

**Approved Minutes
Calgary Public Library Board
Central Library Boardroom 0-11
Wednesday, March 19, 2025
5:30 pm**

In Attendance:

Board:

- Evan Legate (Chair)
- Kate Andrews
- Haritha Devulapally
- Gillian Hynes
- Al-Karim Khimji
- Crystal Manyfingers *
- Aaron J. Noga
- Councillor Evan Spencer *
- Dana Saric
- Margaret Wu*

* Attended virtually

Administration:

- Sarah Meilleur, *CEO*
- Tracy Johnson, *CEO, Calgary Public Library Foundation*
- Barb Gillard, *Acting Director, Visitor Experience*
- Mary Kapusta, *Director, Communications and Engagement*
- Laura Komianos, *Executive Assistant*
- Paul Lane, *Director, Strategy and Planning*
- Lisa Minnikin, *Executive Assistant*
- Heather Robertson, *Director, Service Design and Innovation*

Guests:

- Elsa Gee, *President CUPE Local 1169*
- Kathleen Nickel, *Secretary CUPE Local 1169*

1. Treaty 7 Opening

Dana Saric opened the meeting respectfully with a land acknowledgment. The Calgary Public Library Board opens all meetings by acknowledging the ancestral home, culture, and oral teachings of the Treaty 7 signatories which includes the Siksika Nation, Piikani Nation, Kainai Nation, the Îlethka Stoney Nakoda Nation, consisting of the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Good Stoney Bands, and the people of the Tsuut'ina Nation. We also recognize the Métis people of Alberta who call Treaty 7 their home.

At Calgary Public Library we celebrate stories: the stories of the community and the land that we live on. We serve the community on Wîcîspa, Guts'ists'I, and Moh'kinstsis, which describes the gathering place where the Bow and Elbow rivers meet. We respect all people who share, celebrate, and care for the Treaty 7 territory of southern Alberta and we honour the original caretakers of the land who remind us of the ongoing histories that precede us. We recognize our shared responsibilities going forward to help bring everyone together on this journey of Truth and Reconciliation.

2. Chair's Welcoming Remarks

Evan Legate welcomed all members of the Board, Library Administration, and two CUPE 1169 representatives to the March Board meeting.

3. Review of Agenda

MOVED by Gillian Hynes and seconded by Dana Saric that the Calgary Public Library Board approve the agenda for the March 19, 2025 meeting as presented.

Carried unanimously

4. Consent Agenda

The consent agenda included the following items:

- A. To approve the minutes of the January 29, 2025 Board meeting
- B. February 12, 2025 Urgent Motion

MOVED by Kate Andrews and seconded by Haritha Devulapally, that the Governance Committee recommend to the Board for approval, that the contract with Humanis Advisory (formerly Pekarsky) be renewed for 1-year.

MOVED by Crystal Manyfingers and seconded by Kate Andrews that the Calgary Public Library Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Carried unanimously

5. Business Arising

A. Alberta Library Trustees Association Report

Margaret Wu advised the Board that the Alberta Library Trustees Association (ALTA) Board meet on March 20, 2025, and she will provide an update to the Board at the next meeting.

B. Other Business Arising

None.

6. Chair's Report

Evan Legate and Vice-Chair Al-Karim Khimji have been meeting Board members for more informal discussions, creating better engagement and valuable connections.

Legate congratulated Sarah Meilleur for being recognized as one of the 2025 Exceptional Women of East Village.

7. CEO's Report

Sarah Meilleur presented operational highlights.

Freedom to Read Week in February is more important than ever, with increasing challenges in both the USA and Canada. The success of the Library's stop-motion short film *Page* was a highlight with well over 46,000 views on YouTube showing great engagement.

Provincial funding for Calgary Public Library is stable for 2025. Meilleur noted concerns that this flat budget poses significant concerns and can be viewed as a reduction as it does not reflect inflation or population growth. It is increasingly difficult to maintain current services and depth of collections with these budget pressures. Board members were encouraged to attend the next Strategy and Community Committee meeting for the Spotlight Report, which will be a deep dive into the resourcing challenges facing Collections. The Canadian Urban Libraries Council are looking at the issue of potential tariffs on book prices.

The Foundation and the Library are working together to find ways to help bridge the gap. It is not a permanent solution and more details will be forthcoming soon, with a new Collections fundraising campaign to start on April 8.

Some programs are seeing very high waitlists and high community demand including English Conversation Club, Tech Mentors, and My First Bookshelf. More locations opening in the upcoming years will provide an opportunity to respond to community needs better.

The Library hosted a full day of programming for International Women's Day on March 8 and there is already interest from partners for next year.

