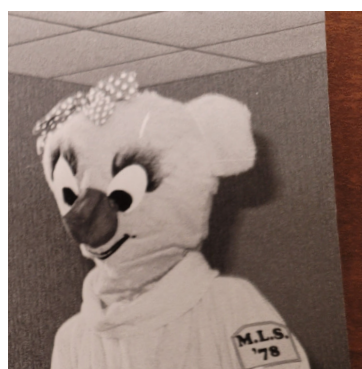


2023 ANNUAL REPORT

*Celebrating 50 years
1973 - 2023*



**PALLISER
REGIONAL
LIBRARY**



Message From the Chair & Director

On July 3, 2023, Palliser Regional Library marked a milestone - 50 years of serving our community. We set out to commemorate this significant anniversary with a year-long celebration, and thanks to the continued support of our board members, staff, and patrons, we have had lots of golden moments to celebrate.

Looking back on our journey, we are inspired by the resilience and determination that have carried us through challenges and triumphs alike. Libraries have been through a lot over the past five decades. Through budget cuts, technological changes, and demographic and geographic shifts, our services have continued to grow and change to meet the challenges and needs of the 21st century.

In 1973 we started with a humble collection of just over 71,000 books, and now through our SILS membership, we have access to millions of items. We've gone from physical books and card catalogues to computers and eBooks in what seems like the blink of an eye. Together, we have made a lasting impact on the lives of countless individuals and families, providing opportunities for lifelong learning and literacy.

As we reflect on the past and look toward the future, we express our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you who has contributed to our success. Your generosity, compassion, and belief in our work have made all the difference, and we are honored to lead this incredible organization as we embark on the next chapter of our journey together.

With deepest gratitude,

Arwen Rudolph

Director

Sarah Vennes-Ouellet

Chair, Palliser Regional Library

Board

Message from Moose Jaw Public Library

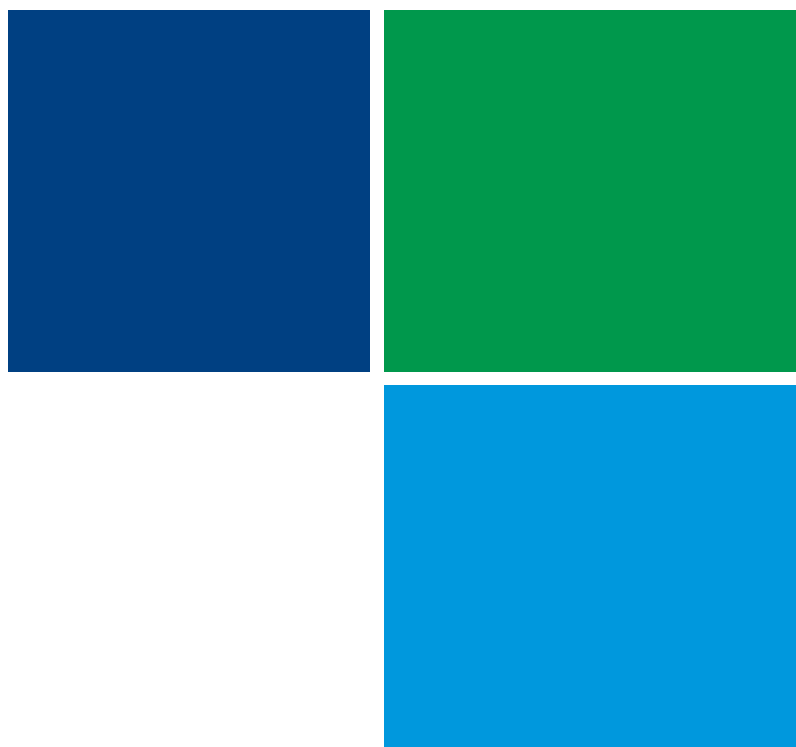
The Moose Jaw Public Library extends its sincere gratitude to its patrons for their unwavering support and participation in library services, recognizing the pivotal role the library plays in nurturing learning and culture in the community. The dedicated efforts of the library staff are acknowledged for their contributions in creating a dynamic and enriching environment for patrons. Special appreciation is extended to Chairperson Jaimie Atkins and the Moose Jaw Public Library Board, with a heartfelt acknowledgement of outgoing Board Member Sarah Simison for her seven years of dedicated service. The library also expresses gratitude to valued partners including Palliser Regional Library, The Friends of the Library, and the City of Moose Jaw administration.

