

2025

Winnipeg Public Library

Annual Report

"Our mission is to enrich the lives of all Winnipeg citizens and their communities by providing high quality, responsive, and innovative library services"

winnipeg.ca/library

Winnipeg

Winnipeg Public Library branches are located in Treaty One Territory, the home and traditional lands of the Anishinaabe (Ojibwe), Ininew (Cree), and Dakota peoples, and in the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. Our drinking water comes from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation, in Treaty Three Territory.

2025

20 public libraries
148,978 library cardholders
116,749 questions answered
5,057 programs offered
2,147,600 in-person visits
129,500 computer bookings
112,708 program attendees
12,309,400 e-visits
5,167,267 items borrowed (includes ebooks/eLibrary)
1,974,943 eLibrary downloads

The annual TD Summer Reading Club was held June 9 to August 30, 2025. Over the summer, 23,952 children received bilingual reading kits. There were 341 programs offered for families, children, and teens, with a total of 6,322 attendees.





Winnipeg Public Library once again held a Library Card Art Contest. Teens ages 13-17 were invited to submit an image showing their favourite library experience. The winner, Kingsley, had her design featured on a new card that was released early 2026.









January
Charleswood Library celebrated the 10-year anniversary of its renovation.

February
Winnipeg Public Library celebrated *I Love to Read Month*. Throughout the month, 49 programs ran with 936 attendees.

March
Multidisciplinary artist Raymond Lyttle was selected as the Maker-in-Residence from March 3 to June 14. Raymond offered weekly drop-in studio sessions in the Millennium Library's ideaMILL and workshops at other library branches.

May
Cornish Library and St. John's Library participated in Heritage Winnipeg's Doors Open.

Winnipeg Public Library honoured Red Dress Day on May 5 by displaying red dresses in libraries from May 5 to 19.



In October, Winnipeg Public Library partnered with the Manitoba Lung Association to bring radon screening kits to all 20 library branches. Kits include a consumer-grade electronic radon monitor and information booklet provided by the Manitoba Lung Association. They are available to borrow for three-week loan periods between November 1 and April 30 each year.

Winnipeg Public Library Board

In 2025, the Winnipeg Public Library Board participated in the selection of the 2025/2026 Writer-in-Residence and contributed funding for this program. The Board also provided financial support to continue the World Storytelling and World Languages series, originally proposed by the Board several years ago.

In support of creating a welcoming environment in our libraries, the Board provided supplies of bottled water and granola bars for all locations. These items help to facilitate positive interactions with library visitors.

Reporting to the Board are five Library Advisory Committees representing Assiniboia, City Centre, East Kildonan-Transcona, Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan and Riel. Members participated in outreach events and helped promote literacy and library services in their communities. This work raises community awareness library programs, services, and the benefits of membership.



June

Winnipeg Public Library celebrated the 110 anniversaries of two historic libraries- Cornish Library and St. John's Library.



June

Multimedia visual artist Callen Maude was selected as the Maker-in-Residence from July 8 to October 11, 2025. Her workshops explored different mediums and processes.



September

Shivanya Ra was selected as the Maker-in-Residence from September 10 to December 11, 2025. Shivanya's programming included weekly sensory-friendly drop-in sessions.



October

Ariel Gordon began her term as Winnipeg Public Library's 2025-2026 Writer-in-Residence. The Writer-in-Residence program provides one-on-one mentorship and public workshops to hundreds of emerging writers across all genres.

Donors & Grants

The Library wishes to thank the following people and organizations for their generous contributions in 2025:

- Anne Bolton and Geri McGrath
  - In memory of Patricia Fay
- Brendan Terrick
- Charles and Roine Thomsen
- Cindy and Wayne Elliott
  - In honour of Councillor Jason Schreyer
- David McInnnes
- Dr. Mary Seshia
- Dustin Burlet
  - In honour of Dr. Gus Konkel, McMaster Divinity College
- Estate of Elizabeth Schrimer
- Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library
  - The Winnipeg Foundation
- Heather Graham
- Liisa and Spencer Schell
- Lynnette Milton
- Olga Synova
- Ron & Debbie Margolis
- Stewart G. H. Fay
- Terrance Muzychuk
- The Lilian A. Smith Family Foundation
- Trish Allison-Simms
- Wesley Simsk



Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library

2025 was a landmark year for the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library (FWPL), marked by historic achievements, organizational growth, and record-breaking fundraising success.

The Friends were pleased to donate $30,000 to the Winnipeg Public Library in support of literacy, learning, and community programming. These funds supported the Writer-in-Residence Program, children's programming, Summer Reading initiatives, I Love to Read Month activities, library furnishings, and community art projects. Since 2000, FWPL contributions to Winnipeg Public Library have exceeded $422,000.

Our 2025 Big Book Sale was the most successful Book Sale ever held by the Friends, generating more than $31,000 in revenue and breaking the record established the previous year. This achievement was made possible by dozens of dedicated volunteers.

The Friends launched their first-ever Holiday Pop-Up Book Sale, creating an additional fundraising opportunity while increasing community engagement and awareness of the Friends' work. The event generated more than $3,000.

The Board continued to grow and evolve during 2025. We welcomed new Director Andrew Smith-Harwick, who began preparing to assume the role of Treasurer after our long-serving Treasurer Arvind Matharu stepped down from our Executive. These leadership changes helped ensure continuity in two of the Friends' most important operational areas.

Looking ahead to 2026, the Friends will continue to build on the success of our fundraising efforts, and implement the priorities identified through our strategic planning discussions. With dedicated volunteers, strong leadership, and unprecedented resources available to support the Library, the future of FWPL has never been brighter.

Dominique Wightman,
President of Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library

Learn more about the Friends at
friendswpl.ca

FRIENDS
OF THE WINNIPEG
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Financial Overview

Revenues	**2025**	**%**
City of Winnipeg	$36,485,194	90.6%
Province of Manitoba	$3,362,186	8.4%
Library - generated	$293,869	0.7%
Library trust/ book sales/donations	$122,509	0.3%
Total Revenues	**$40,263,758**	**100%**

Expenditures	**2025**	**%**
Salaries & benefits	$21,763,117	54.1%
Building maintenance	$8,845,157	22.0%
Library materials	$4,117,360	10.2%
Supplies & services	$5,538,124	13.8%
Total Expenditures	**$40,263,758**	**100%**