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Listening, Learning, Leading Change.

Regional Library Releases Accessibility Plan for 2022-2025

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(Antigonish County, Pictou County) The Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Board has released a three-year accessibility plan for all seven branch libraries, services, and programs.

Titled *Listening, Learning, Leading Change*, and prepared by the Library Board's Accessibility Advisory Committee, the plan envisions everyone having full and equitable access to spaces, resources, services, programs, and employment opportunities offered by the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library. Advisory Committee Chair, Julie Martin, is pleased with the plan, "The Library Board formed an advisory committee made of a majority of *First Voices*, or those who have lived experience of accessibility barriers and challenges. There will be many challenges ahead as the recommendations are implemented but as an advisory committee we feel respected and our ideas, solutions, and views are sought out and acted upon."

The plan is a result of the Nova Scotia Accessibility Directorate's designation of regional libraries as Prescribed Public Sector Bodies. This required the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library to prepare a accessibility plan for 2022. Library Board Chair Dan Currie remarks, "We were pleased to do so and applaud the government for their action. It was a complex undertaking because it involves so many aspects, including our collections, technology, services, programs, communications, facilities, transportation, and employment. But thanks to our committee members we are ready to take on the recommendations over the next three years."

The plan includes 39 recommendations to be investigated and implemented. One of the first is to have all current and future library facilities reviewed by professional accessibility auditors. This is underway now. *Listening, Learning, Leading Change* is available in accessible print form at all library locations and online in PDF, Plain Text, and Audio versions at www.parl.ns.ca.

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