



# BPL Board Agenda

## Regular Meeting

**Date** Thursday, May 21, 2026  
**Time** 6:00pm  
**Location** Community Room  
 McGill Branch  
 4595 Albert Street, Burnaby, BC V5C 2G6

**Chair** Anna Lu

*We respectfully acknowledge that Burnaby Public Library is located on the unceded territories of the [xʷməθkʷəy̓əm \(Mysqueam\)](#), [Skwxwú7mesh \(Squamish\)](#), [selilwətaʔ \(Tsleil-Waututh\)](#), and [kwikʷəłəm \(Kwikwetlem\)](#) Peoples. Each Nation has distinct histories and distinct traditional territories that fully or partially encompass the city of Burnaby.*

*We encourage you to learn more about the Host Nations whose ancestors have occupied and used these lands, including parts of present-day Burnaby, for thousands of years.*

AGENDA	TIME	PAGE NO.
1. Agenda		
1.1 <b>Motion</b> to receive Agenda.		
2. Minutes		
2.1 <b>Motion</b> to adopt the minutes of the regular meeting held April 16, 2026 as circulated.		
3. Picard Trust Recipients	5 min	1-2
4. Presentation		
4.1 Community Development	15 min	
5. Reports	10 min	
5.1 Board Chair (verbal)		
5.2 Council Liaison (verbal)		
5.3 InterLINK Representative (verbal)		
6. Items for Decision		
6.1 Alberta Bill 28	20 min	3-6
7. Correspondence		
7.1 Re: Library book rate (Bill C-15)	5 min	7

**AGENDA**

**TIME**

**PAGE NO.**

**Motion** to receive correspondence.

8. Other Business

9. Next Library Board Meeting

July 16, 2026 at 6:00pm at the Bob Prittie Metrotown Branch

10. Adjournment

10.1 **Motion** that the regular meeting adjourn and that the Board resolve itself into an in camera meeting from which the public is excluded to consider patron bans and personal information about an identifiable individual.



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**TO:** CHAIR AND TRUSTEES  
BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

**FROM:** CHIEF LIBRARIAN  
BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY

**DATE:** MAY 21, 2026

**SUBJECT:** PICARD TRUST AWARD RECIPIENTS

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT** The Library Board receive this report for information.

**REPORT**

The Library Board administers the Picard Trust, which provides two awards of \$2,500 each to students currently attending library school. The award is open to residents of Burnaby or BPL staff who identify as Indigenous, Black or a person of colour.

At the March 3 meeting of the Picard Trust Committee, trustees reviewed applications for the 2026 award and selected two award recipients.

At its *in camera* meeting on April 16, the BPL Board approved a recommendation from the Picard Trust Committee that Rachel Lau and Emily Ma each receive a \$2,500 Picard Trust award for 2026.

**Rachel Lau** is a student in the iSchool at UBC. From Rachel:

I am so grateful and honoured to be a chosen as a recipient of the Picard Trust Award. Growing up I wasn't much of a bookworm, but I still spent a great deal of time in public libraries, whether it was to study or play. In 2018, through zines and community libraries, I came to realize my affinity for books, information, and learning. My spirit of curiosity, desire to serve others, and community organizing experience is what drew me to public library work, and I began working as clerk at Burnaby Public Library in 2024. It is so meaningful to be supported in my journey towards librarianship, as I continue my pursuit of a Masters in Library and Information Studies at the University of British Columbia. I hope to empower other

racialized people in their path to library work, so more patrons can see themselves reflected in the library. After all, the library is nothing but a building full of books without its workers. I extend my deepest thanks to friends, family (given and chosen), zinesters, library workers, Vancouver's Chinatown and Downtown Eastside community, and Burnaby Public Library for the knowledge, care, and support offered to me that has paved the way for my being.

**Emily Ma** has been accepted into the iSchool at UBC. From Emily:

I am so incredibly honoured to have been one of the recipients of the Picard Trust Awards, and I owe a huge thank-you to Burnaby Public Library. As a queer Hui Chinese settler born in China, and having moved to Burnaby when I was two years old, I have had the privilege of volunteering and working in various library spaces, including Out on the Shelves, Richmond Public Library, SFU's Student Learning Commons, and working as a research assistant at SFU on Singaporean political dissident archives. In my upcoming studies in the Dual Master of Archival Studies and Library and Information Studies at the UBC School of Information, I intend to continue to contend with the different facets of diasporic longing and rejection of the white settler project. At once, as I have continued to learn both through academia and community work, I strive towards understanding my own socio-political and ethical responsibilities as a settler on unceded and occupied traditional ancestral lands of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and sə́lilwətaʔ4/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. Being a recipient of the Picard Trust Award, and as a queer and racialized future librarian, I am particularly interested in underrepresented archives and equitable information systems, notably as the fields of archival studies and library studies are disrupted by new opportunities that call for a reparative approach that diverges from extractive colonial violence.

Rachel and Emily are planning to attend the May Library Board meeting to meet with trustees.

Jackie Flowers  
CHIEF LIBRARIAN  
BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY



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**TO:** CHAIR AND TRUSTEES  
BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

**FROM:** CHIEF LIBRARIAN  
BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY

**DATE:** MAY 21, 2026

**SUBJECT:** ALBERTA BILL 28

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT** That the Board approve the proposed motion below.

**REPORT**

**Background**

Across Canada, public libraries are governed by provincial and territorial legislation. In BC, the BC Library Act outlines the role, responsibilities and general powers of the Library Board to ensure the provision of library services.