The Board were asked to take action on three things:

- 1) Attend the internal James Turk presentation on Intellectual Freedom on May 1.
- 2) Attend one of three films from the Making Treaty 7: linnii Film Series. Thanks were given to Crystal Manyfingers for attending and providing remarks on behalf of the Board at the upcoming film "Singing Back the Buffalo" on June 1.
- 3) A Read Canadian bookmark was launched to help staff display and showcase Canadian reads, so pick up a book by a Canadian author!

Gillian Hynes asked about opportunities to attend Truth and Reconciliation programming at the Library. Meilleur responded that Board members are encouraged to attend any of the public programming, when staff training is held it is always very popular and oversubscribed.

Crystal Manyfingers shared her experience from the previous night with staff; more than 200 signed up to learn how to make Indigenous fry bread online and the feedback was extremely positive.

Evan Spencer asked about student supports and Meilleur s

hared information on how students are supported through resources on a student portal of the website.

MOVED by Haritha Devulapally and seconded by Dana Saric that the CEO's Report be received by the Calgary Public Library Board for information as presented.

Carried unanimously

8. Governance Committee

A. Report of the February 5, 2025 Governance Committee Meeting

Dana Saric presented the minutes of the February 5, 2025 Governance Committee meeting.

For this year the Board will be recruiting one new Board member, the Board skills matrix will help

guide that process.

AccessHR has been approved again for this year to conduct the CEO 360 evaluation, and the process has begun.

MOVED by Gillian Hynes and seconded by Kate Andrews that the February 5, 2025 Governance Committee Report be received by the Calgary Public Library Board for information as presented.

Carried unanimously

9. Strategy and Community Committee

A. Report of the February 12, 2025 Strategy and Community Committee Meeting

Kate Andrews presented the minutes of the February 12, 2025 Strategy and Community Committee meeting.

The Spotlight Report on Truth and Reconciliation was very well received. Andrews was particularly interested in how we integrate Indigenous Ways of Knowing into our Committee meeting structures going forward. The intention of the Board in general is to advance the goals of Truth and Reconciliation in a material way.

MOVED by Al-Karim Khimji and seconded by Gillian Hynes that the February 12, 2025 Strategy and Community Committee Report be received for information as presented.

Carried unanimously

10. Audit and Finance Committee

A. Report of the March 12, 2025 Audit and Finance Committee Meeting

Aaron Noga presented highlights from the March 12, 2025 Audit and Finance Committee meeting.

Doug Durant provided an overview on Safety and Security at the Library. The minutes were not available for inclusion with the Board materials; the motion for approval was tabled for the next Board meeting.

B. The Controller's Report for the Year Ended December 31, 2024

The Controller's Report was reviewed and approved.

MOVED by Aaron Noga and seconded by Kate Andrews that the Controller's Report for the year ended December 31, 2024 be approved as presented.

Carried unanimously

C. Audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report

Two representatives from Deloitte LLP attended the Audit and Finance Committee to present their findings.

MOVED by Aaron Noga and seconded by Kate Andrews that the Audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the year ended December 31, 2024 be approved as presented.

Carried unanimously

11. Calgary Public Library Foundation Update

Tracy Johnson gave an update from the Calgary Public Library Foundation.

The Pathway to Play initiative has been brought back at Signal Hill, fundraising is underway for this Outdoor Early Learning Centre.

A new strategy of "report mailing" started in February raising \$28,000 from relatively small individual donations.

Library Giving Day is April 1, and another Locked Library is being held on April 11 at Central Library and 200 tickets have been sold already.

MOVED by Aaron Noga and seconded by Kate Andrews that the Calgary Public Library Foundation Report be received by the Calgary Public Library Board for information as presented.

Carried unanimously

12. Board Workplan Review

No changes were requested at this time.

13. Other Business

None.

14. In Camera

MOVED by Kate Andrews and seconded by Haritha Devulapally that the Calgary Public Library Board move in camera at 6:24 pm.

Carried unanimously

The two CUPE Local 1169 members left the meeting at 6:25 pm.

MOVED by Kate Andrews and seconded by Haritha Devulapally that the Calgary Public Library Board rise and report.

Report:

MOVED by Kate Andrews and seconded by Haritha Devulapally that the information contained in the In Camera Report to the Calgary Public Library Board dated June 28, 2023, remain confidential under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act; and further that the Calgary Public Library Board accept the recommendation of the Calgary Public Library Foundation Board in accordance with the Calgary Public

Library Board *Naming in Recognition of Philanthropic Gifts* Policy.

Carried unanimously

15. Adjournment

MOVED by Kate Andrews that the meeting be adjourned at 6:36 pm.

Transcribed by Lisa Minnikin.

Evan Legate
Board Chair