

City of Grande Prairie Library Board

Policy Manual



**GRANDE PRAIRIE
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

DISCOVER THE POSSIBILITIES

Last Updated: April 2024



TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1 — BYLAWS & MEMBERSHIP	2
1.1 Bylaws of the City of Grande Prairie Library Board	2
SECTION 2 — ADMINISTRATIVE	6
2.1 Personal Information Bank	6
2.2 Records Retention	8
2.3 Risk Management	12
2.4 Confidentiality of Patron Records	14
2.5 Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy	14
2.6 Donations	16
SECTION 3 – COMMUNITY RELATIONS	19
3.1 Social Media	19
SECTION 4 – FACILITIES	21
4.1 Display and Distribution of Materials	21
4.2 Hours of Service	22
4.3 Meeting Room Use	23
4.4 Rules of Conduct for Library Users	25
4.5 Supervision of Vulnerable Library Users	Error! Bookmark not defined.
SECTION 5 – FINANCIAL	28
5.1 Accounts Payable	28
5.2 Board and Staff Reimbursement	29
5.3 Financial Administration	31
5.4 Investments	32
5.5 Reserves	33
5.6 Tangible Capital Assets	36
SECTION 6 – HEALTH AND SAFETY	39
6.1 Health and Safety (General)	39
6.2 Health and Safety Orientation/Training	41
6.3 Emergency Preparedness	42
6.4 Violence and Harassment	43
6.5 Working Alone	44
SECTION 7 – LIBRARY BOARD	45



7.1 Board Membership _____	45
7.2 Board Meetings _____	46
7.3 Policy Making _____	50
7.4 Trustee Code of Ethics _____	51
7.5 Trustee Orientation and Continuing Education _____	53
SECTION 8 – LIBRARY MATERIALS _____	54
8.1 Intellectual Freedom _____	54
8.2 Collection Management _____	56
8.3 Resource Sharing _____	60
SECTION 9 – LIBRARY SERVICES _____	61
9.1 Programs _____	61
9.2 Provision of Service to Those Unable to Use Conventional Print _____	62
9.3 Public Computers and Wireless Network _____	63
9.4 Home Service for Those Physically Unable to Pick Up Library Materials _____	64
9.5 Volunteers _____	66
SECTION 10 – PERSONNEL _____	67
10.1 Employee Code of Ethics _____	67
10.2 Definition of Employment Status _____	69
10.3 Benefits and Pension Plan _____	70
10.4 Annual Vacation _____	71
10.5 Paid Holidays _____	73
10.6 Leaves of Absence _____	74
10.7 Performance Appraisals _____	77
10.8 Staff Development _____	78
10.9 Progressive Discipline _____	79
10.10 Grievances _____	80
10.11 Staff Appreciation _____	81
10.12 Recruitment and Hiring _____	82
10.13 Personnel Records _____	84

SECTION 1 — BYLAWS & MEMBERSHIP

1.1 Bylaws of the City of Grande Prairie Library Board

The City of Grande Prairie Library Board enacts the following bylaws pursuant to *The Libraries Act*, R.S.A. Chapter L-11, 2000.

Interpretation

- a) For the purposes of this bylaw the expression:
 - i. "Act" refers to *The Libraries Act*, R.S.A., Chapter L-11, 2000.
 - ii. "Board" means the City of Grande Prairie Library Board.
 - iii. "Borrower" means the person to whom a library membership has been issued.
 - iv. "Library" means the Grande Prairie Public Library.
 - v. "Library materials" includes items purchased or borrowed by GPPL, such as books, periodicals, audiovisual materials, video games, toys, physical objects, and multi-media kits.

Admittance to/Conduct in the Library and on the Grounds

- a) The portion of any building used for public library purposes is open to any member of the public free of charge during the hours of operation as set out by the City of Grande Prairie Library Board.
- b) Fees for the use of Library space not normally used for Library purposes are set out in Schedule A.
- c) No person using the Library shall:
 - i. Violate the Library's Rules of Conduct.
 - ii. Remove any Library item from the Library unless the item has been-checked out in accordance with the procedures established for borrowing Library materials.
 - iii. Enter or remain in the Library except during the Library's hours of operation.
 - iv. Solicit others for personal, commercial, religious, or political purposes.
- d) Persons entering the Library must abide by any measures put in place to protect the health and safety of Library users and staff.
- e) Persons who do not conduct themselves in accordance with 2(c) or 2(d) shall be asked to discontinue their actions. If the action continues or the severity of the action warrants it, security will direct the person to leave the premises. Should the situation warrant it, security may seek outside assistance.

Membership Eligibility

- a) Anyone is eligible to apply for a Library membership in accordance with Schedule B.

Member Responsibilities

- a) A membership card may only be used by the person to whom it is issued, the parent or guardian of the person to whom it is issued, or a designate.
- b) A member shall notify the Library of any changes to address, email, and/or telephone number.
- c) A member is responsible for the Library materials borrowed.
- d) A member is responsible for returning Library materials to the Library on or before the due date as set out in Schedule C.

Loaning Materials

- a) In accordance with *The Libraries Act* s.36 (3), there shall be no charge for the use of Library materials. This includes materials used in the Library or materials loaned.
- b) The loan periods for various materials are set out in Schedule C.
- c) Library materials may be reserved in accordance with policy established by the Library.
- d) Library materials may be renewed in accordance with policy established by the Library.
 - i. In the case of a due date falling on a day when the Library is closed to the public, the due date shall be extended to the next open day.

Penalty Provisions

- a) Replacement charges for damaged or lost materials are as set out in Schedule D.
- b) The circumstances resulting in suspension of borrowing privileges are as set out in Schedule D.

Penalties

- a) In cases of serious dereliction, the Board may prosecute an offense under *The Libraries Act*, s.41. Such an offense is punishable under *The Libraries Act*, s.41. The range of penalties applying on conviction for such an offense is set out in Schedule D.
- b) Any fine or penalty imposed pursuant to an offense under 6 (4) inures to the benefit of the City of Grande Prairie Library Board in accordance with *The Libraries Act*, s.42.

Adopted this 10 day of October, 2023

Deb Normington

Chair

Schedule A - Room Rental Fees (excluding GST)

Room	Non-Profit Rates	Standard
Rotary Training Room	\$18.00 per hour \$126.00 per day	\$40.00 per hour \$280.00 per day
Rotary Community Room	\$25.00 per hour \$175.00 per day	\$50.00 per hour \$350.00 per day
Willie Janssen Discover Room	\$18.00 per hour \$126.00 per day	\$40.00 per hour \$280.00 per day

Schedule B - Membership Categories

Resident – Lives in the City of Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie, MD of Greenview, or in an area served by the Peace Library System.

- No membership fee

Non-Resident – Lives outside the City of Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie, MD of Greenview or an area served by the Peace Library System.

- \$20 for a 6-month membership

Temporary Cards – Applicant lives outside the City of Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie, MD of Greenview or in an area served by the Peace Library System.

- Free, but with limited borrowing rights

Enhanced Card – Lives in the City of Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie, MD of Greenview or an area served by the Peace Library System

- Free, but with borrowing rights limited to e-resources-

The Alberta Library (TAL) or ME Libraries Cardholders - These users may borrow materials with no additional membership fee with a valid TAL or Me Libraries membership.

Schedule C - Loan Periods for Library Materials

Books	3 weeks
DVDs and Video Games	3 weeks
Audiobooks	3 weeks
Magazines	1 week
Toys	3 weeks
Library of Things	various

Materials in high demand may be subject to shorter borrowing periods.

All Library materials may be renewed no more than twice - to a maximum loan period of 9 weeks (excluding French Language Resource Centre materials, where the maximum loan period is 12 weeks and Wi-Fi Hubs, where renewals are prohibited due to high usage).

Schedule D - Penalty Provisions

Replacement charges

- Membership card \$0.00
- Library materials
 - The borrower is charged the replacement cost listed in the item record.
 - If the replacement cost is not listed, the following default charges apply:

Adult Book (hardcover)	\$20.00
Juvenile Book (hardcover)	\$20.00
Paperback	\$10.00
DVD	\$25.00
Audiobook	\$50.00
Toy	\$25.00
Toy Bag	\$7.00
Library of Things Bag	\$10.00
Binge Bag	\$50.00

Library materials not returned after three loan periods will be considered lost and will be charged a replacement cost.

Suspension

- An item is considered “lost” after a borrower is issued a billing notice.
- Borrowing privileges will be suspended when replacement charges for lost items exceed \$10.00.

Late Fees for Wi-Fi Hubs

- Due to high demand, Wi-Fi hubs will be charged a late fee of \$5.00 per day, up to a maximum of \$50.00.

Schedule E - Other fees

Printing/Photocopying B&W	\$.25 per page
Printing/Photocopying Colour	\$.50 per page
Faxing	\$.25 per page

Exam proctoring*	Scheduled Exams - \$30.00 per exam Exams by Appointment - \$30.00 per hour based on time used
------------------	--

*includes printing and regular postage if required

All fees in this schedule include GST.

SECTION 2 — ADMINISTRATIVE

2.1 Personal Information Bank

Personal Information Banks Policy

Legislation: *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.*

Patron Records

- The membership database may contain the following information: contact information, language, date of registration, date of last activity, and expiration date.
- The membership database is a shared database and is accessible by library staff within the Peace Library System and TRAC.
- *Programs/ Participant Lists* may be collected and may contain patron name and contact information. Physical print-outs will be destroyed immediately following the event.

Volunteer Records

- *Volunteer Records* contain the names, contact information, and criminal record checks of the volunteers.

Human Resource Records

- *Personnel Files* may contain the following information: employee name, contact information, resume, Social Insurance Number, earnings and income tax records, employment commencement date, salary grid placement, benefit plans, vacation status, sick leave, performance reviews, training certificates earned, correspondence, letters of discipline, and emergency contact information.

Locations:

- *Grande Prairie Public Library, electronically accessible by: Office Administrator and Director.*
- *Physical copies of performance reviews and records of disciplinary action will be kept securely in the Director's Office.*

Board Trustee Records

- *Trustee records* may contain the following information: name, contact information, dates of service, date of birth, and positions held.

Trustee/Staff Directories



- *Trustee/Staff Directories* contain the following information: name and contact information.

Retention of Library Records

- Records will be kept or destroyed in keeping with the *Records Retention* policy (2.2).



2.2 Records Retention

The Grande Prairie Public Library (GPPL) keeps orderly and timely records of its business in compliance with the *Income Tax Act*, the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and with the operational needs of GPPL.

GPPL retains and disposes of records as outlined in the following schedule. This schedule defines:

- The retention period for records
 - Specified for a number of years
 - Permanent: the original record shall be preserved and never destroyed

- The action
 - Hard copy: the original paper document shall be retained for the specific period
 - Electronic copy: an electronic copy of the document shall be retained for the specific period
 - Destroyed: the record shall be destroyed after the retention period

The Director:

- Is given authority by the Board for the destruction of the records in accordance with the schedule
- Is responsible for the proper and complete destruction of the records disposed of under this policy
- Has the discretion to retain records longer than the period provided for in this policy

Permanent records are stored at GPPL in appropriate secure storage.



