



AGENDA

**Greater Victoria Public Library Board
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting**

Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Time: 12:00-1:00 PM

Location: In Person: Community Room, Central Branch, 735 Broughton Street, Victoria, BC
Electronically: Microsoft Teams

1. Call to Order

2. Territorial Acknowledgement

Greater Victoria Public Library's service area is located on the unceded traditional territories of the Songhees and Xwseps'am (Esquimalt) Nations, the WSÁNEĆ Nations of S̓TÁUTW (Tsawout) and W̱JOḺELP (Tsartlip), and the Sc'ianew (Beecher Bay) Nation.

Colonization and systemic racism still impact the lives of Indigenous Peoples today. Their historical and cultural relationship with the land and sea continues as they steward these sacred lands as they have since time immemorial.

3. Welcome and Introductions

4. Consent Agenda

Motion to Approve

4.1. Approval of Agenda

4.2. Approval of Minutes – March 24, 2026 [Attachment 4.2](#)

4.3. Chair Report

4.4. CEO Report [Attachment 4.4](#)

5. Chair's Remarks

For Information

6. Business Arising from previous meeting

6.1. 2026 Board Retreat- Feedback & Next Steps

For Discussion

7. Committee Report

7.1. Finance Committee- Oral Report

For Information

8. New Business

8.1. CEO Search Committee- Update

For Information

8.2. Canadian Urban Libraries Council-Open Letter Regarding Bill 28 and the Public Libraries Act [Link 8.2](#)

For Discussion

9. Next Meeting Date

Tuesday May 26, 2026 12:00-1:00

10. Adjournment



MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
GVPL Central Branch, 735 Broughton Street
Community Meeting Room & MS Teams
March 24, 2026

A hybrid meeting of the Greater Victoria Public Library Board was held on the above date. The following individuals were in attendance:

Board Members:

Trustee A. Appleton
Trustee K. Boehnert
Trustee D. Cavens (Chair)
Trustee S. Donaldson
Trustee D. Grove
Trustee R. Henderson
Trustee S. Kim
Trustee S. Khair
Trustee G. Lemon
Trustee R. McClure
Trustee M. Morley
Trustee G. Newton
Trustee T. Phelps Bondaroff
Trustee R. Ranjan
Trustee K. Roessingh
Trustee M. Wey
Trustee N. White (Vice- Chair)

Regrets:

Trustee S. Lansdowne
Trustee R. Stromberg

Staff:

M. Sawa, CEO/Board Secretary
M. Collyer, Director Marketing & Communications
D. Fergusson-Hirmer, Director, People & Culture
J. Gingera, Director, System Integration, Resource Management and IT
R. Hadziev, Acting Director, Special Projects
D. Joyce, Executive Director, Library Services
E. Russell, Recording Secretary
A. Shojaei, Assistant Director Safety Security, Facilities, & Risk Management
C. Ottenbreit, CUPE 410

1. CALL TO ORDER

D. Cavens called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm.

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

D. Cavens provided the Indigenous Acknowledgement.

3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

D. Cavens welcomed GVPL Librarians T. Kingston, and M. Clark

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Trustee K. Roessingh; Seconded by Trustee D. Grove.

THAT Items 4.1-4.2 be approved; 4.3-4.5 received for information

4.1. Approval of Agenda

4.2. Approval of Minutes – February 24, 2026

4.3. Chair Report

4.4. CEO Report

4.5. Correspondence

4.5.1. Email from Patron received February 26, 2026

4.5.2. Email Response to Patron Sent March 5, 2026

MOTION CARRIED

5. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair D. Cavens reported that the final 2026 Budget Presentation is scheduled for next week for the District of Central Saanich council. He thanked GVPL councilor trustees for their support at their respective municipalities' presentations that have taken place this season. He noted that the inaugural meeting for the 2026 Planning and Policy Committee was held on March 10 and a committee report will be presented at today's meeting. Trustee S. Kim was appointed Chair, and Trustee T. Phelps Bondaroff was appointed Vice-Chair. Trustees were reminded that the 2026 Board Retreat is set for April 11th in Langford.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

