



Winnipeg Public Library Board

General Meeting

Minutes

DATE/TIME Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.
LOCATION In-person Sir William Stephenson (765 Keewatin Street)
Teams
CHAIR Lisa Laker

	Present	Regret	Absent		Present	Regret	Absent
Lisa Laker	☒	☐	☐	Councillor Dobson	☐	☒	☐
Nunziata Masi	☒	☐	☐	Councillor Wyatt	☐	☒	☐
Stephen Kennedy	☐	☒	☐	Abimbola Bello	☒	☐	☐
Jude Obidiagha	☒	☐	☐	Andrew McGillivray	☒	☐	☐
Kristen Hardy	☒	☐	☐	Jon Lamb	☒	☐	☐
Ramy Penner	☒	☐	☐	Melanie Ferris	☒	☐	☐
Karin Borland	☒	☐	☐	Ranbir Dhillon	☒	☐	☐
Trevor Surgenor	☐	☒	☐	<i>Vacant</i>			

Guests: Cindy Elliott, Dee Wallace, Celia Rodd

1. **Call to Order** – Lisa Laker

Meeting called order at 6:03 pm

2. **Acknowledgment of Indigenous Territory and Homeland** – Lisa Laker

Winnipeg is located on 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, on Treaty Three Territory.

3. **Agenda** – Lisa Laker

See Appendix A for motion

4. **Minutes** – Lisa Laker

See Appendix A for motion

5. **Branch Head Librarian Presentation** – Simon Morris

See Appendix C for highlights

6. **Manager's Report** – Karin Borland

See Appendix B for report

7. Chair's Report – Lisa Laker

Summary

7.1 Naming of Mike O'Shaughnessy Library

- Thanks giving for feedback
- Letter will be finalized and sent to Library Board Councillors for review

7.2 Strat Planning Committee Update

- Meeting will be booked to discuss Board and LAC roles; assistant position

7.3 Recruitment for Vacancies and Executive Committee 2026

- End of term notification emails have been sent
- Reapplication does not mean reappointment

7.4 Manitoba Library Association Survey

- Survey circulated
- Assistant directed to ask MLA if individual members can respond as members may have different perspectives

7.5 2026 Schedule

- Draft schedule provided prior to meeting
- Follows similar format to this year
- Schedule can change with new Board but recommend selecting dates now so that the new Board has a schedule
- See appendix A for motion

8. Treasurer's Report – Annabel Perez on behalf of Stephen Kennedy

Summary

- Report circulated (includes Q1, Q2, and some Q3 charges)
- Most charges will appear in Q4
- See appendix A for motion

9. Administrative Updates – Annabel Perez

Summary

- Will follow-up with City Clerk's re: document inquiry
- WPL continues to spend out the project line for giveaway books and programming Honoria; will be requesting next meetings for additional funding for consumable supplies to be charged to Q1 2026 to bridge until next funding request cycle
- Will be receiving applications for 2026 Library Board appointments in the next couple of weeks; Executive Committee will be reviewing and providing recommendations
- See appendix A for motions

10. Library Advisory Committee Updates

Summary	
Assiniboia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are discussions for a meeting to connect all LACs • There is interest in hearing more advocacy issues and to connect with MLA
City Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting held on September 25 at Millennium Library • Met new WPL Administrative Liaison – Paula Harrison, Section Head Librarian for Special Services • Thanks given to Rémi Fontaine, past WPL Administrative Liaison • There is interest in discussing advocacy issues and determining ways to best engage and promote the library • Next meeting will be scheduled for January 2026
EKT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 2 meeting postponed due to a lack of quorum • Next meeting scheduled for October 14 • August 7 met with MLA's prison libraries committee • August 22 attended the Elmwood night market – approximately 100 people visited table and 89 entered prize draw • September 7 attended the Glen Elm picnic – approximately 80 people visited table and 30-40 people entered prize draw; there was no WPL staff onsite • Compiled summary of comments from drop-in events in the Spring
LSWK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report
Riel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report