Record Description	Retention Period in Years	Action
Administration – General Includes records on general administration	2	De
Annual Reports	P	E
Board minutes	P	H
Board packages	5	De
Building Records relating to the planning and construction of the facility, including any architectural drawings.	P	H
Contracts & Agreements Records relating to persons, firms, or corporations with whom GPPL has entered into some form of contract or agreement.	Retain 3 years after expiration of contract and/or warranty	De
Correspondence – Electronic and Hard Copy Includes incoming or outgoing correspondence as deemed necessary for library operations.	3	Selective retention or De
Finance – Accounts Payable Records of payment made to vendors providing service to GPPL. Includes invoices and supporting documentation.	7	De
Finance – Accounts Receivable Control and operation of receivable accounts such as invoices, statements, and supporting documentation. Documentation may be in hard copy or electronic format.	7	De
Finance – Audits Annual audited financial statements, including statement, recommendations and background documentation.	P	H, E
Finance – Banking Administration of banking methods and establishment, maintenance and termination of banking arrangements.	P (Retain for one year after termination of relationship with financial institution)	H
Finance – Banking Records of deposits, cheques, petty cash, statements, and reconciliation.	7	De

Finance – Budgets Includes records pertaining to the preparation of budgets, operating grants, and requests.	7	De
Finance – Charitable Tax Receipts Receipts issued for monetary donations to GPPL.	3	De
Finance – Grant Applications Original grant submissions, supporting documentation and final reporting documents.	7	De
Finance – Investments	Retain until superseded	De
Finance – Taxation Taxation matters at all government levels and records pertaining to GST, customs and excise taxes, annual reports, and supporting documentation.	7	De
Insurance Includes policies, claims, and any other related documentation.	Retain current only	De
Legal Matters Records relating to legal issues, opinions, and advice provided to the Board by a solicitor.	P	H
Library Statistics Includes information on the usage of library services and collections, such as program participants, physical visitors, and active cardholders.	5	De
Personnel – Applications & Resumes Includes all applications and resumes received for vacant positions and, if applicable, interview notes and references collected.	3	De
Personnel – Unsolicited Applications & Resumes Includes application and resumes of people not interviewed or hired.	1	De
Personnel – General (former staff) Includes the personnel records of individual employees, personal data, resumes, employment history, time sheets, performance reviews, pay and benefits, training, etc.	3	De
Photographs Includes photographs deemed of historical interest.	P	H, E



Plans of Service	P	H, E
Policies and Bylaws	Retain until superseded	De
Staff meetings Includes minutes of meetings of departments, all staff, and other groups.	3	De
User Records Contains patron registration and record information in membership database.	3 years following the last confirmed address check	De
User Records In Collections or owing more than \$100.00.	6 years	De

2.3 Risk Management

Purpose

Risk management is an integral part of sound management practice and an essential element of good corporate governance. The purpose of this policy is to ensure consistency in consideration of risks and advantages in the decisions made by the Grande Prairie Public Library (GPPL) with respect to both policies and operations.

Definition

GPPL defines risk management as the forecasting and evaluation of risks together with the identification of procedures to avoid or minimize their impact.

Guiding Principles

- GPPL will maintain a risk intelligent culture that is innovative and proactive in identifying, assessing, and managing risk.
- Risk management will be incorporated into the strategic and operational planning processes at all levels within GPPL.
- Risk will be imbedded into GPPL's decision-making processes to allow a balanced decision-making approach that considers all aspects while allowing for advancement and innovation.
- Risk management will be considered in the context of alignment with GPPL's mission, vision and values.

Risk Categories

In order to build a cohesive risk intelligent culture, it is important to identify the numerous risks faced by GPPL. GPPL maintains a schedule of risk categories that is reviewed by the Director on a regular basis.

Decision Making Process

GPPL Board members and employees consider a variety of factors when making risk management decisions. The consistent application of these considerations will help GPPL develop a risk informed response that uses limited resources as effectively as possible.

Roles and Responsibilities

GPPL Board members and employees all have roles and responsibilities that contribute to GPPL's management of risk:

Front-line employees

- Are responsible for following prescribed risk management practices in the context of their daily tasks

Management team

- Will ensure employees within their departments understand their responsibilities with respect to operational risk
- Are responsible for implementing good risk management practices in their departments
- Will assist in fostering a risk aware culture within GPPL

Director

- Will consider risk and the affect it has on GPPL as a whole
- Will bring any risk management concerns to the attention of the Board

Library Board

- Ensures GPPL's risk management policy is in place and reviewed regularly
- Ensures risk is being continually managed with the Director

2.4 Confidentiality of Patron Records

All records held by the Grande Prairie Public Library relating to patron records and the borrowing of library materials are confidential in nature, regardless of the source of inquiry, unless it meets one of the below circumstances.

Access to patron records is provided to library staff and volunteers as required in order for them to carry out GPPL's operations, including recovering library property and replacement costs.

The contents of patron records, including borrowing history, shall not be made available to anyone with the following exceptions:

- Under the written order of the Director, with such order having been issued pursuant to a proper legal process, order, or subpoena under the law and/or in accordance with Alberta's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP).
- At the request of a parent or guardian for access to the record of a library user under 15 years of age, provided the parent or guardian has authorized and accepted responsibility for borrowing privileges.
- In the case of a library user 15 – 17 years of age inclusive, access is provided to the parent if the information is provided to aid in the retrieval of overdue library material or the collection of outstanding library charges only, and only after GPPL has first contacted the patron.

2.5 Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Alberta's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy* (FOIP) Act aims to strike a balance between the public's right to know and the individual's right to privacy, as those rights relate to information held by public bodies.

The FOIP Act ensures that Albertans have:

- the right to request access to information held by the Library,
- the right to access personal information about themselves held by the Library,
- the right to request corrections to their personal information held by the Library,
- controls on the collection, use, and disclosure of personal information by the Library, and
- the right to request independent review of decisions made under FOIP.

The FOIP Coordinator at the Grande Prairie Public Library can be contacted at:

Grande Prairie Public Library
101 9839 103 Avenue
Grande Prairie AB T8V 6M7

2.6 Donations

Monetary Donations

- Donations are accepted and tax receipts are issued by the Library for all monetary donations of ten dollars (\$10.00) or greater in accordance with the policies and the guidance of the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).
- Monetary donations can be allocated to specific areas of the Library collection, to equipment, or to facility enhancement. The Grande Prairie Public Library (GPPL) reserves the right, however, not to accept a monetary donation if the request is for items or facility enhancements deemed unsuitable or inappropriate for the Library.

Other Materials

- GPPL will accept donations of non-collection items, including artwork, equipment, or other tangible property as appropriate.
- All property donated becomes the exclusive property of the Grande Prairie Public Library. The Library may use or at any time dispose of the property in any way it sees fit.
- Tangible capital assets received as donations are recorded at fair market value at the date of receipt and are also recorded as revenue.
- Issuing of tax receipts will follow CRA guidelines.

Naming

GPPL encourages and welcomes organizations and individuals to support to the Library through the establishment of sponsorships, including revenue and/or in-kind contributions, to enhance events, programs, activities, and services to the community. The Board's first priority is to ensure the continuation and growth of financial support from the City of Grande Prairie, the County of Grande Prairie, the Municipal District of Greenview, and the Government of Alberta.

Recognizing that the long-term philanthropic support of the Library is vital to the services it provides, the Board supports the ongoing practice of entering into naming rights agreements with donors where such relationships are mutually beneficial and are consistent with the guidelines set in this policy.

In judging the suitability of a naming rights proposal, the following will be considered:

- The significance of the proposed financial contribution in relation to the project
- The urgency of the need for the project, or of funding for the project

- The acceptability of the donor from the perspective of current community standards
- The history of the donor's support of libraries and literacy
- The donor's compatibility with, understanding of, and support for the GPPL's mission, vision, and values

All naming rights agreements will be for a fixed term considering the local philanthropic climate and leading philanthropic practices.

The partner organization will be granted marketing rights to promote their involvement with the GPPL for the duration of the naming/sponsorship agreement subject to the provisions of this policy.

GPPL will not relinquish to the naming rights holder any aspect of GPPL's right to manage and control any of GPPL's assets, facilities, programs, services, staff, or volunteers.

Sponsorships do not imply endorsement of products or services by GPPL. A sponsorship does not automatically imply any exclusive arrangements with GPPL.

Tax receipts are not issued for naming rights donations.

Library Values

GPPL is a cornerstone of the community. Sponsorships must not undermine the integrity of the non-commercial public space that GPPL provides. In developing sponsorship arrangements, GPPL will:

- Safeguard the equity of access to library services and not allow sponsorship agreements to give an unfair advantage to, or cause discrimination against, any sectors of the community;
- Protect its principles of intellectual freedom and equity of access to programs, services, and collections;
- Protect the confidentiality of user records;
- Not permit sponsors to have an undue impact on GPPL's policies and practices or information provided by GPPL (i.e. materials selection, choice of service provider, etc.), or to influence or alter the basic goals and objectives of GPPL programs and services;
- Not seek or accept sponsorships for programs, events, services, or activities involving or targeted to children from companies whose products cannot be legally sold or distributed to children or from companies whose products are inappropriate for use by children;
- Not allow direct marketing of products to children, except where relevant educational material is promoted in conjunction with programs.

Legacy Recognitions

- GPPL recognizes the importance of acknowledging financial gifts and, in the absence of knowing the donor's wishes, will determine and review legacy recognitions.
- Willie Janssen Estate Gift - Willie Janssen's estate gifted significant funds for the betterment of library services in the region. GPPL will provide the following recognition:
 1. GPPL's Discovery Room will be named the Willie Janssen Discovery Room.
 2. A recognition plaque will be maintained on the west wall of the entry hall to GPPL in the Montrose Cultural Centre.

SECTION 3 – COMMUNITY RELATIONS

3.1 Social Media

Purpose

Grande Prairie Public Library (GPPL) supports open dialogue and the exchange of ideas. The Social Media Policy provides a framework for staff to engage our customers in ongoing conversations regarding GPPL.

The policy covers all social media platforms maintained by GPPL staff and the monitoring and responding to social media sites maintained by other individuals or organizations.

Definition

- Social media is defined as an interactive online media that provide parties the capacity for public sharing, commentary, discussion, and contribution.

GPPL Social Media

- GPPL’s website is the official channel of communication for the Library. Social media spaces established by GPPL should supplement the website and be collaborative, interactive and engaging to the wider community.
- The establishment of all new social media platforms are approved on a case by case basis by the Director. Approval is based on suitability, audience fit, and long-term sustainability.
- The Director will provide direction of GPPL’s social media platforms. Staff will monitor all social media channels during the hours of operation in order to quickly engage with the community.
- All staff involved with social media have responsibility for authoring, editing, and monitoring the space. They will be guided as necessary by the Director as to the nature and content of material posted on the site.
- GPPL recognizes and respects differences in opinion. All interactions are regularly monitored and reviewed for content and relevancy. Postings which contain the following will be removed:
 - Obscenity
 - Discriminatory content, harassment, or bullying
 - Inflammatory or demeaning content (personal attacks, threatening language)
 - Potentially libellous statements
 - Plagiarized material
 - Content which is out of context or not related to the discussion
 - Personal information published without consent
 - Commercial promotion, self promotion, or spam
 - External hyperlinks not related to the discussion

- Abuse may result in the poster being barred from posting any subsequent messages.

