperson’s Report  
2025/2026**

The New Glasgow and Regional Library Headquarters revitalization project is well underway. In June, library staff relocated the New Glasgow Library and headquarters operations to temporary space in a former call centre at the Aberdeen Business Centre, located at 610 East River Road. Thank you to all library staff for going above and beyond during the move, and thank you to the Town of New Glasgow for its assistance.

The revitalization project is expected to be completed by the end of 2026. The Regional Library Board and the Town of New Glasgow have established a fundraising committee for the project, led by community members Emily and Wade Sullivan. The fundraising goal is \$4.5 million.

Anticipating cuts in the 2026–2027 provincial budget, the board launched a library funding awareness campaign in December 2025. The campaign included in-person discussions with library users at all branches, a focused social media campaign, and engagement with local media. The board encouraged library users to explain to their MLAs why the public library matters to them. The response was overwhelming, with thousands of letters and emails sent. It was gratifying to hear members of the public speak about library services in such a heartfelt and honest manner.

The provincial budget was released in February 2026. While it was disappointing that there was no increase in core funding, there were also no cuts, unlike in other areas of the department. Thank you to our library users for their support and advocacy.

On February 10, 2026, the Regional Library Board, the Town of Antigonish, and the Municipality of the County of Antigonish celebrated the naming of the community room in the Antigonish Town and County Library as the Mary MacLellan Community Room.

County Councillor Mary MacLellan began serving on the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Board in 1991 and served two terms as chair during her tenure. She also represented the board on the Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia from 2003 to 2022. She served as president of the association in 2010, received its Lifetime Achievement Award, and chaired the committee responsible for the construction of the Antigonish Town and County Library. It was a well-deserved honour.

Finally, I wish to thank board members, past and present, for their ongoing support. I also extend my sincere thanks to all of our employees for their hard work and the care they show in serving and supporting our communities.

**Clyde Fraser, Chair  
Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library  
June 2026**

**Chief Librarian’s Report  
2025/2026**

Moving a public library is never easy. Moving a public library and a headquarters operation at the same time is a monumental task. Thank you to all staff for relocating the New Glasgow Library and Regional Headquarters on such short notice. To accomplish this while being closed to the public for only two weeks was remarkable.

Despite this closure and the Canada Post strike, which halted loans between regional libraries, borrowing remained at the same level as last year in both print and digital materials. This underlines the fact that during periods of fiscal restraint, people rely on and use public libraries more than ever.

Two significant retirements occurred during the year. Susan Allard retired after 45 years of service, having started as a youth intern, served on the bookmobile, and concluded her career with Borrow by Mail. Bonnie Allan retired from the Pictou Library after 39 years of service. Everyone at the regional library wishes them both a happy and fulfilling retirement.

In December 2025, the regional library received a grant of \$130,000 from the Aberdeen Health Foundation to support community programming focused on population health. This grant provides one year of funding for regular programming, targeted initiatives for those in need of social support, and the establishment of a monthly program in four branches called The Library Club (TLC). We cannot thank the Aberdeen Health Foundation enough for placing its trust in the regional library to support some of the most vulnerable members of our communities.

Despite many successes, the lack of reliable and consistent core funding is taking its toll on the regional budget. Like many other regional libraries, we are facing a significant deficit of more than \$130,000. This deficit is the result of inflation, additional staffing costs associated with the New Glasgow Library and headquarters move, and increased expenditures related to employee sick leave. This situation is not sustainable and must be addressed in 2026–2027.

Library staff continue to provide exemplary service to our communities. This was evident during our public awareness campaign in December, when library users expressed their support through numerous letters, emails, and social media posts. I join our users in thanking regional library staff for the creativity, dedication, and professionalism they demonstrated throughout the year.

**Eric Stackhouse, Chief Librarian and Board Secretary  
Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library  
June 2026**

**Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Activity**

<b>Library Use</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>
Materials Borrowed	375,097	365,916
Digital Materials Borrowed	92,823	90,720
Active Users	14,659	16,990
Library Visits per year	337,345	348,275
Information Questions	27,193	23,679
Virtual Library Visits	273,840	250,238
Electronic Database Sessions	20,724	32,735
Internet Bookings	32,230	33,891
Internet Training Programs	1,040	1,216
Library Programs	1,570	1820
Library Program Attendance	14,151	17,068
Items Borrowed from Other Libraries	484	579
Items Lent to Other Libraries	462	337
Nova Story Page Views (Ant. & Pic.)	149,382	144,143

<b>Materials Borrowed by Location (Renewals excluded)</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>
Antigonish	99,385	101,548
Books-By-Mail	6,617	5,838
New Glasgow	60,650	51,512
Pictou	41,943	45,995
River John	8,158	7,751
Stellarton	27,908	25,467
Trenton	5,147	4,696
Westville	14,031	12,842