

Cumberland Regional Library Board
Minutes – November 18, 2025

“Cumberland Public Libraries”, managed and operated by the Cumberland Regional Library Board, a body corporate pursuant to the Libraries Act of Nova Scotia.

The November 18, 2025 meeting of the Cumberland Regional Library Board was held at the Four Fathers Memorial Library.

Present: Councillor Carla Black (Treasurer), Kim Ford (Chair), Councillor Angel McCormick, Councillor Terry McManaman, Denise Corey (Library Director, Secretary), Chantelle Taylor (Deputy Librarian, Recording Secretary)

Guests: Isabelle Ettinger, Frank Gallant and Craig Kennedy(via Zoom)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Councillor McManaman moved that that the agenda be approved as amended. Seconded by Councillor Black. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes of September 4, 2025 and September 25, 2025 meeting

Councillor Black moved that the minutes of September 4, 2025 and September 25, 2025 meetings be approved as presented. Seconded by Councillor McCormick. Motion carried.

4. Old Business

A. Library funding update

Ms. Corey informed the Board that the Deputy Minister of Community, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage re-convened the Library Funding Review Committee in October. Ms. Corey mentioned the CBC article from November 14, 2025 which talked about Finance Minister John Lohr has asked provincial government officials to look at the potential impacts of a 10 per cent cut to discretionary spending and program grants. Discussion ensued.

B. Strategic Plan

Mr. Gallant and Mr. Kennedy presented the updated Strategic Plan to the Board.

Councillor McManaman moved that that the Strategic Plan be approved in principle with a few corrections to be made based on recommendations. Seconded by Councillor McCormick. Motion carried.

C. Hours Changes

Discussion ensued. The Board has tabled this discussion until February.

5. Actions arising from the minutes

A. Moving in-camera procedures

Ms. Corey presented the Board with guidelines for going in-camera during meetings.

Councillor Black moved that the in-camera guidelines be made policy. Seconded by Councillor McManaman. Motion carried.

B. Additional Board members

Ms. Corey presented the Board with options to increase the size of the Cumberland Public Library Board. Both Municipal and Provincial approval is need to change the Board. Discussion ensued.

Proposed change:

Municipality of Cumberland – 1 member/ 1 new member

Town of Amherst- 1 member

Town of Oxford- 1 member

Provincial Appointees- 2 members (currently vacant)

EDIA community member- 1 member

Community Members – 2 new members (selected by the Board)

Councillor McCormick motioned to change Board to 9 members, addition of 1 Councillor from Cumberland and 2 Community members to be selected by the Board. Seconded by Councillor McManaman. Objection from Councillor Black. Motion carried.

6. New Business

A. New policies- Financial Administration, Preventing Workplace Harassment

Ms. Corey presented the Board with the new Preventing Workplace Harassment policy, required by the Provincial government.

Councillor McManaman motioned to accept Preventing Workplace Harassment policy as presented. Seconded by Councillor Black. Motion carried.

8. Reports

A. Financial Report

Ms. Corey provided Board members with copies of the Revenues and Expenditures for the Library and provided highlights. Discussion ensued.

Councillor Black moved that the financial report be adopted. Seconded by Councillor McCormick. Motion carried.

9. Other

*Councillor Black motioned to go in camera. Seconded by Councillor McManaman.
Motion carried.*

In Camera 6:35pm

*Councillor Black motioned to go out of camera. Seconded by Councillor McManaman.
Motion carried.*

Out of Camera 6:39pm

Next meeting: February 5, 2026 4:30pm

There being no further business Ms. Ford adjourned the meeting

Submitted by:

Denise Corey, Library Director/Board Secretary