

SPL Report to the Board

MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 9, 2025
FROM: KRISTA ROBINSON, CEO | LIBRARY DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: CEO MONITORING REPORT



Financial Condition

- As of September 1, all 2025 expense are tracking per estimates.
- The Library was approved for a grant in the amount of \$9,145 from Young Canada Works to cover salary expenses for one of the Library's summer program coordinators.
- The 2026 Library budget was submitted according to the appropriate deadlines. Further revisions were made and the budget submitted sits at a 5.48% increase, or \$169,531, over 2025. A meeting to review the submission will be held on Sept 4 with the CAO and Director of Corporate Services.

Staffing Updates

- Two of the Library's student pages resigned due to attend post-secondary education. Two new students have been hired and began work in early July.
- Interviews have occurred for the Special Projects Coordinator: Fundraising & Advocacy position. The Library is currently in negotiations with a potential candidate.

General News

- Since 2023, SPL has participated in Period Poverty, an initiative to menstrual products freely available in all restrooms in Perth and Huron libraries, schools, and other community locations. This year, the program rebranded itself as Period Positivity. The program has received a donation of 100 washable menstrual pad kits from Days for Girls and have begun being distributed amongst the partners.
- Five Yoto Player kits were created and went into circulation in July. Yoto players are screen-free portable speakers made for children. Physical cards are used to play audiobooks by inserting them into the player which plays only the audio content. There are no microphones or cameras making the devices safe for young users.
- PCIN has expanded access to those who are unable to provide proof of address, those with no ID, or those with no permanent address by creating an Essentials Card. Essentials cards allow users to check out 3 items at one time, and access digital collections. No special collections are allowed. Their cards are checked every 6 weeks for updates on ID and proof of address with a goal to transition the patron to a permanent card.

Programming News

- This summer, SPL offered a wide range of programs for children and families. To promote the programs, 75 class visits were offered at schools throughout Stratford and Perth South, seeing over 2,500 students. Over the summer, 15 programs were offered each week, some at the library and some out in the community to accommodate the attendance. Additionally, the TD Summer Reading Club program saw over 1,200 registrations.
- Throughout the summer, SPL offered three "Happy Hour" events. These events were held on Fridays after hours and were aimed towards those who were 19+. At each event, there was an entertainer and a different local business offering a cash bar. The series was a great success and there have been requests for Happy Hours to continue. In total, 232 people attended the series.
 - June: David Stones, Stratford's Poet Laureate
 - July: Rachel Reynolds, local musician



- August: Bette Reynolds, the 'Rappin Granny'
- Poetry Stratford is running a contest called "Every Voice" in partnership with SPL and Destination Stratford. The contest is designed to give every poetic voice in Perth County the chance to be heard, and the poems received will be included in a published anthology. This year's theme is Resilience.
- SPL has partnered with [Stratford Writer's Festival](#) this September. 5 different programs will be held at the Library.
- The Fall book selection for Tales and Trails will be "Good Morning, Canada" by Andrew Lynn Beck. This storywalk at the Stratford Perth Museum is in partnership with the Museum, the Library and Rotary Club of Stratford.

Select CEO Activities

Meetings

- Jun 16: Corporate Leadership Team meeting
- June 26: PCIN Management meeting
- June 27: 2026 Budget Overview session
- July 28: Perth Community Futures Development Corporation
- Aug 22: Grand Trunk government advocacy meeting with Crestview
- Aug 25: Grand Trunk facility discussion with Svec Group
- Aug 25: Grand Trunk Renewal AdHoc meeting
- Sept 2: Corporate Leadership Team meeting
- Sept 4: Departmental Budget Meeting

Professional Development

- Jun 18: Library as Place Conference

Advocacy

- Jun 12: InvestStratford AGM
- Jun 19: Rotary Club of Stratford presentation
- July 31: BIA Coffee Club at Benessere

News and Coming Events

SPL in the News

- [Perth County Reads returns for a second year](#) Jun 10, Beacon Herald
- [Stratford Library launches after hours happy hour events](#) Jun 11, Stratford Today
- [SPL launches inclusive summer events for all ages](#) Jul 7, Stratford Today
- [Library co-op student reviews SPL shelves for inclusion and representation](#) Jul 9, Stratford Today
- [Stratford library and local tea shop brew up perfect partnership](#) Jul 23, Stratford Today
- [New Poetry contest in Perth County aims to amplify diverse voices](#) Jul 23, Stratford Today
- [Pathways to Poetry arrives in time for September spotlight](#) Aug 5, Stratford Today
- [Rappin' Granny Bette Reynolds closes out Stratford Library's Happy Hour series with a bang](#) Aug 22, Stratford Times
- [Library releases fifth anthology of local youth writers](#) Aug 22, Stratford Times
- [SPL releases latest youth writers anthology](#) Aug 25, Stratford Today
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Upcoming Events

- Ontario Public Library Week: October 19-25
- Your City. Your Future.: October 2



Patron Feedback

- “I’ve never seen a library program like this. This is so fun!” Parent of a participant at Sensory Quest who also signed up for a library card and received a Welcome Package.
- “A big thank you to the Stratford Public Library and the Writers in Residence program for including my son in Forest of Words 2025. We are so proud of him, and so grateful for this amazing opportunity that encourages young writers to share their voices.” Parent of a participant in the Writers in Residence program.
- “I am so appreciative of this service as it is hard for me to get to the Library. You made my day!” Betty M., Home Delivery patron.
- “I am very happy that SPL offers this service. I don’t know what I’d do without it! It is my lifeline to the outside world.” Margaret W., Home Delivery patron.
- “Stratford Public Library is well known for punching well above its weight. From its good selection of books to its varied programming for all ages. It’s a great resource for the city.” Andrew M. (Google Review)
- “Excellent public library!!! Wonderful staff and selection of books. Wonderful adult and children's collections of books & DVDs.” Alexa E. (Google Review)
- Why You Love the Library display:
 - “Because everyone is so kind and every single one of us is equal.”
 - “It is cold in here. That’s good.”
 - “No matter what is happening, or who is around, I never feel alone here. No one has to speak. But books and the librarians make me feel loved.”