In April 2026, the Alberta government introduced omnibus legislation in Bill 28 that would amend 3 pieces of legislation: the Municipal Government Act, Libraries Act and the Alberta Housing Act. According to the Province, “Bill 28 would amend the Libraries Act and Libraries Regulation to allow the Minister to initiate reviews or respond to complaints related to public libraries.”<sup>1</sup>

The stated objective of these changes is to protect children under the age of 16 from inadvertently encountering visual depictions of explicit content in public libraries. Under the proposed framework, libraries may be required to implement measures such as placing certain materials behind service counters or in restricted areas that cannot be accessed without staff assistance.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.alberta.ca/modernizing-municipal-legislation-across-the-province>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.alberta.ca/system/files/ma-supporting-age-appropriate-access-public-libraries-fact-sheet.pdf>

This bill also introduces new ministerial powers related to inspection, access, borrowing, and compliance, shifting decision-making authority away from locally appointed library boards and professional staff toward provincial officials.

This legislation runs counter to core library values around privacy, access to information, and intellectual freedom.

The third reading of this bill passed in the legislature on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Canadian Urban Libraries Council - representing over 50 of the largest public library systems in Canada - published an open letter dated April 14, 2026, outlining concerns about the legislation (see below). At time of writing, 17 Canadian library boards and associations have approved a similar motion (including 3 in BC) and more are expected to do so as board meetings occur in May.<sup>3</sup>

### **Proposed Motion**

THAT the Burnaby Public Library board endorses the Canadian Urban Libraries Council open letter of April 14, 2026, regarding Bill 28 and its proposed changes to the Libraries Act of Alberta.

AND THAT the Board direct the Chief Librarian to communicate this resolution to the Canadian Urban Libraries Council.

AND THAT the Board reaffirms that libraries have a core responsibility to uphold intellectual freedom, patron privacy, and free and equitable access to information, operating within the principle of local governance of public libraries, consistent with the BC Library Act.

Jackie Flowers  
CHIEF LIBRARIAN  
BURNABY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.caplibraries.ca/letters-of-support>



**Canadian Urban Libraries Council**  
**Conseil des Bibliothèques Urbaines du Canada**

**OPEN LETTER**

April 14, 2026

Hon. Dan Williams  
Minister of Municipal Affairs  
320 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB  
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Williams,

I am writing on behalf of the Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC) regarding the changes proposed to Alberta's *Library Act* in Bill 28, the *Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act*.

CULC represents over 50 of the largest public library systems in Canada, along with Library and Archives Canada and the Bibliothèque et Archives Nationales du Québec, including libraries throughout Alberta. Our members serve more than 8 million active users across Canada who annually visit more than 720 locations and utilize virtual services. More than 77% of all Canadians are served by a CULC member library.

Bill 28 directly threatens the integral role libraries play in communities across Alberta by creating new barriers to access, raising serious questions about privacy, and undermining local democratic governance and accountability.

The proposed legislation removes local communities' ability to manage local library operations and imposes direct ministerial oversight and regulation, thereby restricting Alberta residents' access to library materials. Libraries make decisions about collections and access at the local level, informed by community needs, professional judgment, and individual and parental choice. Recent polling has shown that 69% of Albertans prefer that decisions about materials be made by locally trained staff, guided by local boards, rather than by province-wide rules.

Alberta's public libraries are community based, locally governed, and primarily funded by municipalities. Bill 28 creates new and unprecedented ministerial powers related to inspection, access, borrowing and compliance. These changes would shift decision-making away from locally appointed library boards and highly educated and professional staff, to provincial



## Canadian Urban Libraries Council Conseil des Bibliothèques Urbaines du Canada

representatives. This threatens the autonomy of all local officials and citizens and is a significant departure from Alberta's longstanding model of local governance.

Bill 28 will limit access to specific materials for everyone. Libraries already maintain rigorous collection policies, catalogue and shelve materials based on age and audience and uphold parents' rights to make decisions for their families and direct users to developmentally-appropriate materials. Restricting access to public library materials is censorship, regardless of whether these materials remain physically in library spaces. Censorship infringes on intellectual freedom and with broad-sweeping legislation such as what has been presented in Bill 28, the privacy of what one checks out becomes threatened.

As the representative organization of Canada's urban libraries, we are concerned that Alberta's legislation is a first step toward government control, in Alberta and other provinces, over which materials should be accessible in public libraries. We have seen the harm that results from moves to censor library materials in other countries, as some governments have sought to impose their ideological beliefs on community. We cannot allow this level of political interference in our public libraries.

CULC strongly opposes this move to censor what is accessible in Alberta's libraries and calls on the government to withdraw the changes to the Libraries Act in Bill 28.

I am available to further discuss the impact these changes will have on libraries.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Chevreau  
Executive Director  
Canadian Urban Libraries Council

Copy: Hon. Danielle Smith, Premier  
Mr. Naheed Nenshi, Leader of Alberta's Official Opposition

Dear Ms. Lu and the Board of the Burnaby Public Library,

Thank you for your letter on December 18, 2025, regarding Bill C-15 and the proposed changes to the *Canada Post Corporation Act* affecting the Library Book Rate and the free-post program for materials for the use of people who are blind.

Our office appreciates Burnaby Public Library taking the time to share its concerns and recommendations. Your letter highlighted an issue of significant importance to libraries and to the many Canadians who rely on affordable access to books, interlibrary loans, and accessible reading materials.

Following parliamentary study, Bill C-15 was amended to preserve these protections in law. The amended legislation maintains free postage for materials for the use of people who are blind, as well as a reduced rate of postage for library materials lent by a library. The amended bill has since been adopted by the House of Commons and received Royal Assent.

Thank you again for your thoughtful advocacy and for the important work Burnaby Public Library does to support equitable access to reading and information in our community.

Sincerely,  
Collin Yangming Hu  
Constituency Assistant  
Office of Wade Chang, MP  
Burnaby Central

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