6.1. Board Retreat

Chair D. Cavens provided a high-level overview of the agenda planned for the retreat on April 11, 2026 which will include the Strategic Plan operational plan for 2026; and an update to the Regional Service Delivery Plan.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1. Planning and Policy Committee- Oral Report

Trustee S. Kim provided an update on planned activities for the Planning and Policy committee for 2026 which will focus on policy reviews.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. Staff Presentation- ID Clinics and Community Connections

GVPL Librarian M. Clark gave a presentation highlighting GVPL's role in supporting the ID Clinics that are held at the Central Branch in partnership's with both the Community Social Planning Council; and the UVIC Pro-Bono Law clinic.

8.2. Staff Development Day 2026

M. Sawa spoke to the staff request to the board to approve a system closure on December 4, 2026, for GVPL's annual Staff Development Day. Trustees are invited to attend the morning plenary and keynote sessions. D. Cavens encouraged trustees to participate and spoke of his experience attending last year's event in November 2025.

Moved by Trustee D. Grove; seconded by Trustee K. Roessingh.

THAT the Board of Trustees endorses closure of the GVPL system wide on December 4, 2026

MOTION CARRIED

8.3. 2025 Public Library Grant Report

M. Sawa noted that the 2025 Public Library Grant Report has been submitted. All B.C. public library systems are required to submit this annual report which provides a snapshot of how provincial grant funding has been utilized. The final reports will be posted on the provincial website for public access.

9. IN CAMERA

Moved by Trustee K. Roessingh; seconded by Trustee Grove.

THAT the Board of Trustees moves in-camera.

MOTION CARRIED

10. NEXT MEETING DATE:

April 28, 2026; 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee D Grove; seconded by Trustee K. Roessingh.

THAT the March 24, 2026, Regular Board Meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

Board Chair

Board Secretary



It has been a busy few weeks. Thank you to everyone who attended our Board Retreat on April 11. We had a strong turnout and good discussions on a number of key issues. Staff walked us through how they are operationalizing the strategic plan, and we had a useful conversation on alternative service delivery approaches across the region. We will have a more detailed debrief and feedback later in today's agenda. Thanks as well to staff for organizing the day. The discussions were productive in part because of how well prepared the materials were, and the venue worked very well.

This past weekend, April 24 to 26, many of the council representatives on the board attended the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities AGM and Convention. GVPL was well represented, with a table co-hosted with Vancouver Island Regional Library and Powell River Public Library. It was a good opportunity to present a unified presence and to reinforce the role of libraries as essential community infrastructure. The table saw steady traffic, and we had several useful conversations with delegates from local governments, First Nations, and provincial and federal representatives. Thank you to GVPL staff who gave up part of their weekend to support the event.

The Finance Committee held its first meeting of 2026 on April 7. Thank you to Scott Lansdowne and Karel Roessingh for taking on the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair. I look forward to the committee's report later in today's meeting.

The CEO Search Committee has been active this month and has begun planning the process with an external search firm. Thank you to Shahira Khair for chairing this work. There is a significant amount to be done over the coming months, and we will hear an update later in the meeting.

One item that has come up in several discussions is how the board can best support the next CEO. This includes looking at what structures and processes should be in place before the new CEO is hired, particularly around feedback and performance evaluation. I have been working on gathering options for the board's consideration and will bring these forward at the May meeting. If you have thoughts or suggestions, please reach out over the next few weeks so they can be included in that discussion.

Duncan



April has offered many ways for us to connect with our community online, in our physical spaces, and through programming. We celebrated National Poetry Month with Zine Making Sessions and the public launch of the Poetry Dispenser at the Central Branch, bringing poetry directly to people who might not otherwise seek it out. This month, we recognized [Refugee Rights Day](#), Earth Day, [Parkinson's Awareness Month](#), Citizenship Week, and BC Book Day, reflecting the diverse interests and values of our community. April has also been noteworthy for the number of conferences and networking events for staff.

