

**Approved Minutes
Calgary Public Library Board
Central Library Boardroom 0-11
Wednesday, June 25, 2025
5:30 pm**

In Attendance:

Board:

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

* Attended virtually

Regrets:

- Haritha Devulapally

Guests:

- Elsa Gee, *CUPE Local 1169*
- Anna Burger-Martindale, *CUPE Local 1169*

Administration:

- Sarah Meilleur, *CEO*
- Tracy Johnson, *CEO, Calgary Public Library Foundation*
- Jim Chisholm, *Executive Director, Technology and CTO*
- Barb Gillard, *Executive Director, Visitor Experience*
- Mary Kapusta, *Executive Director, Communications and Engagement*
- Paul Lane, *Executive Director, Strategy and Planning*
- Amanda Robertson, *Executive Assistant*
- Heather Robertson, *Executive Director, Service Design and Innovation*

1. Treaty 7 Opening

Al-Karim Khimji 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 Îethka 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 June Board meeting.

3. Review of Agenda

MOVED by Evan Legate and seconded by Al-Karim Khimji that the Calgary Public Library Board approve the agenda for the June 25, 2025 meeting as presented.

Carried unanimously

4. Consent Agenda

The consent agenda included the following items:

A. To approve the minutes of the May 28, 2025 Board meeting.

MOVED by Kate Andrews and seconded by Dana Saric 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 that due to staffing matters at Alberta Library Trustees Association (ALTA), the timing of future ALTA Board meetings as well as the Annual General Meeting are under evaluation. When a new schedule is confirmed, this will be shared with the Calgary Public Library Board.

Wu, Evan Legate, and Sarah Meilleur confirmed that they will attend the 2025 Stronger Together Conference in Edmonton. This annual conference is hosted by ALTA, The Alberta Library (TAL), Peace Library System, Yellowhead Regional Library, Northern Lights Library System, and Library Association of Alberta (LAA).

B. Other Business Arising

None.

6. Chair's Report

Evan Legate advised that following the spring retreat, Board members will be sharing more directly about their experiences attending Library events and other forms of advocacy.

In June, Legate and Al-Karim Khimji plan to attend the volunteer appreciation film screening. Khimji attended the National Indigenous Peoples Day panel on Treaty 7 languages, moderated by Crystal Manyfingers in her capacity as a Treaty 7 Children's Book Author. Dana Saric will attend an upcoming Kindergarten readiness event at a community library.

The Board plans to hold a strategic planning retreat in the fall. Legate advised that a calendar hold for September 20, 2025 will be circulated to Board members and the Executive Leadership Team in due course.

7. CEO's Report

Sarah Meilleur presented operational highlights from her report to the Board.

Meilleur congratulated Barb Gillard on her appointment to Executive Director of Visitor Experience. Gillard stepped into the role in an interim capacity beginning in September 2024 and has excelled with a focus on fostering connection with managers, prioritizing employee engagement, and working with other Executive Directors and Human Resources around a new organizational structure designed to increase effectiveness leading into a period of significant growth with the addition of new libraries. Barb clearly demonstrated in the competition that she was the right candidate for the future and we are excited to have her on the Library's leadership team.

In June, the Library announced a partnership with Tourism Calgary with a new information hub located in the Shaikh Family Welcome Gallery at Central Library. The Library remains a tourist destination of cultural and architectural interest that spurs creativity for visitors from all over the world.

Much of the Library's work revolves around its value of Collaboration. The Library supports the community through many avenues that are not a formal component of its mandate, and to do so requires strong partnerships with organizations specializing in science, engineering, technology, mental health, personal finance, entrepreneurship, tourism, newcomer settlement, employment services, and much more. The Library is proud of the wide variety of community partners we work with regularly.

Meilleur invited all in attendance to consider the actions they can take to support the Library's presence in the community, such as attending Canada Day at Central Library. The Library is just one of many community partners coming together to create a family friendly atmosphere downtown. Visitors stopping by that afternoon will be treated to traditional Indigenous dancing, Canadian karaoke, musical performances, and a citizenship ceremony in the Patricia A. Whelan Performance Hall.

As the Library wraps its programming schedule for National Indigenous History Month, Meilleur encouraged Board members to continue on their journeys in Truth and Reconciliation by attending events, connecting with Elders, and accessing the resources available through the Library and the broader community.

MOVED by Al-Karim Khimji 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 April 2, 2025 Governance Committee Meeting

Dana Saric presented the minutes of the June 16, 2025 Governance Committee meeting.

MOVED by Crystal Manyfingers and seconded by Kate Andrews that the June 16, 2025 Governance Committee Report be received by the Calgary Public Library Board for information as presented.

Carried unanimously

B. Board Policy Revisions

The Board approved the revisions proposed by Administration and recommended by the Governance Committee.

MOVED by Crystal Manyfingers and seconded by Kate Andrews that the revisions to the Board Policies be approved by the Calgary Public Library Board as recommended by the Governance Committee.

Carried unanimously

9. Strategy and Community Committee

A. Report of the June 11, 2025 Strategy and Community Committee Meeting

Kate Andrews presented the minutes of the June 11, 2025 Strategy and Community Committee meeting.

MOVED by Al-Karim Khimji and seconded by Evan Spencer that the June 11, 2025 Strategy and Community Committee Report be received for information as presented.

Carried unanimously

10. Calgary Public Library Foundation Update

Tracy Johnson provided a verbal update regarding the recent activities of the Calgary Public Library Foundation.

The Foundation recently received trend data reporting from Canada Helps, the largest online donor platform in Canada. This provides intelligence each year about trends in charitable giving. Nationally, donations have reached a historic high despite a shrinking donor base. This trend has been noticeable for several years. Donors aged 65 years and older are donating more than half of the charitable gifts in Canada and this is mirrored at the Foundation.

In 2025, the Fifth Book Campaign has been doing very well and as a result the Foundation is trending ahead of giving in past years. The campaign has helped the Foundation meet 30% of its annual goal, which is unusually high in Q2 as December is typically the time when most giving occurs.

Johnson asked that the Board continue to monitor their networks for prospective partners seeking a charitable cause for upcoming events. Other ways for Board members to support the Foundation were shared in a recent circulation. Questions about this may be directed to Johnson or Evan Legate.

MOVED by Crystal Manyfingers 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

11. Board Workplan Review

Evan Legate reviewed the workplan and reminded the Board that the July meeting has been cancelled.

Legate advised that the Organizational meeting, which usually takes place in November, must now be rescheduled to December following a delayed City Council Boards and Commissions appointment process due to the 2025 General Election. A scheduling poll will be circulated to determine the best date for this in camera meeting.

12. Other Business

None.

13. In Camera

MOVED by Kate Andrews and seconded by Al-Karim Khimji that the Board move in camera at 6:16 pm, excusing all but Sarah Meilleur, Tracy Johnson, Jim Chisholm, Barb Gillard, Mary Kapusta, Paul Lane, Heather Robertson, and Amanda Robertson.

Carried unanimously

At 7:00 pm, the Board dismissed all others from the meeting.

MOVED by Al-Karim Khimji and seconded by Dana Saric that the Calgary Public Library Board rise and report.

Report:

1. That the information contained in the in camera report to the Calgary Public Library Board dated June 25, 2025 remain confidential under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act; and further that the Calgary Public Library Board approve the CEO 360 performance memo and compensation recommendations as presented.

Carried unanimously

14. Adjournment

MOVED by Evan Legate that the meeting be adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Transcribed by Amanda Robertson.

Evan Legate
Board Chair