Risk Management

- All accounts must be linked to GPPL contact information and devices.
- Refer to *Policy 10.1 Employee Code of Ethics* for expectations regarding employee use of personal social media.

Monitoring Social Media

- GPPL routinely monitors social media to know what others are posting about the organization. Staff is encouraged to post content on existing social media within their scope of authority and area of expertise using the Library's social media accounts. Staff will use posted content as a means of delivering key messages and leveraging the Library's position.
- Staff content is the voice of GPPL and therefore staff will:
 - be respectful and post meaningful content
 - protect GPPL's proprietary information, confidentiality, & patron privacy
 - build opportunities to create connections within the broader community
 - post content that is consistent with GPPL's values and standards
 - follow the Procedures for Posting on Social Media Sites

SECTION 4 – FACILITIES

4.1 Display and Distribution of Materials

As a community service, the Grande Prairie Public Library provides areas to display information of importance and interest to the community.

- Materials for display or distribution in public areas will be subject to the discretion of the Director or designate and will adhere to the *Display and Distribution of Materials Guidelines*.
- The display or distribution of any material does not constitute endorsement of its content by the Library.

4.2 Hours of Service

Purpose:

The Grande Prairie Public Library Board will set and adjust operating hours to balance community need and fiscal responsibility.

GPPL will be open to the public:

Monday – Thursday	10:00 AM to 8:00 PM
Friday	10:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Saturday	10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Sunday	11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

GPPL will be closed to the public:

- On all public and statutory holidays
- At least one day annually for Staff Development Day with additional days as approved by the Board
- In emergency situations

4.3 Meeting Room Use

Purpose

The Grande Prairie Public Library allows public use of its meeting rooms to enable:

- Provision of library programs and services to the public.
- Partnerships with community agencies and organizations to provide programming and activities complementary to the Library's goals and objectives.
- Affordable meeting space for use by community members.

Who may rent

The Library Board will not knowingly permit any individual or group to use its facilities for any illegal purpose, including contravention of Canada's *Criminal Code*, the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, or if the Board has reason to fear a disturbance of the public peace.

No renting organization may display, show, or perform any material not appropriately licensed or which is in contravention of Canada's *Copyright Act*.

Library meeting rooms cannot be rented by a business or for-profit organization as their primary operating space.

Persons renting meeting space must be at least 18 years of age.

No special privileges are extended to organizations to which staff members belong.

Charges

GPPL will review room rental fees on an annual basis or as needed.

There is no charge for the use of meeting rooms by groups offering programs in which GPPL is a partner.

Reservations / Cancellations

All outside agencies or individuals must complete GPPL's Room Rental contract as part of the room reservation process.

Advertising / Endorsements

Meeting room use does not constitute endorsement or sponsorship of any program or event by GPPL.

Groups must clearly specify their own names in all publicity and may identify GPPL and its address only as the location of the event. Renters may not use GPPL's logo, give out GPPL's telephone number, or invite potential attendees to contact GPPL for information on the event or program.

No other areas of GPPL may be used for promotion or advertising.

Food and Beverages

Room renters are responsible for arranging their own catering, including delivery and clean up.

Alcohol may be permitted with prior approval by Director for special licensed events.

Damage

The individual making the reservation, as well as the membership of the group as a whole, will be held responsible for any and all damages that may occur as a result of the use of the facilities.

Permission to use GPPL meeting rooms may be withheld from groups failing to comply with the *Meeting Room Use* policy and from any group that damages the room, carpet, equipment or furniture, or causes a disturbance.

In accordance with GPPL's *Supervision of Vulnerable Library Users* policy, GPPL staff are not responsible for the supervision of children while adults attend meetings.

4.4 Rules of Conduct for Library Users

Grande Prairie Public Library patrons and staff are entitled to a welcoming and pleasant environment in which to use GPPL's services and facilities. To ensure enjoyment of the library for all visitors, the following rules must be followed:

Respect others

- Be considerate of others in GPPL spaces and respectfully coexist
- Take responsibility for those in your care during your visit
- Follow the directions of library staff

Some behaviours are unacceptable and may result in the suspension or restriction of library privileges, including banning from the premises. Criminal offences may result in prosecution. Unacceptable behaviours include:

- Abuse, discrimination, or harassment of any kind towards others
- Using intoxicating substances
- Begging or selling services, goods, or merchandise
- Carrying or using a weapon
- Sexual activity
- Damaging or stealing GPPL property
- Distributing or posting materials without permission from GPPL staff
- Violation of GPPL agreements, guidelines, or policies

In addition to the above unacceptable behaviours, the following rules must be respected:

Sleeping

- Sleeping is not permitted in the library due to health and safety concerns.

Personal Effects

- Patrons must respect the library's space and keep their personal effects (i.e. bags, carts, etc.) limited and on their person at all times.

Animals

- Only registered service animals are allowed in the library.

Phones and other devices

- Personal electronic devices must be used in a manner that does not disturb others.

Clothing

- Upper and lower body clothing and footwear must be worn.

Food and drink

- No food or drink is permitted while operating GPPL's gaming computers or the Creative Stations.

Sports equipment

- Sports equipment must not be used inside the library.

Public access computers

Library computers must not be used to:

- Access sites or transmit materials that violate federal or provincial laws or municipal bylaws
- Display overt sexual images
- Damage or modify GPPL's computer equipment, software, or network

GPPL reserves the right to terminate a computer session at any time.

4.5 Supervision of Vulnerable Library Users

GPPL welcomes children of all ages and abilities, but cannot be responsible for their safety or supervision outside of scheduled programs.

- When visiting GPPL, children less than 8 years old must be within arm's reach of a responsible guardian 16 years of age or older at all times.
- Children ages 8 and 9 need to have a responsible guardian of 16 years of age or older in the Library.
- Children ages 10 and up can be in the Library unsupervised.

Any unattended person visiting GPPL must be capable of performing the following without assistance:

- Following GPPL's *Rules of Conduct for Library Users* policy
- Using the restroom
- Contacting a parent/caregiver
- Leaving GPPL in

SECTION 5 – FINANCIAL

5.1 Accounts Payable

The Office Administrator is responsible for the auditing and processing of invoices and payments for the Grande Prairie Public Library. Invoices, credits, vouchers, and payments are processed through the Accounts Payable/Purchase Order System. This authority is delegated from the Board of the Grande Prairie Public Library and complies with the laws and acts governing payment of invoices in the province of Alberta.

Purchase Orders

- Purchase Orders are void if not priced.
- Charges for shipping and handling must be shown on the Purchase Order.
- Purchase Orders are void if not signed by an approved signatory with the Grande Prairie Public Library.
- Invoices must bear exact same prices and terms or authorization must be received from the Grande Prairie Public Library in writing prior to shipping.
- GST is to be shown separately.
- Packing slips must accompany all shipments.

Payment Schedule

- Payment is made on original invoices only.
- A Grande Prairie Public Library Purchase Order or valid Purchase Order number must accompany each invoice.
- The Grande Prairie Public Library pays invoices twice a month.
- All invoices are paid within 30 days of receipt of the invoice.

Disputes

- Products supplied by the Seller shall be received subject to the Grande Prairie Public Library's inspection and approval within a reasonable time after delivery.
- Payment may be withheld if shipment does not meet the Grande Prairie Public Library's expectations or is not what was ordered.
- If specifications or warranties are not met, material and equipment may be returned at Seller's expense.
- No products returned to Seller as defective shall be replaced except upon formal authorization of the Grande Prairie Public Library.



5.2 Board and Staff Reimbursement

Purpose

Library Board members and staff will be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred while conducting library business.

Procedures

- Expense claims, accompanied by receipts where necessary, are to be submitted to the Office Administrator within three months of when the expense was incurred.
- The Library Director reviews and approves expense claims prior to reimbursement. Schedule A compensation rates apply; however, discretionary judgment may be exercised in unique circumstances.
- Reimbursement rates will follow those of the Government of Alberta. Any changes will be brought to the Board for approval.
- If a Library Board or staff member requires a caregiver to accompany them when conducting library business, the caregiver's expenses will be reimbursed.

Public Relations

It is recognized that Grande Prairie Public Library will, from time to time, engage in public relations activities that require some expense. These expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with budgeted expenditure levels upon presentation of receipts with the claim.

SCHEDULE A REIMBURSEMENT RATES AND ALLOWANCES

Transportation Rates:

- a) Air travel – at economy rates by the most direct route. Submission of receipts required.
- b) Automobile travel, other ground transportation, meals and accommodation will be reimbursed at the current rate established by the Government of Alberta for its employees as outlined in the [Travel, Meal and Hospitality Expenses Policy](#). Submission of receipts required if the employee is claiming expenses beyond what is outlined in the policy.



5.3 Financial Administration

Audit

- The Grande Prairie Public Library's financial records will be prepared for audit within ninety (90) days after the end of the fiscal year.
- The Library Board will appoint an auditor annually, to be approved by the City of Grande Prairie
- The Library Board has the authority to approve the audit.

Fiscal Year

- The fiscal year of the Grande Prairie Public Library shall be January 1 to December 31.

Signing Authority

- The signing officers shall be the ~~Library~~ Director, the Acting Director, the Board Chair, Vice-Chair, and one designated board member. The BOARD signing officers shall be appointed annually by a motion of the Board.
- Cheques and EFTs, with the exception of payroll, shall be signed by one of either the Director or the Acting Director and one of either the Board Chair, Vice Chair, or the designated board member.
- Payroll EFT payments shall be approved by the Director or Acting Director in the absence of the Director.

Credit Card

- A corporate credit card will be used by the Director or designated staff members for reservations, travel expenses, and specific purchases where a credit card number is required.
- Receipts for the expenses will be submitted to the Office Administrator as soon as possible after the expense has occurred.
- Other staff members who require a credit card for purchases must receive permission from the cardholder before use.
- Personal use of the credit card is prohibited.
- The Board approves the total credit card limit

5.4 Investments

Purpose

The Grande Prairie Public Library Board (the Board) recognizes the need for sound and prudent investment practices. The Board will adopt policies and establish procedures to ensure that investment earnings are maximized through investment activities which at the same time minimize exposure and risk.

Authorization

The Board authorizes the Library Director to invest capital and operating funds not required for immediate disbursement according to the guidelines outlined below, and to dispose of any investment when necessary to meet expenditures or as prudent from an investment management point of view.

Guidelines

All investments will be with recognized financial institutions with a financial rating of AA (minimum). These investments will be government/bank guaranteed at a minimum of 75% in the following:

- Securities issued or guaranteed by the Crown in right of Canada or an agent of the Crown or the Crown in right of a province or agent of a province;
- Securities that are issued or guaranteed by a bank, treasury branch, credit union or trust corporation.

Investments shall be awarded to the financial institution with the most competitive offering after taking into consideration the administrative costs involved and all the financial needs of the Library.