BC Book Day

BC Book Day took place this past Tuesday. We marked the day by promoting the [Read Local BC eBookshelf](#) on our social media channels. This province-wide initiative, developed in 2025 by the BC Libraries Cooperative and the Association of BC Book Publishers, brings together curated titles from BC publishers and is continually updated as new titles are added to our collection. BC Book Day is an opportunity to highlight local writing, and I would like to recognize the year-round work GVPL staff does to support ongoing promotion of BC content.

Emerging Local Authors Collection

On a related note, this year marks the eleventh year of GVPL's Emerging Local Authors Collection (ELAC) collection, which has grown to more than 1,600 titles by over 1,000 local authors and illustrators. The collection has evolved over time, including expanding eligibility from five to ten years for publication date, broadening from English and French to all languages, and adding ebooks through our BiblioBoard subscription. Trustees are invited to attend the ELAC launch event, taking place on Saturday, May 23 from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm in the Central Branch Courtyard. This annual event is a tangible celebration of local voices and brings authors, readers, and staff together in shared recognition of regional storytelling.

Sunday Openings

Sunday service at the Juan de Fuca and Saanich Centennial branches concludes on April 26 for the current season. Sunday hours at the Central and Esquimalt branches will continue through to late June. Sunday hours are a seasonal service and are paused each year before we move into the summer period, when staffing and programming priorities shift. Staff are working on developing the Fall Sunday opening schedule, scheduled to resume in October.

Victoria Native Friendship Centre

The Bruce Parisian Library and GVPL have partnered to provide easier access to shared resources. This week, the Bruce Parisian Library at the Victoria Native Friendship Centre announced the start of returns for Bruce Parisian Library (BPL) materials at all GVPL branches. The initiative is the culmination of several months of collaborative work led by GVPL's Cultural Communities portfolio. This initiative addresses the limited hours at the BPL, removes a practical barrier for BPL users, and reflects ongoing work with the Victoria Native Friendship Centre.

Vancouver Island Library Staff Conference

In 2015, the University of Victoria Libraries, GVPL and Camosun College Library launched the inaugural Vancouver Island Library Staff Conference. Over the last ten years, thousands have gathered from all across Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, and Powell River to share knowledge, connect with colleagues and celebrate the work of libraries and archives. This year's event takes place on Friday, May 8 at the

University of Victoria's David Lam Auditorium. Interested GVPL trustees are welcome to attend the conference's perennial favourite wrap up 'BookSmack' event at 3:15 followed by the conference closing reception. More information will be shared at the April Board meeting.

Welcoming City Conference

As a member of the City of Victoria Welcoming City Advisory Committee, I was honoured to facilitate a session at this year's "Welcoming City Conference" which took place at Victoria City Hall on April 10. This annual event brings together community members, service providers and local leaders to explore how we can build stronger connections across cultures.

LIT (Library I.T.) 26 Conference

Last week's LIT 26 Conference took place at the Vancouver Public Library and several of our I.T. staff were in attendance. The conference is designed exclusively for library systems and the unique challenges we face in the digital age. This year's conference theme was "The Living Library: Thriving in the Next Wave" and our Director, Systems Integration, Resource Management and I.T. (SIRMIT), Jeff Gingera was a featured speaker.

Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) Conference

The annual conference of the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) brings local government leaders together to discuss regional issues and set priorities to advance with senior governments. This year's conference is taking place April 24-26 in Victoria and GVPL is pleased to once again participate with a shared information table in partnership with the Vancouver Island Library Regional Library and the Powell River Public Library to represent the public library community on the island.

Canadian Urban Libraries Council

This week I am attending the spring meeting of the Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC), taking place at the Calgary Public Library. CULC is Canada's hub for urban library systems, championing advocacy, collaboration, and resource development to strengthen library services nationwide. Recently the [Canadian Urban Libraries Council issued an open letter regarding Alberta's proposed Bill 28](#). The letter raises concerns about increased provincial involvement in library operations, potential limits on access to materials, impacts on user privacy, and reduced local control over decision making. Although the legislation applies in Alberta only, it reflects broader pressures facing public libraries across Canada. Developments of this nature are rarely isolated, and discussions related to professional autonomy are relevant to all public libraries. Endorsement of the CULC open letter by member library boards is being encouraged.

Maureen