



REGIONAL DISTRICT of Fraser-Fort George

Main Office: 155 George Street, Prince George, BC V2L 1P8
Telephone: (250) 960-4400 / Fax: (250) 563-7520
Toll Free: 1-800-667-1959 / www.rdffg.ca

REPORT FOR CONSIDERATION

TO: Chair and Directors
FROM: Maureen Connelly, General Manager of Legislative and Corporate Services
DATE: January 29, 2025
SUBJECT: Regional District Representation on the Prince George Public Library Board
SUMMARY: Purpose: Consider entering into Agreement and Appointment of a Representative

Attachments: Proposed Cooperation Agreement between the RDIFFG and the Prince George Public Library

Previous Reports: None

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. THAT the report dated January 29, 2025 regarding “Regional District Representation on the Prince George Public Library Board” be received for information.
2. THAT the Board authorizes Administration to enter into a cooperation agreement with the Board of Trustees of the Prince George Public Library, substantially in the form of the agreement attached to the report dated January 29, 2025.

ENTITLEMENT	HOW VOTE COUNTED
All 1 Director/1 vote	Majority
All 1 Director/1 vote	Majority

ISSUE(S):

In January 2024, Prince George City Council authorized the Prince George Public Library (PGPL) to enter into a written agreement to cooperate in the provision of library services with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George through the appointment of one (1) member to the Library Board, as permitted by the *Library Act*.

The Board is being asked to consider entering into an agreement with the PGPL and to consider appointing a representative to serve as a voting member on the Library Board for a two-year term. The “Decision Options” section below outlines appointment options for the Board’s consideration.

RELEVANT POLICIES:

The Prince George Public Library Board operates under the provisions of the *Library Act*. The Regional District has by Supplementary Letters Patent provided for funding assistance to the library from Electoral Areas A, C, D, E, F and the portion of Area G lying south of McLeod Lake.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ALIGNMENT:

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indigenous and Intergovernmental Partnerships | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Strength and Adaptability | <input type="checkbox"/> Quality Community Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Stewardship and Climate Action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Awareness and Engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory or Routine Business | | |

SERVICE RELEVANCE:

The Prince George Public Library functions as a municipal library, providing services to the residents of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George and the City of Prince George. The Library is a service of the City of Prince George. Unlike regional district services, the Prince George Public Library is not a shared function, provided collectively by a group of jurisdictions to their combined populations. The Library's services, scope and mandate, strategic plan, priorities, service model, annual budgets and other key items are determined by the Library Board.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Since 1984, the Regional District has provided financial contributions annually to the City of Prince George to offset costs for the provision of public library services on behalf of Electoral Areas A, C, D, E, F and Electoral Area G, lying south of McLeod Lake. This funding is based on usage of library services (i.e. circulation figures and numbers of registered patrons). Funding in 2024 amounted to \$501,197. At this time, there are no financial implications identified as a result of entering into the proposed agreement and through the appointment of a representative on the Library Board.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

The Prince George Public Library Board functions as the governing body under the *Library Act*. The Library Board Trustees are responsible for setting the strategic direction, goals, objectives, and policies, while the staff members implement library operations in accordance with established guidelines.

Currently, Library Board meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 pm in the Bob Harkins Branch in downtown Prince George. These meetings are hybrid with the option to attend remotely, as needed.

Library Board member duties include reviewing agenda items before meetings and engaging in occasional training sessions, strategic planning meetings, retreats, special events, and fundraising activities.

As stated in the proposed agreement, appointments are for two-year terms and members are eligible for re-appointment to a maximum of eight (8) consecutive years.

DECISION OPTIONS:

The following options are presented to the Board for consideration.

1. Approve recommendations.
 - The report will be received for information and Administration will facilitate the signing of the cooperation agreement with the Board of Trustees of the Prince George Public Library.
 - Administration would seek subsequent direction from the Board to appoint one individual to serve as representative of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George on the Prince George Public Library Board.

Other Options:

- a. Appointment a member of the Regional Board to serve as representative of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George on the Board of Trustees of the Prince George Public Library.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board appoints Director _____ to serve as Regional District of Fraser-Fort George Representative on the Prince George Public Library Board of Trustees for a two-year term ending December 31, 2026.

- b. Undertake a volunteer recruitment process for the appointment of a member of the public residing in Electoral Areas A, C, D, E, F and Electoral Area G, lying south of McLeod Lake.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board directs Administration to undertake a public recruitment process for consideration to appoint a representative of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George on the Prince George Public Library Board.

Administration would work with the Library Board Chair and Library Director on the skills and competency areas that are required on the Library Board and arrange for that information to be provided to the Board upon reviewing the applications received.

- c. Postpone consideration of agreement and/or request further information.

COMMENTS:

The Library is governed by the Prince George Public Library Board, whose members are appointed by Prince George City Council. As per section 5.2 of the *Library Act*, one member of City Council serves on the Library Board; all other members are residents or electors of the City.

Up until 2006, the RDFFG appointed one representative to the Public George Public Library Board. Since that time, the Regional District has been unrepresented on the Board. If the Board decides to enter into the proposed cooperation agreement and appoint a member to the Library Board, the Regional District will have voting representation on the Board.

At present, the Board consists of a municipal council member serving as a Council Liaison and eight other electors of the City of Prince George who are neither members of the Prince George Council nor city employees. Recently, Lheidli T'enneh First Nation Councillor, Wendy Jael was appointed to Prince George Public Library Board under a similar cooperation agreement with the First Nation.

The Board's 2024 – 2028 strategic priorities highlights intergovernmental partnerships as a key priority and the proposed agreement contributes to this area and would benefit the regional community. The Regional District's representative could contribute to the priority setting and decision making on the Library Board and contribute to providing this important public service.

Respectfully submitted,

“M.Connelly”

Maureen Connelly
General Manager of Legislative and Corporate Services

MC:dh