5.5 Reserves

The Grande Prairie Public Library (GPPL) Board may establish, maintain and manage reserve funds to maintain a prudent level of available financial resources to offset unpredicted one-time expenditures. Reserve funds also provide resources for repairs/replacement/upgrading or construction of new capital assets/infrastructure.

- All requests to use reserve funds or to re-designate reserves must be approved by means of a Board motion. Requests to use reserve funds may also be submitted as part of the annual budget process.
- Any surplus funds in GPPL’s operating budget at year-end will be allocated to reserves as specified by the Board during the financial audit process.
- Any interest will be returned to the appropriate reserve fund.
- Reports on the status of reserves will be provided to the Board during the audit process and upon request throughout the year.
- The Finance Committee shall review the reserves annually to ensure appropriate levels.

Schedule of Reserves

Operating Reserves	
Status	Unrestricted
Purpose	An operating reserve is an unrestricted fund balance set aside to stabilize the Library’s finances by providing a cushion against unexpected events, loss of income, and large unbudgeted expenses. Operating reserves should not be used to cover a long-term or permanent income shortfall, but can allow the library to weather serious bumps by buying time to implement new strategies. An operating reserve should be used to solve temporary problems or to shut down the operation of the library.
Funding Source	Contributions from operations
Approved Spending Categories	Providing a cushion against unexpected events, loss of income, and large unbudgeted expenses.



General Reserves	
Status	Restricted
Purpose	To fund capital projects according to the Strategic Plan of Service.
Funding Source	Contributions from fundraising
Approved Spending Categories	<p>Facilities Upgrade and Future Sites To provide for upgrade, replacement, additions and repairs of a capital nature to the physical building and property and for future sites.</p> <p>Technology and Innovation To acquire or upgrade technologies in order to meet changing organizational or community needs and/or to pursue innovation.</p> <p>Furnishings and Equipment To acquire or replace furniture/fixtures and equipment (other than computer equipment).</p> <p>Collection Development To replace and enhance existing collections and/or introduce new collections.</p> <p>Human Resources To support recruitment, terminations, legal fees, and special leave.</p>
Other	The funds in these reserves may be separated into laddered terms for maximum return on investment.



Clem and Muriel Collins' Fund	
Status	Restricted
Purpose	As directed by the donor
Funding Source	Donor
Approved Spending Categories	This reserve was originally established as a fund through a donation from Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Collins to cover membership fees for those who could not afford them. The funds in this legacy will be used for library projects that benefit the less fortunate and/or provide educational value, as per the wishes of the Collins family. This has been used to fund the Collins Writing Contest.
Relevant Document	Correspondence from Clem and Muriel Collins

Janssen Legacy	
Status	Restricted
Purpose	As directed by the donor
Funding Source	Donor
Approved Spending Categories	This reserve was established from a bequest to GPPL by Willie Janssen upon his death in 2010. His wishes, as expressed in his will, were that the funds are to be used "for the purchase of current reading materials of general interest to the general public, including software and materials in electronic form, and also for fixtures and equipment, and displays within the library, but not for building construction or building maintenance." (<i>from the Will of Willie Janssen</i>)
Relevant Document	Will of Willie Janssen

5.6 Tangible Capital Assets

Purpose

The objective of this policy is to prescribe the accounting treatment for tangible capital assets so that users of the financial report can discern information about the investment in Library property, plant and equipment and the changes in such investment.

Definition

Tangible Capital Assets (TCA) are non-financial assets with physical substance that are acquired, constructed or developed and are held for use in the production or supply of goods and services; have useful economic lives extending beyond an accounting period; are intended to be used on a continuing basis in the Library's operations; and are not intended for sale in the ordinary course of operations.

Presentation and Disclosure

Tangible capital assets are reported in the Library's financial statements when the following criteria are met:

- It must satisfy the definition of a tangible capital asset.
- It must have a cost or other value that can be reliably measured and meet the capitalization threshold.

The presentation and disclosure layout is outlined in Section C.

Capitalization Thresholds

Tangible capital assets should be capitalized (recorded in the fixed asset sub-ledger) according to the following threshold:

- Furniture, computers, software, collections & equipment with a unit cost of \$5,000 or greater (library collections are recorded and valued as a whole as opposed to item by item)
- Pooled assets are similar assets that have a unit value below the capitalization threshold but have a material value as a group. Furniture, computers, software, collections, and equipment with a combined value of \$5,000 or greater will be recorded as a single asset.

Capital assets not meeting the threshold are expensed in the year in which they are purchased.

Capital Asset Classifications

Capital assets should be assigned to the classifications outlined in Section A based on their nature, characteristics and useful life.

Amortization

Unless otherwise stated, the acquisition cost will be amortized over its estimated useful life, on a straight-line basis. All capital asset classifications have predetermined estimated useful lives as outlined in Section B.

In the year of acquisition, amortization is applied at half of normal rates. No amortization is recorded in the year of disposition.

Section A -- Asset Classification

Tangible capital assets will be defined as:

- Furniture – shelving, tables, desks, chairs, etc.
- Computers & Software – computer hardware & software
- Collections – All Library materials in print, audio and video
- Equipment – photocopiers, fax machines, audiovisual, etc.
- Leasehold improvements

When equipment is purchased, the cost should include the amount of money ultimately paid, including ancillary charges such as transportation, installation, extended maintenance/warranty contracts and any other expenditure required to place the asset in its intended location and condition for use.

Cultural and Historical Assets

Works of art and historical treasures that have cultural, aesthetic or historical value that is worth preserving perpetually. These assets are not recognized as tangible capital assets in the financial statements, but the existence of such property should be disclosed.

Section B - Capital Asset Estimated Useful Lives

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| • Furniture | 10 |
| • Computers & Software | 3-5 |
| • Collections | 3 |
| • Equipment | 5 |
| • Leasehold improvements | 10 |
| • Public Art | |
| • Historical | |

Section C – Presentation and Disclosure

The financial statements should disclose the following information about tangible capital assets, where beneficial a breakdown for each major category:

- Cost at the beginning and end of the period;
- Additions in the period;
- Disposals in the period;
- The amount of any write-downs in the period;
- The amount of amortization of the costs of tangible capital assets for the period;
- Accumulated amortization at the beginning and end of the period;
- Net carrying amount at the beginning and end of the period;
- The amortization method used, including the amortization period or rate for each major category of tangible capital asset;
- The net book value of tangible capital assets not being amortized because they are under construction or development or have been removed from service;
- The nature and amount of contributed tangible capital assets received in the period and recognized in the financial statements: and
- The nature of the works of art and historical treasures held by the Library. Works of art and historical treasures are not recognized as tangible capital assets, as a reasonable estimate of the future benefits cannot be made. Nevertheless, their existence and nature must be disclosed.

Capital transactions include acquisitions, disposals, betterments, write-downs, amortization and other adjustments. Sufficient information should be maintained through source documents, working papers and files supporting capital asset transactions for internal and external audit or review.

SECTION 6 – HEALTH AND SAFETY

6.1 Health and Safety (General)

Purpose

The Grande Prairie Public Library shall provide a safe and healthy environment for its employees, volunteers, customers and visitors. This policy is intended to allow employees, volunteers, customers and visitors to work for and spend time in the Library with minimum personal risk, and with the confidence that the organization has taken full precautions to ensure his/her physical safety and health. For the purpose of this policy, the employer is the Grande Prairie Public Library.

The employer, supervisors, and workers at every level are responsible and accountable for GPPL's health and safety performance. Our goal is a healthy, injury-free workplace for all workers. By working together, we can achieve this goal.

Grande Prairie Public Library will:

- Ensure:
 - the health, safety, and welfare of workers at the work site,
 - the health, safety and welfare of other persons at or near the work site who may be affected by hazards originating from the work site,
 - that workers are aware of their Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) rights and duties,
 - that workers are not subjected to or participate in harassment or violence at the work site,
 - that workers are supervised by a person who is competent and familiar with the OHS Act, Regulations, and Code,
 - they consult and cooperate with the Health and Safety Committee (HSC),
 - that health and safety concerns are resolved in a timely manner,
 - that supervisors and workers are adequately trained for the protection of health and safety at the work site.

Supervisors will:

- Ensure:
 - they are competent to supervise the workers under their supervision,
 - the workers under their supervision work in accordance with procedures and measures required by the OHS Act, Regulations, and Code,
 - the workers under their supervision use all hazard controls and properly uses the personal protective equipment required by the employer or under the OHS Act, Regulation or Code, and
 - that workers are not subjected to or participate in harassment or violence at the work site.
- Take all precautions necessary to protect the health and safety of every worker under their supervision.
- Advise every worker under their supervision of all known or reasonably foreseeable hazards to health and safety in the area where the worker is performing work.
- Report concerns about an unsafe or harmful work site, act, or condition that occurs/exists or has occurred/existed to the employer.

Workers will:

- Protect the health and safety of themselves and other people at or near the worksite.
- Cooperate with their supervisors and employers to protect the health and safety of themselves and others.
- Use any personal protective equipment required by the employer or the OHS Act, Regulation or Code.
- Refrain from causing or participating in harassment or violence.
- Report concerns about an unsafe or harmful work site act or condition that occurs/exists or has occurred/existed to the employer or supervisor.

In addition, the employer, supervisors and workers will:

- Cooperate with any person exercising a duty imposed by the OHS Act, Regulations, or Code, and
- Comply with the OHS Act, Regulation, and Code and any site policies, procedures, and codes of practice.
- Follow required regulations laid out by municipal, provincial, or federal government bodies.

6.2 Health and Safety Orientation/Training

Legislation: The Occupational Health and Safety Act, Ch. O-2.2, Part 1, section 5

Employee Orientation

Library employees and volunteers will be oriented to the Grande Prairie Public Library's health and safety policies and procedures when they initially start working at the Library.

6.3 Emergency Preparedness

Legislation: The Occupational Health and Safety Code, Part 7

The Grande Prairie Public Library will ensure that all staff are familiar with the Montrose Cultural Centre's emergency procedures, along with the Emergency Evacuation Procedures specific to the Library.

These procedures comply with provincial Occupational Health and Safety legislation and include the following:

- identification of various potential and specific emergencies (e.g. fire, tornado, violence, etc.);
- procedures for dealing with identified emergencies;
- emergency response training requirements;
- location and use of emergency facilities;
- emergency locators (e.g. exit doors, first aid kits, flashlights);
- alarm and emergency communication requirements;

Library Department Heads are responsible for implementing and monitoring this policy in their departments.

6.4 Violence and Harassment

Legislation: The Occupational Health and Safety Code, Part 27

Commitment

The Grande Prairie Public Library Board, in its efforts to provide a positive, comfortable, and professional environment, will not tolerate any form of workplace violence or harassment directed by, or at, any Library employee by another employee, Board member, or member of the public.

The Board is committed to:

- investigating reported incidents of workplace violence or harassment in an objective and timely manner
- taking necessary action
- providing appropriate support

The Board is further committed to preventing acts of workplace violence or harassment on its premises.

6.5 Working Alone

Legislation: The Occupational Health and Safety Code, Part 28

The Grande Prairie Public Library (GPPL) is committed to the safety of its employees and volunteers. The Library considers an employee or volunteer to be working alone if he/she works by himself or herself at a work site in circumstances where assistance is not readily available when needed. Examples of employees or volunteers who could be at risk from working alone include those who work in sites isolated from public view or who work by themselves without close or direct contact with fellow employees. GPPL complies with provincial Occupational Health and Safety legislation regarding working alone.

