



February 26, 2026

To our valued library users and partners.

The Province of Nova Scotia released its 2026/2027 budget this past Monday. The impacts are still being felt. There is much pain in the non-profit community and concern for those who depend on what we offer.

The Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Board is not immune. Despite the Minister of Community, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage's assurances that "library funding did not get cut" ([\*CBC February 25, 2026\*](#)) the statement is not entirely accurate. The Minister is describing core operational funding that has not changed for 7 years. For three years the department has provided emergency bridge funding to libraries to cope with minimum wage increases and inflation. For Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library this amounts to \$134,600 extra for salaries and books. This was not included in the budget and represents a loss to the operational budget of the Board.

As the Board moves into the new fiscal year, starting April 1<sup>st</sup>, it will have to recognize this reduction in available operational funding. The Board will set its budget next month and have more information then.

During our recent Awareness Campaign, the Board heard loud and clear of the importance of public libraries to our communities. We heard how libraries contribute to the overall health of the community, the role staff and programs play in mental well-being and how central community spaces bring everyone together. This in addition to our traditional roles of bringing reading materials to everyone, providing internet access and training, and helping everyone access government services. We cannot thank everyone enough for sending local MLAs their library stories.

In the near future the Board will be looking to library users and supporters to help us achieve financial stability. Not just to balance the budget for the year, but to invest in libraries long term. As April approaches we will have more on this.

Thank you once again and please know, we are here to serve you and make our communities healthier, happier, and great places to live and work.

Clyde Fraser, Board Chair  
Eric Stackhouse, Chief Librarian  
Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library