

Saskatchewan Library Governance

The Public Libraries Act, 1996 and The Public Libraries Regulations, 1996

All public library activities in the province are governed by these two documents.

Library system structure

In Saskatchewan, there are two urban libraries, seven regional library systems, and the Northern Library System:

- Regina Public Library
- Chinook Regional (Swift Current area)
- Palliser Regional (Moose Jaw area)
- Southeast Regional (Weyburn area)
- Wheatland Regional (Saskatoon area)
- Saskatoon Public Library
- Lakeland Library (North Battleford area)
- Parkland Regional (Yorkton area)
- Wapiti Regional (Prince Albert area)
- Pahkisimon Nuye?áh Library System (northern)

Each regional library system consists of a large geographical area with a substantial population and represents a group of cities, towns, villages and rural municipalities that have joined together to deliver library services.

The northern library system, Pahkisimon Nuye?áh Library System, is a federation of 11 northern community public libraries and has the legislated mandate to act as the central library for northern Saskatchewan.

Library Governance

A public library board is a legislated governing board with the authority to make policy and to govern the library's affairs within the framework of *The Public Libraries Act, 1996*. Over 2,500 volunteers across Saskatchewan sit on public library boards.

- Regina and Saskatoon are governed by municipal boards, which include the Mayor and a city councillor, plus seven members appointed by City Council.
- Local library boards provide governance for a library branch in rural areas within a region. A local board will have members from a town with a library, as well as representatives from surrounding municipalities.
- Regional library systems have regional boards. All municipal councils in a region appoint a member to the regional library board. Regional board members also serve on local library boards.
- The northern library system board includes members appointed by school advisory boards, Indian bands, northern community public library boards, regional colleges and post-secondary institutions.

Provincial Library and Literacy Office (PLLO)

The Saskatchewan Provincial Library and Literacy Office is part of the Ministry of Education. Through *The Public Libraries Act, 1996*, the office is entrusted to co-ordinate and support the province-wide library system, coordinate public library service development, and administer library grants.

Multitype Library Board

The Multitype Library Board was established under *The Libraries Co-operation Act, 1996* to facilitate the cooperative development of the multitype library system in Saskatchewan. The board is composed of representatives from across the province who meet to discuss ways in which libraries can cooperate to share resources and services. The secretariat to the Board is the PLLO.

Saskatchewan Information and Library Services Consortium (SILS)

All 10 library systems and the Provincial Library and Literacy Office are members of the Saskatchewan Information and Library Services Consortium (SILS). The SILS Consortium enables each public library system to collaborate on joint purchases for the benefit of all public libraries. The consortium administers a single Integrated Library System (ILS), which is the single, province-wide software system and database that allows library customers equal access to information and service options. The initiative was the foundation for “One Province, One Library Card,” and offered a universal library card to all Saskatchewan residents.

*Adapted from the Saskatchewan Libraries website: sils.sk.ca; and
The Saskatchewan Library Trustees' Association website: www.slta.ca*