11. Adjournment

The meeting be adjourned at 7:49 pm

1st Lisa Laker

2nd Andrew McGillvary

NEXT MEETING
<p>Tuesday, December 2, 2025 In-Person St. Vital Library (6 Fermor Avenue) Teams</p>

Appendix A: Motions | October 7, 2025

MOTION	1 st	2 nd	DISPOSITION
That the Winnipeg Public Library Board approve the agenda as distributed with the following changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike O'Shaughnessy Library change to Mike O'Shaughnessy Library • Next meeting to note St. Vital Library 	Lisa Laker	Nunziata Masi	Carried
That the Winnipeg Public Library Board approve the minutes August 5 be approved as distributed with the following changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EKT LAC update it should have been noted that at the time of their meeting the LAC was planning to attend the Elmwood Night 	Lisa Laker	Ramy Penner	Carried

MOTION	1 st	2 nd	DISPOSITION
Market on August 22 and Glen Elm Picnic in the Park on September 7			
That the Winnipeg Public Library Board approve the draft 2026 meeting schedule	Lisa Laker	Jude Obidiagha	Carried
That the Winnipeg Public Library Board approved the financial report ending August 20, 2025 as distributed	Lisa Laker	Jude Obidiagha	Carried
That the Winnipeg Public Library Board approve the appointment of Scarrow and Donald LLP to conduct the 2025 audit	Ramy Penner	Andrew McGilvrar	Carried
That the Winnipeg Public Library Board approve the appointment of Kym Shwaluke as bookkeeper for 2025 and to assist with audit preparations	Ramy Penner	Lisa Laker	Carried

Appendix B: Manager's Report | October 7, 2025

1. Facilities

Millennium Library

- Following the critical incident on August 6, temporary fencing was installed along the railings on the 3rd and 4th floors at Millennium Library

Bill and Helen Norrie Library Deck

- We continue to work on a solution to reconstruct the deck but do not have a timeline to share yet.

Fort Garry Library

- Windows will be fixed at the end of year
- Front door requires modifications
- Front door tiles require replacing

Mike O'Shaughnessy Library

- Design work is in progress
- Stakeholder and public open house events are being planned
- A project page will be available in the upcoming weeks

CAO and Director Visits

- Joseph Dunford, Chief Administrative Officer will be visiting Millennium Library, Bill and Helen Norrie Library, and Osborne Library in October
- Cindy Fernandes, Director of Community Services is finishing branch tours with only three more to go

Report Update

- September 8, 2025 SPC-CS meeting heard the [Winnipeg Public Libraries Attendance and Incident Quarterly Report](#) (April, May, June 2025) and received as information. Next quarterly report (July, August, September 2025) is scheduled to be heard in December.
- September 25, 2025 Council meeting heard and approved the [Contribution Agreement for](#)

[2025/2026 Manitoba Adult Literacy report](#). This report was to delegate authority to the Chief Financial Officer to approve adult literacy agreements between the City of Winnipeg (Winnipeg Public Library) and Province of Manitoba. Due to the additional funding, WPL will be able to open a second site at Millennium Library for adult literacy program

2. October/November 2025 Hours

- Thanksgiving, October 13 – all locations closed
- Remembrance Day, November 11 – all allocations closed

3. Recruitment

Winnipeg Public Library continues to fill vacancies. Current opportunities can be found on the city of Winnipeg's website <https://legacy.winnipeg.ca/hr/default.stm>

4. Standing Policy Committee on Community Services October 6, 2025

On October 6, the SPC CS heard the following motion from the City Centre Community Committee:

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

On September 5, 2025, the City Centre Community Committee passed the following motion: WHEREAS the Millenium Library is the flagship library situated in the Fort Rouge – East Fort Garry Ward within the City Centre Community Committee's jurisdiction; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the City Centre Community Committee recommended to the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to provide a verbal report on the Millenium Library including use of the Community Connections space and lobby renovation, including the Winnipeg Public Service report concerning the same at the meeting of the City Centre Community Committee on October 27, 2025.

5. Community Safety Host Report Launch October 6, 2025

Millennium Library hosted the launch in the Carol Shields Auditorium.