GPPL will:

- identify the potential hazards of working alone and will take practical steps to eliminate or control the hazards
- establish procedures including effective communication of hazards involved for employees and volunteers and who to contact and how to be contacted to ensure employee safety
- ensure employees and volunteers are trained and made aware of the hazards of working alone and the steps necessary to reduce potential risks

SECTION 7 – LIBRARY BOARD

7.1 Board Membership

Legislation: The Alberta Libraries Act, part 1

The City of Grande Prairie Library Board is established by the City of Grande Prairie. Membership guidelines of this policy reflect the City's Bylaw C-651C and its amendments.

The Library Board shall consist of 10 members appointed by City Council, one of whom shall be a City Councillor.

A person who is an employee of the Grande Prairie Public Library is not eligible to be a member of the Board.

Appointments to the Library Board shall be for terms of up to three years, commencing on January 1, with terms operating on a rotating basis, unless appointed to serve the unexpired portion of an existing term.

Members of City Council shall serve a term, the length of which shall be at the discretion of Council.

A member of the Library Board is eligible to be reappointed for two additional consecutive three-year terms of office, unless approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs under exceptional circumstances.

There shall be an annual election of the Chair and Vice-Chair positions from among the members of the Library Board.

A person is disqualified from remaining a member of the Board if he/she fails to attend, without being authorized by a resolution of the Board to do so, three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the Board, as per *The Alberta Libraries Act*, section 31 (1).

Formal appreciation will be shown to outgoing members of the Board by presenting them with a gift in recognition of their years of service. Gifts should be based on years of service up to \$100.

7.2 Board Meetings

Agenda Format and Preparation

- The agenda orders the business for a Library Board meeting and will include the Consent Agenda model as set out in the attached Schedule "A".
- The Director will prepare a draft agenda seven days prior to the meeting and submit this to the Board Chair. The Board Chair will review this draft agenda and make any changes considered necessary.

Agenda Distribution

- Copies of the agenda and any attachments or reports will be provided to Board members electronically at least three full days prior to any regular meeting.
- The Director will make copies of the agenda available to Library staff and the general public, upon request, but only after it has been delivered to Board members as noted above.

Adoption of Agenda

- The Board must vote to adopt the agenda prior to transacting other business at a meeting and may:
 - resolve to add new items to the agenda;
 - delete any item from the agenda by unanimous vote.

Preparation and Adoption of Minutes

- The Director will ensure all Board meeting minutes are prepared. Board meeting minutes will include:
 - all decisions and other proceedings;
 - the names of all Board members present and absent from the meeting;
 - the signature of the Chair for the meeting and the date of signing.
- The minutes of each meeting must be circulated to each member prior to the meeting at which they are to be adopted. If there are errors or omissions, the Board must:
 - pass a motion to amend the minutes;
 - adopt the minutes as amended, and if there are no errors or omissions, the Board must adopt the minutes as circulated.
- The minutes adopted by the Board will be made available to Library staff and the general public.

Frequency of meetings

- Regular Board meetings will be held a maximum of 10 times per year.

Special meetings



- Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the Board Chair or at the request of five (5) members, for the transaction of business as stated in the call for the meeting.

Electronic voting

- At the discretion, or with the consent, of the Board Chair, and for matters of an urgent nature, OR time-sensitive matters OR where it would be more expeditious to do so OR when it is not feasible for the Board to meet in person, email polling and/or electronic voting may be used to help facilitate decisions of the Library Board in accordance with the following:
 - In recognition that decisions are being made using email communication in lieu of a face-to-face meeting, extra effort will be made to ensure that members are provided with sufficient background materials and adequate documentation to support the request for a decision.
 - All communication will be shared as a group email with all members copied on correspondence including questions, responses and general commentary. All members will select “reply all” when providing comments so that these will be shared simultaneously with all members and a record will be kept of the email exchange.
 - If a resolution is required, the Board Chair may authorize the Director to conduct an electronic vote of the members. A clear rationale will be given to the members to explain why a motion is necessary. The question to be answered will be stated clearly in the form of a specific resolution provided for members’ consideration. Respondents will be asked to vote upon the resolution.
 - In the event of an electronic vote, a reasonable and adequate time will be determined for members to respond to the request for a decision. Members will have the opportunity to declare a conflict and not participate in the vote. Every effort will be made to obtain a response from each member (i.e. allow each person to register their vote). The resolution shall be deemed to have been approved only if, by the end of the time period specified, the Director has received approval responses from a majority of the voting members.
 - Non-response to an electronic vote will be considered an abstention.
 - Voting records will be kept and included as minutes in the consent agenda of the next face-to-face meeting of the Board.
 - A resolution approved by email polling and electronic voting, permitted by the Board Chair and passed by a majority of voting members, shall have the same force and effect as a resolution passed at a regularly constituted meeting of the Library Board.
 - The Director shall prepare a summary document noting the purpose of, and any decisions resulting from, the electronic exchange including any subsequent resolutions.

Virtual Meeting

- A meeting held virtually will be considered a face-to-face meeting and will be conducted as such. Remote attendees may include any or all board members while some meet in-person. Appropriate video conferencing tools or phone may be used.

Quorum

- Quorum for a meeting shall be 50% of the total number of Board members + 1.

Conduct of meetings

- The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order – Newly Revised*, shall govern meetings of the Board in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these by-laws and any special rules of order the Board may adopt.

In-camera sessions

- The Board meetings will include an in-camera session as an agenda item to allow the Board to discuss security, legal matters, personnel matters, labour relations, or topics related to the functioning of the Board, as outlined in the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP)* as needed.

Persons Wishing to Address the Board

To ensure the public is given the opportunity to communicate with the Board, the following protocol has been established:

- A delegation of the public may request a hearing before the Board by submitting a request to the Chair or the Director at least fourteen (14) calendar days before the meeting date at which the delegation wishes to be heard. The request should indicate the topic, the number of people in the delegation, who the speaker will be and relevant contact information.
- Delegations will be placed on the Board Meeting Agenda.
- Each delegation will be given up to five (5) minutes to address the Board (exclusive of questions from the Board).
- The Chair may, at their discretion, allow questions from the delegation.
- Delegations will be apprised in writing of any decision regarding the course of action the Board wishes to follow relative to the matter presented.

Schedule A Agenda Format and Presentation

The agenda format is as follows:

- Call to Order
- Consent Agenda
- Items for Decision
 - Financial Statements
 - Board committee reports
 - In-camera Discussion
- Items for Discussion/Action
- Items for information
- Other
- Next Meeting
- Adjournment

The Consent Agenda is used to handle items that do not need any discussion or debate and allows the Board to approve all these items together without discussion or individual motions. Examples include:

- Approval of the minutes
- Final approval of proposals or reports that the Board has been dealing with for some time and all members are familiar with the implications
- Reports provided for information only
- Correspondence requiring no action

At the beginning of the meeting, the Board Chair asks members what items they wish to be removed from the Consent Agenda and discussed individually.

If any member requests that an item be removed from the Consent Agenda, it must be removed. Members may request that an item be removed for any reason.

Once it has been removed, the Board Chair can decide whether to take up the matter immediately or place it on the regular meeting agenda.

When there are no more items to be removed, the Board Chair states: "If there is no objection, these items will be adopted." After pausing for any objections, the Board Chair states "As there are no objections, these items are adopted." It is not necessary to ask for a show of hands.

7.3 Policy Making

The Grande Prairie Public Library Board has the authority under the *Libraries Act* of Alberta for the governance of the Grande Prairie Public Library and for ensuring that policies for framework, board self-governance, and operations are developed.

In fulfilling its responsibility for policymaking, the Board will:

- Define the functions of the Board, and approve framework, board self-governance, and operational policies.
- Work from the broadest, most general statement of policy when setting operational policy, developing more specific policies as necessary.
- Ensure its policies:
 - comply with relevant legislation, with GPPL’s bylaws, with GPPL’s Plan of Service, and with existing Board policies or agreements, before approving new policies.
 - are available to Board members, GPPL employees, and the public.
 - are reviewed regularly.
- Ensure the Director:
 - obtains all GPPL employee and public input as is needed and then provides the Board with such information, advice, and documentation as is required for the development of policies.
 - is responsible for implementing Board policy, with the exception of policies related to Board process and self-governance. The Board Chair is responsible for implementing policies related to board process and self-governance.
 - identifies and recommends areas for policy development to the Board. The Director has the responsibility and authority to provide direction in areas not covered by policy, until given direction by the Board.

7.4 Trustee Code of Ethics

Grande Prairie Public Library Board members shall carry out their trustee duties in an ethical and businesslike manner by adhering to the following:

Accountability

- The duty of Board members is to the Grande Prairie Public Library (GPPL) rather than to any individual, community group, or special interest.
- Board members are accountable for exercising the powers and discharging the duties of their office honestly, in good faith, and in the best interests of GPPL.
- This accountability supersedes the personal interest of any Board member acting as an individual or consumer of GPPL services.
- Board members shall demonstrate respect and work harmoniously with each other, with GPPL employees, and with all those associated with GPPL.
- Board members shall not publicly demean nor disparage GPPL as an organization.
- Board members shall not publicly impugn the motives, abilities, or personalities of fellow Board members or GPPL employees.
- Because the Board is a corporate body, individual trustees may not contradict the decisions of the Board. The time to air questions and disagreement is before the decision, not after. The Board speaks with one voice outside the confines of Board meetings.

Conflict of Interest

- If a conflict of personal, financial, or other interest should arise, the member shall declare their conflict of interest prior to any discussion and shall be absent from any portion of the meeting in which the matter is discussed and voted on.
- A Board member who abstains from participation due to conflict of interest is still included in determining quorum.
- The minutes must record all declarations of personal, financial, and other interests, including the nature for such declaration.

Confidentiality

- Board members shall not communicate, either directly or indirectly, information designated confidential to anyone not entitled to receive the same information.
- Board members shall not use information which has been designated as confidential by the Board for personal profit or use by themselves or any other person or entity.
- Board members shall respect confidential information in perpetuity.

- All material is considered property of GPPL and shall be returned at the expiration of the Board member's term.

Individual Authority

- Board members must not attempt to exercise individual authority over GPPL except as set forth in Board policies.
- Board members' interaction with the Director or with GPPL employees must recognize that any individual Board member does not have authority other than that explicitly stated in Board policy.
- Board members shall make no judgments of the Director or employee performance except as permitted in Board policies.

Acceptance of Gifts

- Board members shall not accept a gift, favour, or service from any individual, organization or corporation, other than the normal exchange of hospitality between persons doing business together; tokens exchanged as part of protocol; or the normal presentation of gifts to persons participating in public functions.

Training and Development

- Board members shall acquaint themselves with the documents of the Board as well as the rules of procedure and proper conduct of a meeting so that any decision of the Board may be made in an efficient, knowledgeable and expeditious fashion.
- Board members shall regularly take part in continuing education activities that assist them in carrying out their responsibilities.

