

HOW DO LIBRARIES HELP COMMUNITIES?

Public libraries are community places where everyone is welcome. They provide access to materials and technology. Libraries offer educational resources, entertaining programs and events, along with services that improve the quality of life in our communities.

A community with a library has easy access to culture, literature and recreation. Libraries help local residents develop job skills, contributing to the local economy.

SUPPORTING LIBRARIES SERVING MANITOBANS

While public library services are funded mainly through local taxes and operated under local authority, the Manitoba government proudly supports a vibrant network of local and regional libraries by providing grants, advice and province-wide programs for libraries serving Manitobans.

Under the authority of *The Public Libraries Act*, Manitoba's Public Library Services Branch is responsible for:

- standards
- grant policy
- grant administration
- surveys and statistics
- library classifications
- central library services
- open shelf and traveling library services
- library promotion and partnerships
- professional development and certification
- Public Library Advisory Board (PLAB)
 - The PLAB advises and makes recommendations to the minister. Members are appointed through an Order in Council. More information available at manitoba.ca/government/abc/.

For information about public library governance and grant assistance please visit:

manitoba.ca/chc/pls

Available in alternate formats, upon request.

Manitoba 

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY LIBRARY

**Board Appointments and
Volunteer Opportunities**



ABOUT BOARD OPPORTUNITIES

Community representatives are appointed to the library board by local council. Board members help shape public library policies to improve collections, programs and services which can benefit everyone in the community.

WHAT DOES A LIBRARY BOARD DO?

A library board is the governing body for a public library system. It ensures library service meets community needs. Key activities include:

- appointing a director and managing job performances and pay
- developing detailed budget estimates of annual library expenses and presenting the estimates to council
- managing the library's finances and sending accounts to be audited
- sending grant applications, annual reports, statistics and survey responses to the Manitoba government

Review the strategic plan, annual reports, audited statements and minutes to learn more about how your library is operated and managed.

HOW ARE LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS APPOINTED?

Any resident may be considered by council for a library board appointment. Library staff, municipal employees and non-residents are not eligible.

At the first meeting of the year, council will appoint members to the library board to replace the members whose terms expire during that year.

Every council develops a process for board appointments. Contact your local municipal office for information about the process in your area.

HOW MANY BOARD MEMBERS CAN BE APPOINTED?

WHAT IS THE TERM AND MEETING FREQUENCY?

Members of the board are appointed by council for a two-year term. Board members may be reappointed to serve longer.

The board must meet at least six times a year. No more than two months should pass between meetings.



Library boards are connected throughout the province and across Canada as members of the Manitoba Library Trustees Association and Canadian Library Association Trustees Network.

CAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE TO LIBRARY BOARD EFFORTS?

Yes. Send questions, concerns or your ideas to the library board.

Share your ideas about library services by completing a survey at the library or online.

Become a library volunteer and support service delivery, development and improvements.