This report is a result of the community-based research project co-developed by Dr. Christine Mayor (Inner City Social Work, University of Manitoba) and Dr. Julie Chamberlain (Urban and Inner-City Studies, University of Winnipeg), with Zoongizi Ode and PCS. The findings show how wâhkôhtowin is put into practice in different public spaces and can serve as a model for similar initiatives in Winnipeg and elsewhere.

6. Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC) Fall meeting.

Winnipeg Public Library will be hosting CULC October 16-17, 2025

7. Library Card Design Contest for Teens (ages 13-17)

- Contest closed on September 30, 2025
- Winner will have their design printed on a limited-edition library card

8. Radon Screening Kits

As of October 31, Radon Screening kits will be available to check out for short-term testing from the Manitoba Lung Association. The kits will have a three-week loan period with no renewals. A launch event for the program is being planned for October 31 at 10:30 a.m. at Cornish Library.

9. Youth Services Update

The annual TD Summer Reading Club ran from June 9 to August 30. The library offered 341 programs for children, teens, and families with 6,346 attendees. This year 23,949 free bilingual reading kits were distributed to pre-reading and school age children, an increase from the number of kits handed out in 2024 (19,995). Children tracked and submitted ballots for each day they spent time reading or being read to this summer. A total of 10,631 ballots were submitted into the prize draws over the summer.

The bilingual Teen Summer Reading Challenge Card for teens in Grades 7-12 included 19 unique challenges. This year, 1,519 challenge cards were handed out to teens, with 1,397 ballots entered into the teen prize draw.

The World Languages Story Time series ran during the summer with story times in Ukrainian, Punjabi, Spanish, Filipino, and Cree. These programs were attended by a total of 153 children and caregivers. We will be continuing the series in October and November, with programs run by community partners and staff. Languages will include Ukrainian, Mandarin, Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, Filipino, Punjabi, Cree, and Korean. Thank you to the Board for funding our community partners for the World Languages series.

The World Storytelling series continued this summer with one program held at Millennium Library. It was attended by 23 children and their caregivers. We will be continuing the series this fall at Harvey Smith Library and St. Vital Library. Thank you to the Board for funding the World Storytelling series.

Registration for the Fall Early Literacy session has opened, with 1,129 children registered for 74 sessions of Baby Rhyme Time, Toddler Time, Family Story Time, and Sensory Story Time. The Fall session will run for 9 weeks, from September 22 - November 25.

This year, St. John's Library began a partnership with the Mount Carmel Clinic to offer Baby and Family Circle, a space where families can connect through fun songs for little ones and meaningful parenting conversations. Our first session of the fall had the most attendance yet at 19 babies and caregivers. The St. John's Library is also piloting a new drop-in Books and Blocks program to encourage caregivers to drop in, enjoy a few stories, and engage in self-directed free play with their children. Youth Services staff are excited to support the needs of the St. John's community through these new programs.

10. Adult Programming and Outreach Update

Millennium Library hosted two book fairs in September – the Made in Manitoba Book Fair in partnership with Thin Air Writers Festival, and the Queer Book Fair in partnership with Raven's End Books. Both fairs were well attended with over 350 people attending author readings, workshops and book fairs that showcased local authors and publishers.

Fall programming is in full swing with book clubs across all branches, English Conversation Groups, Community Lectures in partnership with the UW, Indigenous language learning (Ojibwe and Michif), craft clubs, a senior's drop-in at Cornish Library, tech and computer programs, the Makers-in-Residence series of drop-ins and workshops – and much more. See the online calendar for full event listings.

The new Writer-in-Residence Ariel Gordon was announced on September 23. Ariel's term runs October 1, 2025 until April 30, 2026. The term will follow the same as previous years in offering one-on-one consultations, a writing circle and writing workshops. The workshops will be added to the online calendar when planning is complete. We are thrilled to have Ariel on board!

Set up of the new Adult Literacy Program at Millennium Library is underway. A teacher has been hired – Nazim Mahmud – and the classroom is getting ready with tech and resources. This program is funded by the Province of Manitoba. A formal announcement about the new program is pending. Classes are expected to start on November 3.