Violation of the Code of Ethics

- The Board Chair is responsible for handling all reports of Board member violations of the *Trustees Code of Ethics* policy.
- The process for handling reports of violations is as follows:
 - The Board Chair will discuss the issue with the member concerned;
 - If unresolved, the Board Chair will discuss the issue with the Chair of the Human Resources Committee and the Board member;
 - If unresolved, the Board Chair shall refer the issue to the Board as a whole.

7.5 Trustee Orientation and Continuing Education

The Grande Prairie Public Library Board recognizes the importance of having informed trustees. To ensure this, the Board provides, within budget limitations, the following:

Trustee Orientation

- The Director conducts an orientation session with new Board members to provide an overview of the Grande Prairie Public Library (GPPL) services, trustee roles and responsibilities, provincial library legislation, and the framework for the provision of library services within the province of Alberta.
- At the orientation session, new Board members will receive a Board information package and will be provided with a tour of GPPL.
- New Board members are encouraged to attend a Board Basics Workshop facilitated by the provincial government's Public Library Services Branch. Board members who have attended the workshop previously are encouraged to participate regularly to refresh their knowledge.

Continuing Education

- Board members are encouraged to attend library conferences and workshops.
- Board members will provide a verbal report to the Board following their attendance at a conference or workshop.
- The Director will provide the Board with information on learning opportunities.

SECTION 8 – LIBRARY MATERIALS

8.1 Intellectual Freedom

GPPL supports the Canadian Federation of Library Associations' *Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries*:

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations recognizes and values the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* as the guarantor of the fundamental freedoms in Canada of conscience and religion; of thought, belief, opinion, and expression; of peaceful assembly; and of association.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations supports and promotes the universal principles of intellectual freedom as defined in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which include the interlocking freedoms to hold opinions and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

In accordance with these principles, the Canadian Federation of Library Associations affirms that all persons in Canada have a fundamental right, subject only to the Constitution and the law, to have access to the full range of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, and to express their thoughts publicly. Only the courts may abridge free expression rights in Canada.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations affirms further that libraries have a core responsibility to support, defend and promote the universal principles of intellectual freedom and privacy.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations holds that libraries are a key institution in Canada for rendering expressive content accessible and affordable to all. Libraries are essential gateways for all persons living in Canada to advance themselves through literacy, lifelong learning, social engagement, and cultural enrichment.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and facilitate access to constitutionally protected expressions of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, including those which some individuals and groups consider unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable. To this end, in accordance with their mandates and professional values and standards, libraries provide, defend and promote equitable access to the widest possible variety of expressive content and resist calls for censorship and the adoption of systems that deny or restrict access to resources.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and foster free expression and the right to safe and welcoming places and conditions. To this end, libraries make available their public spaces and services to individuals and groups without discrimination.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and defend privacy in the individual's pursuit of expressive content. To this end, libraries protect the identities and activities of library users except when required by the courts to cede them.

Furthermore, in accordance with established library policies, procedures and due process, libraries resist efforts to limit the exercise of these responsibilities while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups.

Library employees, volunteers and employers as well as library governing entities have a core responsibility to uphold the principles of intellectual freedom in the performance of their respective library roles.

(Approval history: June 27, 1974; amended November 17, 1983; November 18, 1985; September 2, 2015; adopted by CFLA-FCAB August 26, 2016; and reviewed April 12, 2019)

8.2 Collection Management

Definitions

“Collection” refers to a grouping of library materials.

"Library materials", or other synonyms as they may occur in the policy, refers to all information and leisure collections the Grande Prairie Public Library (GPPL) makes available to the public, including books in all formats, magazines, newspapers, visual media, and databases.

"Selection" refers to the decision that must be made either to add a given item to the collection or to retain one already in the collection.

Purpose of the Collection Management Policy

The purpose of GPPL’s Collection Management policy is to guide GPPL staff and inform the public about the principles upon which collection development, maintenance, and reconsideration decisions are made. The following principles are aligned with the Canadian Federation of Library Associations’ Statement on Intellectual Freedom, which the Grande Prairie Public Library Board accepts as policy.

Works are selected on the basis of content without regard to the personal history, sex, race, nationality, or political or religious views of the creator.

The presence of any item in the Library does not indicate an endorsement of its content from GPPL.

GPPL also recognizes an immediate duty to make available materials for entertainment and recreation, even though such materials may not have enduring interest or value. If public demand warrants it, GPPL will provide a representative sampling of experimental and ephemeral material, but will not attempt to be exhaustive.

All staff members selecting Library materials will be expected to keep these objectives in mind and apply their professional knowledge and experience in making decisions.

Scope

In general, GPPL’s collection will include, but not be limited to, the following formats:

- books
- magazines
- newspapers
- visual media (such as CDs, DVDs, and video games)
- digital materials (such as eBooks and eAudiobooks)
- databases
- microfilm

- toys
- physical objects

Other formats will be considered as demand, need, and budget permit.

Archival Collections

GPPL houses several collections of archival records including newspapers on microfilm, and photographs.

The Board may seek to acquire by way of donation, bequest, permanent loan or other arrangements, further archival records of an enduring nature, which reflect the history of the City of Grande Prairie and District.

Hauge Legacy Collection

The objective of the Hauge Legacy is to locate and purchase works about the Peace River region. The Library will maintain this as a special collection.

Responsibility for Collection Management

Ultimate responsibility for the selection and de-selection of all materials lies with the Director, who operates within the framework of policies determined by the Board. However, the Director will provide Department Heads with the authority to implement the policy in making day-to-day decisions. The Director can be consulted for resolution pertaining to more complex collection management matters.

Use of Library Materials

GPPL recognizes that some materials may be controversial and that any given item may offend some patrons. The ultimate responsibility for the ~~if~~ choice of materials rests with the patron.

Library materials will not be marked or identified to show approval or disapproval of contents, and no Library materials will be sequestered.

Responsibility for the use of Library materials by children rests with ~~their~~ parents and legal guardians. Selection of material will not be restricted by the possibility that children may obtain materials that their parents may consider inappropriate.

Collection Development

The primary objective of selection shall be to acquire materials of contemporary significance and value. GPPL will always be guided by a sense of responsibility to both the present and future in adding materials that will enrich the collection and maintain an overall balance.

GPPL attempts to make available a diverse range of views and expressions, including those which may be viewed as unorthodox or which may be unpopular.

The selection of Library materials is based on the following:

- The need for recreational reading, listening, and viewing material to reflect a diverse community with differing tastes, interests, purposes, and education
- The need to provide information in a balanced manner related to social, personal, racial, multicultural, religious, and scientific issues
- The need to provide as broad a base as possible of information and literature.

Criteria for the Selection of Materials

The following criteria will be considered when selecting material for GPPL; however, it is impossible to establish a set of criteria for the indisputable acceptance or rejection of material. Items need not meet all the criteria to be acceptable.

- Suitability of physical format for Library use
- Relation to the existing collection and other material on the subject
- Availability of funds and space
- Favourable reviews
- Popular demand
- Balance of viewpoints in the collection
- Value as a contribution to issues of continuing or topical interest; timeliness
- Currency
- Local interest
- Representation of an important movement, genre and/or culture
- Accuracy of information
- Quality of writing
- Identified area for collection development focus

The selection of local or self-published materials will be subject to the above criteria.

GPPL is sympathetic to the needs of students, but it is not the primary responsibility of GPPL to provide curriculum-centered materials in the collection. Textbooks and other curriculum-related materials are not acquired unless they also serve the general public.

Suggestions for Purchase

GPPL encourages and invites suggestions from the public for the addition of specific items to the collection. These suggestions will be referred to the staff member for that collection area. Suggested items will then be considered according to selection criteria. Receipt of suggestions does not imply automatic acceptance of the item in GPPL's collection.

Reconsideration of Library Materials

GPPL recognizes the right of a Library user to register an objection to the presence of any items, or the placement of materials in the collection. Library staff will follow a *Reconsideration of Library Materials* procedure when handling disputes.

No material shall be removed from the collection due to a challenge from a library user prior to all relevant steps in the process being carried out.

Donation of Library Materials

- The Grande Prairie Public Library reserves the right to accept or reject any donation of new or used books and other materials.
- All donations become the property of the Grande Prairie Public Library and are subject to the same acquisition and disposal criteria applied to purchased materials.
- Tax receipts are not issued for donated materials.

8.3 Resource Sharing

(Policy Requirement: Libraries Regulation (2)c)

GPPL supports and participates in resource sharing among libraries within Alberta.

- The Library will work within the guidelines in the document *Resource Sharing Operational Policy for Public Libraries* published by Alberta Municipal Affairs, and will participate in a provincial resource sharing network.
- The Library will participate in intra library loan of all Library materials within The Regional Automation Consortium (TRAC).
- Material in a variety of formats may be lent at no charge to libraries throughout Alberta and Canada; loans of some materials may be restricted, as per provincial resource-sharing guidelines.
- In accordance with the *Libraries Act*, the Library will not charge a fee to its users for acquiring items from other libraries. Fees imposed by lending libraries may be passed along to patrons.
- The Library will participate in The Alberta Library (TAL) card program and ME Libraries initiative by making its materials available to all Library users who hold a valid TAL card or ME Libraries membership and ensuring that items belonging to other libraries are returned efficiently.

SECTION 9 – LIBRARY SERVICES

9.1 Programs

Purpose

Programs are activities that support the strategic priorities of the Grande Prairie Public Library’s Plan of Service and respond to community needs and interests.

In the provision of its programs, the Grande Prairie Public Library (GPPL) abides by the Canadian Federation of Library Associations’ Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries, specifically:

“that all persons in Canada have a fundamental right, subject only to the Constitution and the law, to have access to the full range of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, and to express their thoughts publicly.”

GPPL does not warrant or assume any legal liability or responsibility for the currency, relevance, accuracy or completeness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed in the programs presented.

GPPL programs

- These programs may be presented by GPPL staff or by a GPPL-approved facilitator
- Program proposals by community members will be considered utilizing the same factors as other library programs
- GPPL staff are responsible for completing all necessary program planning documentation

Other programs

- GPPL may collaborate with other organizations to plan and offer programs and events in order to maximize community impact

GPPL staff will follow established procedures when responding to questions or concerns about programs.

9.2 Provision of Service to Those Unable to Use Conventional Print

Definition

A library user unable to use conventional print may also be known as a print-disabled user. Print-disabled users include any user who has a perceptual disability, defined in the federal *Copyright Act* as “a disability that prevents or inhibits a person from reading or hearing a literary, musical, dramatic or artistic work in its original format, and includes such a disability resulting from:

- (a) severe or total impairment of sight or hearing or the inability to focus or move one’s eyes,
- (b) the inability to hold or manipulate a book, or
- (c) an impairment relating to comprehension.”

Commitment

The Grande Prairie Public Library (GPPL) Board believes those unable to use conventional print materials should have full access to library services, and will endeavor to incorporate appropriate services and materials for print-disabled users.

- These materials will be provided in a format appropriate to the user, subject to user needs and preferences, availability of materials, and within appropriate financial limits.
- GPPL will cooperate with national, provincial and local community agencies in this effort.
- Library materials may be delivered to eligible print-disabled users, as per GPPL’s policy *9.4 Home Service for Those Physically Unable to Pick Up Library Materials*.

