

8301 - 110 Street  
Grande Prairie, AB T8W 6T2  
Phone: 780 538 4656  
[PeaceLibrarySystem.ab.ca](http://PeaceLibrarySystem.ab.ca)

Tyler Olsen, Reeve  
P.O. Box 1079  
VALLEYVIEW, AB T0H 3N0

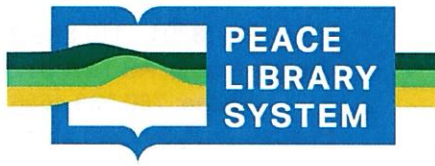
Dear Reeve Tyler Olsen,

Thank you for your ongoing support for Peace Library System and the libraries in our region. In this era of fast-moving information and technology, libraries are more relevant than ever, providing access to books, e-books, reference databases, magazines and newspapers, as well as local library programming such as story time, book clubs and more. In addition, the membership in the system grants Peace region citizens the right to use library resources from across the province and the country, making your library so much more than just what is on the shelf. With the modern problem of high costs for library resources, access to shared resources through the Peace Library System and the other systems with whom we partner is of great benefit to all member libraries and their citizens. Since 1986, Peace Library System has been the backbone in the Peace region for those sharing arrangements, allowing Peace region residents to access all the resources and services of big city libraries in even the remotest areas of the northwest.

Additionally, through the membership in the Peace Library System, member libraries can access materials from post-secondary libraries, assisting in education and training, they can access free public computers for use in educational courses and exams, and even materials for the use and benefit of small businesses.

Membership means that your library has a support system surrounding it and supporting it, the way large municipal libraries can. The System provides your library with services such as ordering and cataloguing support, delivery and transportation, programming support and consulting, so that your library can focus its resources, its time and its money on direct services to the people in your community.

With that in mind, the Master Agreement between member municipalities has been updated to include the current legal language requirements and the services that have been added since the original agreement was drafted.



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The major changes are:

- Clarification of the language around the arbitration of disagreements, see section 15.
- Inclusion of IT Services in the schedule of services offered to libraries, see schedule D.
- The list of bodies eligible for membership in the System, see schedule A.
- The limit placed on the amount levies can be raised, see schedule B.

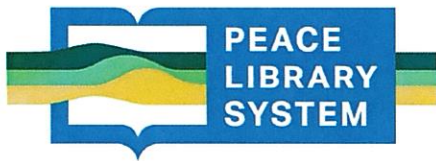
**Arbitration** – The previous language around the arbitration of disagreements between members was unclear and contradictory. The inclusion of the two new paragraphs clears up the process and parties involved in arbitration.

**IT Services** – No IT services are mentioned at all in the current agreement, but it is a very large part of the support we offer to member libraries. Not all libraries take part in all services offered, but the schedule of services offered are available to all member libraries to take advantage of. This language clearly outlines what services are offered at the System level and what is the responsibility of the library.

**Eligible Bodies** – With the addition of a Provincial grant meant to encourage library services in Indigenous communities, the benefits of System membership need to be extended to school authorities located on Indigenous reserves.

**Levies** – Prior to the levy raise in 2023, the levy had not changed for seven years. From 2016 to 2023, it remained the same. In that time, the rate of inflation was nearly 20%. In 2023, a 5% raise was approved by the Board in an attempt to remain out of deficit. We are aware that any raise in levy has an impact on municipal budgeting, and we remain firm that any raise in levy has to be proven as needed by the budget approved by the Board. Increases in levy are not undertaken lightly, and we appreciate that municipal funding is a difficult matter. Therefore we propose that no increase more than 5% can be approved by the Board without prior approval of the Municipal members. As you can see from the table below, Peace Library System's levy rate is the third lowest of total fees charged by library systems in Alberta.





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### Library System Revenue Sources 2024

Table 1

Library System	Revenue Source (per capita)				
	Municipality	Municipality w/o Board	Library Board	Operating Grant	Total Revenue <sup>1</sup>
Chinook Arch <sup>2</sup>	7.76	10.22	3.57	4.75	16.08
Marigold	6.46	10.96	4.50	4.75	15.71
Northern Lights	5.39	10.78	5.39	4.75	15.53
Parkland <sup>3</sup>	9.18	9.18	0.00	4.75	13.93
Peace	6.68	9.43	2.75	4.75	14.18
Shortgrass	4.97	10.05	5.08	4.75	14.80
Yellowhead	4.65	n/a	0.00	4.75	9.40
Average <sup>4</sup>	\$6.44	\$10.10	\$4.26	\$4.75	\$14.23

<sup>1</sup> This figure represents the total of all columns except the "Municipality w/o Board" column; it does NOT take into account revenue from sources other than those listed.

<sup>2</sup> Municipalities without Boards pay a minimum Rural Service Fee of \$2.00 per capita in addition to the regular Municipal fee. Since the Rural Service Fee is a direct transfer through the System to the local libraries which provide library services to that municipality, some municipalities choose to pay more than the \$2.00 minimum for the Rural Service Fee portion. The rate for municipalities without a library board is a minimum \$2.00 and ranges up to \$2.77, depending on the agreement with the municipality.

<sup>3</sup> For the first four years, new member municipalities are locked in at the rate at which they joined the system.

<sup>4</sup> Averages exclude "n/a" and values of zero.

Since 2016, circulation of items in the system libraries, physical books checked out, continues to increase of about fifty thousand items per year, reaching over 815,000 items circulated in 2024. The number of items brought in from other libraries to satisfy requests from library patrons continues to increase, reaching over 122,000 in 2024. E-resource usage has almost quadrupled since 2016, reaching over 168,000 in 2024. The delivery vans, who deliver new items, circulating items and interlibrary loans, went from 55,500 km in 2016 to over 222,000 km per year in 2024. The demand for both current and new services continue.

Attached you will find a red line copy of the amended agreement, showing all wording changes, and a clean copy for signature. Should you have any questions or would like to have a discussion regarding the agreement, please contact Louisa Robison, CEO of Peace Library System, at 780-538-4656 or [lrobison@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca](mailto:lrobison@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca).

Sincerely,

Carolyn Kolebaba, Chair  
Peace Library Board