Winnipeg Public Library is partnered with the Winnipeg Arts Council and Winnipeg's Poet Laureate Jennifer Still for an initiative "The Story of Winnipeg." Each branch has a "mailbox" and little booklets for Winnipeggers to write short poems to Winnipeg. Jennifer will compile these into a public performance piece. The project runs now through December 1.



Community outreach continues across the library system. In September, a number of pop-up libraries were held with library card sign-ups including the University of Winnipeg, a newcomer fair in St. Vital Library and the Fibre Arts Festival (see photo below). Upcoming outreach events include visits to the Leaf at Assiniboine Park, Headingly Correction Centre, Mental Health and Addictions Program, Adult Education Centres, Thrive, Red River College, Willow Place and SonRise family shelters and ComicCon at RBC Convention Centre. Library Happy Hour (adult story time with a library pop-up) also returns with a new, larger venue at Public Domain at 633 Portage Avenue on October 29 at 6:30 pm. The theme will be spooky stories for Halloween.



Please check the [online Programs & Events calendar](#) for schedule details.
 Feel free to share [Programs & Events Posters](#) with your contacts.

Appendix C: Branch Head's Presentation Highlights | October 7, 2025

- The Winnipeg Public Library Board would like to welcome Simon Morris, Branch Head Librarian for the Sir William Stephenson Library
 - Started with WPL over 11 years ago
 - Began as an Information and Reference Librarian at Millennium Library and became Branch Head Librarian in June 2021
 - Served as Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Library Advisory Committee for the last two years
- Sir William Stephenson Library was inaugurated on Tuesday, June 17th, 1997, at 2:30PM. Located on 765 Keewatin Street, this library serves several communities (such as Garden Grove, the Maples, Tyndall Park)
- By opening in February 1997, making this branch the newest addition to the Winnipeg Public Library system at that time, now superseded by Windsor Park, Transcona and Bill & Helen Norrie Library.
- The branches name was selected by a community contest. The winner was Sir William Stephenson Library, to honor the war hero and master spy who was also known as the 'man called Intrepid'.
- To commemorate the name chosen for the branch, this library now houses a statue of Sir William Stephenson, which was generously donated to the library by sculptor Leo Mol.
- Sir William Stephenson library is generously spaced, having one of the largest program rooms in the system
- The library branch has a lot of community-oriented services, like the large public computer lab, Indigenous materials sections, and world language materials catered to the area.
- There is a Punjabi, Urdu and children's Tagalog section.
- Due to the proximity of schools, study areas are constantly used and become busy during school months. Some of the schools where the staff see students and/or work with Stanley Knowles, Garden Grove, Tyndall Park, Ecole Stanley, and O.V. Jewitt
- In the progress of working with Altered Minds, a non-profit group that does computer training for adults
- Community relationships with Nor'West and PCCM are strong. These organizations often book the program room or ask for staff to attend outreach events. This also includes being invited to meetings with

the Gilbert Park Service Providers network, and the Inkster Early Years Network which coordinates a lot with Nor'West clinics.

- The PCCM and other Filipino groups, including the Knights of Rizal, MB Filipino teachers' association event book the room to hold their group dance lessons for Folklorama
- Other groups that enjoy booking the program room: Intrepid Society, the Canadian Military Intelligence Association and ARES, which is the amateur radio emergency service for Manitoba
- Staff recognition:
 - Stephen Falk, Assistant Branch Head, runs a lot of early literacy programs and incorporates music. He leads youth and children programming and is in the process of branching out to do his own 'Music with Stephen' program at Bill and Helen Norrie library coming up on Nov. 1st.
 - Theodore (Tao) Pasnek, long time employee who has one of the most selfless, generous, and hard-working personalities. Instrumental in developing relations with customers, new families and kids. He also decorates the library branch with plants and is always willing to assist with special projects like the book sale or moving/shifting furniture
 - Katherine Diduch, who recently was promoted, provides a lot of help with scheduling and is key to getting community posters boards up and organized. With staff help, coordinates displays and runs the monthly book club.