9.3 Public Computers and Wireless Network

Purpose

The Grande Prairie Public Library (GPPL) provides a wireless network and public computers for access to the Internet, office software, and other electronic resources.

Access

GPPL does not monitor and has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and is not responsible for its quality or content. Users are responsible for the content they choose to access.

GPPL provides and maintains the wireless network as a public service. Users are responsible for the setup and configuration of their own equipment.

GPPL and its staff, cannot control the availability of access to the Internet or to specific sites which can change rapidly and unpredictably. Staff is available to assist users with using office software or GPPL licensed digital content, printing documents, and other basic questions. GPPL will also provide in-depth training on the general use of the Internet through library programming.

Use of the public access computers and wireless network is at the sole risk of Library users. GPPL will not be responsible for damage to a user's computer, or for any loss of data, damage, or liability that may occur from the use of these computers or network, whether from computer virus infection, or otherwise.

Users will be held financially responsible for any harmful software they knowingly or unknowingly install on Library computers. Users will also be liable for any illegal activity in which they participate while using Library computers.

Use of personal software programs or computer hardware on public access computers is not permitted except for the use of memory sticks and peripheral equipment.

The use of the public access computers and wireless network at GPPL is a privilege. Misuse as defined in *GPPL's Rules of Conduct for Library Users* will result in the loss of computer privileges.

9.4 Home Service for Those Physically Unable to Pick Up Library Materials

Purpose

Through Home Service delivery, the Grande Prairie Public Library will provide free home delivery of Library materials to eligible patrons by approved and assigned volunteers.

Eligibility

Home Service is available to any patron within the City of Grande Prairie who is confined to home due to illness or disability.

Participants will be required to have an active GPPL membership to qualify for this service. A Home Service delivery application form must be completed to qualify for the service.

Service

All circulating materials may be borrowed through Home Service, subject to the membership regulations of GPPL's policy 1.1 *Bylaws of the City of Grande Prairie Library Board*.

Types of service available:

- Home delivery: Library items delivered once per month by a Library volunteer
- Branch pick-up: An individual may designate a family member, friend or caregiver to pick up Library materials on their behalf
- Extended Care Facility delivery: Library items delivered every six weeks by a Library volunteer

Delivery

Library materials will be delivered and retrieved by designate volunteers on a schedule to be determined between GPPL, the participant, and the volunteer. If conditions in the home or approach to the home are deemed to be unsafe or unhealthy, GPPL may discontinue or refuse service.

Volunteers

Volunteers are required to carry a cell phone at all times for emergency purposes.

Staff

GPPL staff will assist volunteers with the selection of materials from GPPL's collections based on the reading profile created for the patron. Home Service patrons may also request specific titles.

Fees

Home Service patrons have extended borrowing privileges, including longer loan periods. Regular replacement fees will be charged for lost or damaged materials. Repeated loss or damage of materials will result in a discontinuation of service.

9.5 Volunteers

Role

- The work of volunteers shall complement, but not replace, the work of paid Grande Prairie Public Library (GPPL) staff. Volunteers may also be used in areas of need to augment and enhance the range of services offered. At no time will volunteers interfere with the established duties of paid GPPL staff.
- Recruitment, orientation, training, supervision and evaluation of volunteers will be the responsibility of the GPPL staff. Prior to beginning their work, volunteers must attend an orientation session with GPPL staff.

Expectations

- All volunteers must abide by GPPL's mission and policies.
- Volunteers must report any absences to GPPL staff. Failure to report absences may result in the volunteer being dismissed.
- Volunteers must be covered by their own vehicle insurance where their volunteer activity involves the use of a vehicle. Volunteers are liable for their own parking tickets or fines related to driving offences.
- Where appropriate, volunteers may be compensated for expenses incurred, at the discretion of the Director.

Recruitment

- Any individual interested in becoming a volunteer must complete a *Volunteer Application Form*.
- Volunteers will be required to provide a vulnerable sector police record check prior to working with GPPL.

Recognition

- The Board will recognize GPPL volunteers with an annual special event.

SECTION 10 – PERSONNEL

10.1 Employee Code of Ethics

The Board requires Grande Prairie Public Library (GPPL) employees to be independent, and impartial, and that their positions not be used for personal advantage. To this end, the following is a code of ethics to be followed by all GPPL employees:

Provision of Information

- A GPPL employee must provide information impartially and non-judgmentally, regardless of belief or personal philosophy.

Acceptance of Gifts / Financial Gain

- A GPPL employee shall not accept any gifts or rewards which may appear intended to influence them in the discharge of their duties.
- A GPPL employee shall not accept anything of material value greater than \$50.00, or materials with a cumulative value greater than \$50.00 over the course of one (1) year, from one (1) source. Employees must report gifts of material value less than \$50.00 to their supervisor. In exceptional circumstances, approval for gifts greater than \$50.00 may be provided by the Director or designate.

Political Office

- A GPPL employee may request a leave of absence without pay to run for office
- A GPPL employee elected to a public office may continue to be employed, provided there is no conflict of interest between the employee's duties with GPPL, duties as a public official, and the *Libraries Act of Alberta*.

Use of Personal Social Media

- When engaging in personal social media, GPPL employees are expected to act responsibly and respectfully. In particular, we advise employees to:
 - Make it clear that the views expressed are personal and do not represent GPPL. Using a disclaimer such as "opinions are my own" will avoid misunderstandings.
 - Avoid any defamatory, offensive or derogatory content, which may be a violation of GPPL's *Violence and Harassment Policy* if directed toward colleagues, customers, partners, or GPPL Board members.

Fraud

- GPPL requires its employees to act with honesty and integrity and to safeguard the assets of the Library. This includes neither facilitating nor ignoring current and past employee fraud. Fraud or misuse of GPPL's assets will not be tolerated.
- GPPL is committed to maintaining an environment where employees can raise concerns without fear of reprisal. GPPL will investigate all allegations of fraud or corruption and every reasonable effort will be made to recover any gains obtained by, or receive compensation for any damages to GPPL caused by, fraud or misuse.
- Fraud is defined as a dishonest act that results in actual loss or risk of loss, deception, misappropriation of resources, or the manipulation of data to the advantage or disadvantage of a person or entity.

Violation of the Code of Ethics

- A GPPL employee violating any provisions of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action and possible dismissal.

10.2 Definition of Employment Status

- A “salaried” employee is a full-time employee who is paid a monthly wage.
- An “hourly” employee is a part-time employee who is paid an hourly wage.
- A permanent employee, either salaried or hourly, is an employee who occupies an established position or positions and who has successfully completed the three-month probationary period.
- A probationary employee is an employee who occupies an established position and who has not completed the three-month probationary period.
- A temporary employee, either salaried or hourly, is an employee who occupies an established position on a temporary basis.
- A casual employee is employed in a position where the hours worked are on an as-required basis. To maintain casual employee status, at least one shift must be worked every six months.

10.3 Benefits and Pension Plan

Pension Plan

- The Grande Prairie Public Library (GPPL) participates in the Local Authorities Pension Plan (LAPP). Participation in this plan is compulsory for permanent hourly and salaried employees who work at least thirty (30) hours per week, upon their date of hire.
- Participation in LAPP is voluntary for hourly employees working 20 or more hours but fewer than 30 hours per week.
- Employees working fewer than 20 hours per week are not eligible to participate in LAPP
- Any restrictions to member contributions will follow LAPP guidelines.

Group Insurance

- Participation in the GPPL employee benefits plan is compulsory for all permanent employees who work at least 20 hours per week. The plan includes the following benefits:
 - Extended Health Care including Vision Care, Dental Care, Accidental Death and Dismemberment, and Dependent Life
 - 100% of these premiums are paid by GPPL
 - Life, Short Term Disability, and Long-Term Disability
 - 100% of these premiums are paid by the employee
- If the employee is on leave GPPL will continue to pay the employer's portion of the employee's benefits provided the employee pays their portion of the premiums.

Northern Residents' Travel Benefit

- The employee is eligible for a travel assistance benefit paid in a designated area as defined by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). The benefit shall in no fashion add to the cost of salary and benefits to the employer and shall be in accordance with the provisions set by the CRA.
- The benefit is based on 10% of the employee's salary to a maximum of \$2500.00 per year and is included on the employee's T4.

Employee Family Assistance Program (EFAP)

- All GPPL employees are eligible to receive support through the Employee Family Assistance Program.

10.4 Annual Vacation

Entitlement

- Salaried employees of the Grande Prairie Public Library (GPPL) who have more than one year of continuous service on December 31 and remain in the continuous employment of the Board shall be entitled to annual vacation leave with pay in accordance with the following schedule:

No. of years continuous service on January 1	No. of working days vacation entitlement
1 or more	15 days
5 or more	20 days
10 or more	25 days
15 or more	30 days
20 or more	35 days

- All salaried employees employed for less than one year by GPPL shall be granted paid vacation at the rate of 1.25 working days per month for each month worked prior to January 1 of the vacation year, unless otherwise negotiated in their offer of employment package.
- Non-salaried employees shall be entitled to the vacation entitlements as provided under the *Employment Standards Code* of Alberta.
- Employees of GPPL are entitled to such additional annual vacation leave as may be negotiated as part of their offer of employment package.
- An employee commencing employment after the fifteenth day of any month will be considered for vacation entitlement purposes to have entered the following month.
- Employees may not take vacation before it is earned unless permitted by the employee's supervisor. If vacation is taken before it is earned and the employee leaves GPPL for any reason before such time is earned, the employee must pay back the unearned amount.
- Should an employee change from an hourly to a salaried position, their vacation entitlement will be based on full-time equivalency, not the salaried position start date.

Vacation Year

- For vacation purposes, a year shall be defined as January 1 until December 31



- Employees may choose their own vacation dates as long as it does not affect the operation of GPPL as determined by the Director or designate.
- If the employee does not request their vacation period, they may be given two weeks' written notice specifying when to take the vacation period
- All employees are expected to take their vacation credits during the current year. Employees may carry over a maximum of five days into the following year, upon the approval of their supervisor. This approval will be dependent on the operational needs of GPPL. Vacation carryover must be used within the first six months of the next year.

Leaves and Statutory Holidays During Vacation

- Where an employee qualifies for sick leave or compassionate leave during the period of vacation, there shall be no deduction from vacation entitlement for such absence when supported by a doctor's certificate or evidence satisfactory to the Director. The period of vacation so displaced shall either be added to the vacation period or reinstated for use at the date by mutual consent of both parties.
- When any designated paid holiday falls within an employee's scheduled vacation, the employee shall be granted one (1) additional day's vacation at a mutually agreeable time.

Supervision Rotation Entitlement

- Salaried employees who work weekends as part of the supervision rotation are entitled to two additional vacation days per year.



10.5 Paid Holidays

The Board recognizes twelve paid holidays for all employees during the year as follows:

New Year's Day	Victoria Day	Thanksgiving Day
Canada Day	Family Day	Civic Holiday
Remembrance Day	Good Friday	
Christmas Day	Labour Day	
Boxing Day	Easter Monday	

and all other mandatory holidays

- Statutory holiday pay for hourly employees will be calculated as 5% of wages earned in the four-week period immediately preceding the holiday, in compliance with *Alberta Employment Standards Code*.

