



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Antigonish Town and County Library and New Glasgow Public Library will be closing Sundays  
Beginning in April

March 17, 2026

(Pictou and Antigonish Counties) In order to cope with static provincial grant funding and the uncertainty over bridge funding the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library has made the decision to close the Antigonish Library and the New Glasgow Library on Sundays, beginning in April.

“We regret this decision, but have no choice. Demand is increasing on our public library services and programs and we will undoubtedly see more activity due to the cuts in other provincial grants and programs. We are stretched thin.” explains Vice Chair Nicole LeBlanc. Antigonish and New Glasgow libraries are the two branches in the region open on Sundays, from 2-5pm. While busy, Sundays are the slowest day of the week and use of public meeting spaces lowest. Eric Stackhouse, Chief Librarian, points out, “It will impact the many users who need access to the internet and technology and those in need of a free public space for shelter, study, or social time. These libraries should be open 7 days a week, people want that, but it isn’t possible in these fiscal conditions.”

The Provincial Government did not cut the core library grant received from the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage. It remains at the same level for a 7<sup>th</sup> year in a row. The Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Board requested that emergency funding, received for the last 3 years to help fund minimum wage increases and inflation, be included with the core library grant. It was not included. This leaves the Board with a reduction of \$143,600 in provincial income from last fiscal year. At the same time the Minimum Wage is increasing again April 1<sup>st</sup> and inflation continues. The Board will be looking for help from its users in April as it begins fundraising in earnest.

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