

Hello Everyone,

I want to provide you with some background information and an overview of the first meeting of the Library Funding Review Committee (LFRC) which was held in Truro on April 12.

The work of the LFRC:

An updated funding model is part of the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism & Heritage (CCTH) 2024-2025 business plan (**2023-2024**):

<https://beta.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/documents/1-3499/business-plan-2023-24-department-communities-culture-tourism-and-heritage-en.pdf>

The current library funding model expires in March 2025. Municipalities must receive one year notice before they are required to implement changes.

The LFRC members include:

Voting Members:	
Chris Shore	CCTH, Associate Deputy Minister & Committee Co-Chair
Eric Stackhouse	Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library, Chief Librarian & Committee Co-Chair
Greg Barr	County of Kings, Director, Finance & IT
Ben Cleveland	Western Counties Regional Library, Board Member Town of Digby, Mayor
Laura Emery	Eastern Counties Regional Library, Chief Executive Officer
Dale Fawthrop	Town of Amherst, Deputy Mayor Cumberland Regional Library, Board Chair
Åsa Kachan	Halifax Public Libraries, Chief Executive Officer
Eldon MacDonald	Cape Breton Regional Library, Board Chair Cape Breton Regional Municipality, Councillor
Keith MacDonald	Municipality of the County of Inverness, Chief Administrative Officer
Julia Merritt	Annapolis Valley Regional Library, Chief Executive Officer
Donna MacGillivray	Colchester-East Hants Regional Library, Board Member
Diane Racette	South Shore Regional Library, Board Member
Stephanie Smith	Archives, Museums & Libraries, Executive Director
Lynn Somers	Nova Scotia Provincial Library, Director
Non-Voting Members:	
Dyan Bader	NS Provincial Library, Manager, Systems & Collections Access
Jason Haughn	Municipal Affairs and Housing (DMAH), Municipal Advisor
Mary-Jo MacKay	Archives, Museums & Libraries, Director of Strategic Initiatives
Lara Morris	CCTH, Executive Director, Policy and Corporate Services
Kelli Woo Shue	NS Provincial Library, Manager, Client Services

Committee Deliverables:

- Provide options for a revised funding model including a preferred model
- Develop an engagement plan for consulting with municipalities on the funding model
- Develop a communication plan to maintain ongoing updates to stakeholders.

Committee's deadline for developing funding options: Fall 2024
Proposed implementation of a new funding model: April 1, 2025

Meeting Summary:

- NSPL staff provided an overview of library funding and the current funding model was presented to the Committee.
- The Committee established a set of guiding principles (“Rules of Engagement”) for how members will engage with one over the course of the work.
- The Committee engaged in a facilitated discussion on the current landscape for public libraries that considered:
 - what is working well?
 - what is creating challenges?
 - where should the LFRC focus its efforts?
- The Committee was informed that research is underway to inform the funding review process (collections, technology, staffing).

The next three meetings have been scheduled:

- May 24: Review of Collections and Technology research (virtual)
- June 7: Review of Staffing research (virtual)
- June 21: Discussion of the research presented and next steps (in person)

We will continue to share updates throughout the review process. Please share with your municipalities as appropriate.

Thank you,

Lynn Somers
Director, Nova Scotia Provincial Library