10.6 Leaves of Absence

Paid Leaves

Sick Leave

- Leave with pay for illness shall be granted to salaried employees of the Grande Prairie Public Library (GPPL) in the second and subsequent months of employment on the basis of one and one-half days a month, cumulative to a maximum of 25 working days. Accumulated sick leave will not be paid out to an employee at the end of his or her term of employment.
- Any lost time due to illness shall be deducted from the employee's accumulation of sick leave. All employees must notify the immediate supervisor of sickness as soon as possible and no later than one hour past regular starting time.
- Sick leave may be used to cover absence due to personal medical appointments.
- GPPL reserves the right to request a medical certificate/letter with respect to any period of time an employee may be absent on sick leave.
- Abuse of sick leave may result in disciplinary action such as suspension or dismissal.
- Hourly employees may be given the option of making up time missed due to sickness upon approval of the Director or designate.

Short Term Disability

- GPPL provides Short Term Disability immediately upon accident or hospitalization or 7 straight days of illness.

Long Term Disability

- GPPL provides Long Term Disability Insurance coverage beyond 120 calendar days. It is the responsibility of the employee receiving Long Term Disability to maintain premiums to ensure benefits coverage.
- In the event of a time-sensitive emergency situation (such as a global health emergency) that affects the health of GPPL employees, the Director or designate may make exceptions to this policy as they see fit. The Director or designate will provide regular updates to the Board regarding these exceptions.

Family Leave

- Sick days may be used for family leave at the supervisor's or director's discretion. A dependent family member is someone in the employee's family who permanently resides with the employee, legal guardian, or appointed caregiver.

- Hourly staff may be given the option of making up time missed due to family sickness upon approval of the Director or designate.

Critical Illness or Compassionate Leave

- All permanent employees are covered by this policy.
- When critical illness or death occurs in an employee's immediate family (mother, father, sister, brother, current spouse, son, daughter, parent of current spouse, grandparent, grandchild, sister-in-law, brother-in-law), leave of up to five days may be granted by the Director. An additional two days may be granted with pay for travel time if as approved by the Director or designate.
- GPPL reserves the right to request a medical certificate/letter to provide proof they are eligible for a critical illness leave

Mourner's leave

- One-half day with pay may be granted to attend a funeral for other than family provided written notice is given to the Director 24 hours in advance.

Jury duty

- When an employee is required to appear for jury duty during regular working hours, the employee shall be allowed the required time off without loss of pay, at the employee's regular rate of pay, provided any monies received for the appearance are paid to the library.

Citizenship Ceremony Leave

- Up to a half-day paid leave will be granted to an employee to attend their citizenship ceremony on a regularly scheduled working day.

Personal day

- A salaried employee is entitled to one personal day per year upon approval of the employee's supervisor. The personal day must be used by December 31.

Leaves Without Pay

General Leave

- A permanent employee desiring a general leave without pay may be granted such leave for serious and substantial reasons and without pay insofar as the regular operation of the library will permit, providing reasonable and sufficient notice is given.
- Requests of one day or more will be submitted to the Director or designate who, at their discretion, may grant a general leave without pay.



- Requests for a general leave without pay may not be granted until all other leave credits, i.e., vacation, are exhausted.
- If the general leave without pay for any reason is in excess of 20 continuous working days for any reason, the employee shall prepay the benefit coverage which they wishes to retain while on leave.
- When an employee has been granted a general leave without pay for any reason of more than 20 working days, no sick leave benefits, vacation credits or statutory holidays shall accrue to the employee's credit between the date of commencement of such leave and the date of the employee's return to work.
- An employee who overstays a general leave without pay without permission of the Director or designate will be subject to disciplinary action.



10.7 Performance Appraisals

A written appraisal of each employee's performance shall be conducted annually. The employee's supervisor is responsible for completing this review, which shall be a consultative process involving employee input.

- Appraisals for all employees will be conducted on the employee's anniversary date. Appraisals for casual employees will be completed at the discretion of the department head.
- An employee's anniversary date will normally be the first day of the month in which the employee begins employment or receives a salary increase. However, the anniversary date will be the first of the following month if the start of employment or salary increase occurs after the 15th of the month.
- The Director is responsible for the completion of a written annual evaluation of each department head or manager, which shall be a consultative process involving the department head or manager's input.
 - Each department head or manager responsible for performance evaluations will be evaluated on performance management and failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.
- A satisfactory annual performance appraisal is a requirement to be considered for incremental advancement on the salary grid.
- Annual performance appraisals shall be retained in an employee's personnel file and a copy provided to the employee.
- Library Director's Performance Appraisal
 - The Board Chair and Human Resources Committee are responsible for evaluating the performance of the Director on their anniversary date using the approved evaluation instrument.
 - The Board Chair will meet with the Director to discuss the performance appraisal.
 - The Board Chair will present a report on the performance appraisal to the Board for approval, including a recommendation concerning an incremental advancement for the coming year.

10.8 Staff Development

The Grande Prairie Public Library (GPPL) is committed to the ongoing development of Library staff and as such, professional development funds, administered by the Director, are made available annually to provide for the training and professional development of Library staff and Board members.

In particular, GPPL supports staff development through:

- an annual Staff Development Day which focuses on skill development, teamwork and wellness;
- online and in person training for job specific duties; and,
- attendance at conferences and workshops related to job duties.

An employee wishing to pursue professional development through a conference, workshop etc. will submit a *Request for Professional Development Form* to the Director through the employee's supervisor.

In order to facilitate staff development, the Library will, pending budget availability, reimburse out of pocket expenses, including registration/tuition fees and travel expenses, to its permanent employees for successfully completed courses, seminars, workshops and conferences. These expenses must be approved in advance by the Director and, where applicable, will be in accordance with the Board and Staff Reimbursement Policy.

10.9 Progressive Discipline

Policy Intent

The Board has adopted a policy of Progressive Discipline to ensure that Grande Prairie Public Library (GPPL) employees have the opportunity to correct any performance or behavioural problems that may arise. To this end, the Board has established a set of reasonable rules and guidelines for employees to follow.

Progressive Discipline

- In the event that an employee violates GPPL policies or exhibits problematic behaviour, a system of progressive discipline shall be utilized where possible.
- With each infraction or apparent problem, these steps will be followed as required:

Step 1	Verbal warning
Step 2	Written warning
Step 3	Termination of employment

- In either of the first two steps, the employee will be:
 - alerted to the problem
 - provided with a review of the relevant GPPL policy regarding the violation
 - advised of the consequences associated with further infractions
 - provided with a suggestion towards a method of improvement
- If no further infractions of the policy in question occur after the initial verbal or subsequent written warning, no further disciplinary action shall follow.
- Degrees of discipline shall be used in relation to the problem at hand. As the situation dictates, based on the past performances of the employee, and the seriousness of the violation, GPPL reserves the right to skip the three-step disciplinary process and move directly to termination where necessary.

Investigation and Documentation

- Problematic behavior or violations of GPPL policy shall be properly investigated and documented by the employee's supervisor and / or the Director.
- All measures taken in the progressive disciplinary process shall be documented, including verbal warnings.

10.10 Grievances

A grievance is defined as any disagreement arising from the interpretation, application, operation or alleged violation of the Personnel policies of the Grande Prairie Public Library or of the *Employment Standards Code* of Alberta.

The employee shall proceed with a grievance in the following manner:

- Talk informally to their supervisor to see if the matter can be resolved. If the grievance is of a sensitive nature regarding the supervisor themselves, the employee may submit the grievance directly to the Director.
- If still dissatisfied, the employee may submit the grievance in writing to the Director within ten working days following this discussion, or discuss the grievance in person with the Director.
- The Director shall respond in writing to the employee within 10 working days.
- If still dissatisfied, the employee may submit a written grievance to the Board through the Board Chair within ten working days of receipt of the Library Director's response.
- The Board shall make its decision on the matter within 60 days.
- If still dissatisfied, the employee may continue pursuing the issue through The Alberta Labour Relations Board.



10.11 Staff Appreciation

Length of Service

- The Board will recognize a GPPL employee for consecutive years of service on the anniversary of the 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th and 30th year of employment. The award schedule will be as follows:

5 years	certificate and \$50.00
10 years	certificate and \$100.00
15 years	certificate and \$200.00
20 years	certificate and \$300.00
25 years	certificate and \$400.00
30 years	certificate and \$500.00

- Presentation of the service awards will be made by the Board Chair or their designate at such a time and place deemed appropriate by the Board.

Recognition upon Retirement

- The Board will recognize an employee upon retirement to a maximum of \$100 if the employee has been employed for a minimum of one year.

Other Recognition

- The Board will recognize special achievements of any GPPL employee, and will contribute to any staff function in a manner and at a cost considered appropriate by the Board.

10.12 Recruitment and Hiring

Advertising

- Positions may be posted internally or posted internally and externally simultaneously, at the discretion of the Director.
- External position advertisements may be placed on library employment websites, listserves, GPPL's website, and other agencies that are deemed appropriate for the position.

Interviewing

- Interviews will be conducted by a minimum of two people including the supervisor.
- Costs of interviewing the shortlisted candidates may be considered, and virtual interviews used on a cost-effective basis.
- Whenever a shortlisted candidate is brought in for a face to face interview, expenses for transportation, hotel and food may be covered by GPPL upon submission of appropriate receipts.

Employment of Family Members

- GPPL may employ members of the same immediate family at the same time, provided one family member is not placed in a supervisory position over the other. An applicant for a Library position must disclose, in writing, if another family member is employed by the Board or GPPL.

Offer of employment

- An official offer of employment will be sent to new employees listing the position, remuneration, hours of work, benefits and start date.
- Written acceptance of a position is required.

Relocation

- Newly hired employees may be compensated for pre-approved moving expenses up to a maximum of \$5000 at the discretion of the Director and upon submission of valid receipts.

Criminal Record Check

- The screening process for new employees will include a current (within six months) Police Information Check. A Vulnerable Sector Check (included in the Police Information Check) and a Child Intervention Check must be provided for those employees working directly with children. These record checks will be at the expense of the prospective employee with the exception of Pages.
- When an employee is charged with or convicted of an offence under the Criminal Code of Canada, the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act or similar legislation, the employee is required to immediately inform the Director or designate. A written explanation may accompany the notification. Failure to provide such notification may result in disciplinary action.



10.13 Personnel Records

- The Grande Prairie Public Library maintains two separate types of personnel records. The first is the employee's electronic file which is managed by the Office Administrator and is accessible by only the Office Administrator and the Director. The second is a physical file that is kept by the Director.
- All reasonable steps will be taken to ensure the confidentiality of both electronic and physical personnel records. Only the Director and the concerned employee shall have direct access to the physical personnel records. The Board Chair will have access to both the electronic and physical records of the Director.
- An employee's personnel record may be accessed by the employee's supervisor at the discretion of the Director.
- The concerned employee will be informed of documents added to or deleted from their physical personnel file.
- The Library Director or designate must be present when any employee's physical file is accessed.
- An employee may access their files (both electronic and physical) with 24 hours notice provided to the Director or designate.