



89th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Manitoba Library Association - minutes

**Thursday, May 7 2025 at 8 am
Location: RBC Winnipeg Convention Centre**

Call to order: 8:06 AM

1. Welcome

2. Verification of Quorum

25 members at the time of verification. Quorum is met.

3. Approval of Agenda

Resolution 2025-01: That the agenda for the 2025 Annual General Meeting of the Manitoba Library Association be approved.

M: Ebony Novalkowski **S:** Troy Luke Passed

4. Approval of the Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

Resolution 2025-02: That the Minutes of the April 18, 2024 MLA 88th Annual General Meeting held April be approved.

M: Chris Desrochers **S:** Megan Richards Passed

5. President's Report – KC Bateman, President

KC presented highlights from the President's report from the meeting package.

- The 2024 Fall Networking event in Dauphin was a success with positive feedback. The event will continue annually to continue to provide space for rural Manitoba libraries to connect. The event is free to participants and moves around rural Manitoba each year.
- There were many challenges in the last year as the Board faced several vacancies and planning for the Manitoba Libraries Conference. All Board members stepped up into leadership roles in the Conference planning committee - along with community volunteers - which speaks to the Board's dedication.
- MLA's focus on advocacy continued with meetings with the Manitoba Government, presentations to Winnipeg City Council for

funding support for Winnipeg Public Library, and advocacy letters in response to challenges to book bans in the province - and more.

Resolution 2025-03: That the President's Report be accepted as received.

M: Megan Hansen **S:** Daniel Bitz Passed

6. Financial Report – Jen Kendall, Office Manager

Jen reported on 2023-2024 financials and the Annual Audit as of August 31, 2024 which was presented to the membership. We have seen an increase in grants and donations for the Prison Libraries Committee. Expenses include operational items and the MLA staff who have been especially critical in the last year as the Board ran with many vacancies. MLA expressed gratitude for the grant from Public Library Services of the Manitoba Government which allowed for funding MLA's office manager, program manager and soon - an Executive Director.

Resolution 2025-04: That the Financial Report be accepted as received.

M: Trevor Surgenor **S:** Austin Matheson Passed

Resolution 2025-05: That the membership accepts the Audited Financial Statement of August 31, 2024.

M: Ebony Novalkowski **S:** Ben McGillivray Passed

8. Election of Board of Directors - KC Bateman, President

KC presented the slate of board nominees.

| Name | Position | Term |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| KC Bateman - continuing | President | 2025-2026 |
| Troy Luke - nominee | Vice-President | 2025-2026 |
| <i>vacant</i> | Past President | |
| Kathleen Williams - continuing | Secretary | 2025-2026 |
| Nadine McCaughan - nominee | Treasurer | 2025-2027 |
| Dylan MacDougall - continuing | Membership Coordinator | 2025-2026 |
| Abimbola Bello - nominee | Communications Director | 2025-2027 |
| Shannon Barill - nominee | Director at Large - website | 2025-2027 |

| | | |
|--|--|-----------|
| Elise Agniel - nominee from the floor | Director at Large - professional development | 2025-2027 |
| Graeme Tennant - nominee from the floor | Advocacy Director | 2025-2027 |
| Ben McGillivray - nominee from the floor | Director - Trustees Division | 2025-2027 |
| Lindy Fontaine - nominee | Director - Library Technician Division | 2025-2027 |

Resolution 2025-06: That the membership accepts the slate of candidates as presented to serve as the Board of Directors.

M: Ebony Novalkowski **S:** Michael Hohner Passed

KC opened the call for nominations from the Floor.

Resolution 2025-07: That the membership accepts the candidate nominations from the floor to serve as the Board of Directors.

M: Michael Hohner **S:** Ebony Novalkowski Passed

KC thanked the nominees for coming forward to join the MLA Board of Directors.

Outgoing board members Austin Matheson, Rustam Dow, Sarah Lee and Michael Hohner, were thanked for their time and contributions.

8. Overview of Committee Activities

Prison Library Committee – Ashley Huot, PLC Chair

Ashley Huot, Chair of the Prison Libraries Committee presented highlights of the Committee’s work including work in the institutions, presentations at conferences, growing partnerships, and advocacy.

- PLC has grown to have a presence in institutions across the province. They held several volunteer orientations and welcomed a new volunteer coordinator - Margaret Bancka.
- PLC sends thousands of books every year to Headingley Correctional Centre (men), Women’s Correctional Centre, Winnipeg Remand Centre, and the Manitoba Youth Centre (MYC) with high-quality collections. They also support and liaise with other institutions in Manitoba.
- They offer pop-up libraries and book exchanges across the institutions.
- Reference service is available for one-on-one questions at some sites (as the institutions allow).

- The Joe Big George Collection is PLC's first catalogued collection of new Indigenous books in honour of Elder Joe Big George; aiming to have a lending collection in every institution in Manitoba.
- In the past year a student group from St. Paul's High School secured a grant to support the Manitoba Youth Centre Indigenous Youth Roots - \$30,000 of funds to build an Indigenized library space at MYC.
- Other activities include attending conferences representing PLC and resource fairs inside institutions - and programs inside the institutions (writing and information workshops).
- New this year is engaging in research on legal information access to incarcerated people.
- Federal and provincial meetings were held to address access and policies on information access.

9. Closing Remarks

Outgoing board members Austin Matheson, Rustam Dow, Sarah Lee and Michael Hohner, were thanked for their time and contributions.

10. Adjournment

Resolution 2025-08: That the 89th Annual General Meeting of the Manitoba Library Association be adjourned.

M: Ben McGillivray **S:** Dylan McDougall Passed

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 AM.



Kathleen Williams
Secretary, MLA
May 7, 2025



KC Bateman
President, MLA
May 7, 2025