In 2023, the Moose Jaw Public Library achieved significant milestones through engaging community partnerships and events, including hosting a free concert by the Regina Symphony Orchestra, collaborating with the Moose Jaw Literacy Network for the inaugural Books and Bikes event, securing the Canadian Space Agency Grant, hosting workshops and readings with Dine/Metis Poet Photographer Tenille Campbell for Saskatchewan Aboriginal Storytelling Month.

These accomplishments underscore the Moose Jaw Public Library's dedication to serving the community through diverse programming, collaborative partnerships, and strategic planning initiatives. We are looking forward to another great year!

Gwen Fisher

Head Librarian,
Moose Jaw Public Library



Executive Committee Activities

2023 Palliser Regional Library Executive Committee Members

Chairperson:

Sarah Vennes-Ouellet
City of Moose Jaw

Other Members:

Jaimie Atkins
City of Moose Jaw

Cody Sharpe
City of Moose Jaw

Megan Latta
City of Moose Jaw

Shelley Potts-Weigetz
Village of Riverhurst

Natalie Nagel
RM Sutton #103

Annual General Meeting

On May 13, 2023, Palliser held its first in person AGM since 2019. We had 11 board members and 6 observers in attendance.

Elections:

Sarah Vennes-Ouellet was elected for a one-year term as Chair.

Jaimie Atkins and Natalie Nagel were elected to the Executive Committee for a 2-year term.

Fall General Meeting

The Palliser Regional Library Fall General Meeting was held via Zoom on November 4. 12 Members and 7 Staff/Observers attended.

Members voted in favour of a 1.35% increase to the rural base levy in 2024, and approved the 2024 budget.

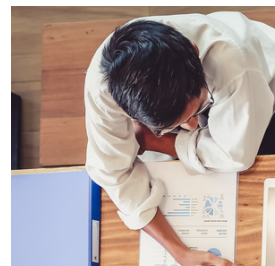
Branch of the Year

Bethune Branch Library won the Michael and Edith Klein Branch of the Year Award for 2022.

Congratulations to long-time Branch Librarian Robbie Brooks and her board who have made their library an indispensable part of their community.



Robbie Brooks accepts award from Director, Arwen Rudolph.



2024 Approved Rural Levy

	Base Levy	SILS Levy	PAC (Public Computer) Levy	Total per capita
Base Rate	\$15.00	\$0.425	\$0.17	\$15.595
Towns with a Library	\$22.50	\$0.425	\$0.17	\$23.095
Towns > 2,000	\$30.00	\$0.425	\$0.17	\$30.595

2023 Audited Statement

The 2023 consolidated audited financial statements include our 4.99% of the SILS income and expenses. Headquarters traded in our Ford Transit courier van and purchased a GMC Sahara which is much more suited to our operation. The difference spent on the trade was taken out of the operating fund. This left a surplus of \$6,478 which was put into the HQ Building Reserve. All the other budgets had a carry forward which included a portion of the previous year's carryforwards. Total purchase of materials this year was \$357,456 with MJPL purchasing \$264,270; AS purchased \$1,552; BR spent \$90,982 and Aboriginal \$1,653. Interest Rates are up and Palliser is in the process of restructuring our investments to capitalize on interest on longer term investments. For the full audited statements, please visit [our website](#).

Fall Staff Workshop

Palliser Regional Library held a Branch Staff Workshop on October 13 at Saskatchewan Polytechnic Moose Jaw campus. We had a great session in the morning about Intellectual Freedom in Public Libraries with James Turk, Director of Toronto Metropolitan University's Centre for Free Expression, and Manitoba's South Central Regional Library. We had staff from several other Saskatchewan Libraries join us. Thanks to all the Palliser staff and board members who joined us.



Workshop Group Selfie on the stairs at Sask Polytechnic

Celebrating 50 years: 1973 - 2023

On July 3, 2023, Palliser Regional Library turned 50 years old! To celebrate we had some great events throughout the year.

Pallis-Air Contest

Throughout the spring we posted videos of all of our beautiful library communities to Facebook and people could try to guess which community was being showcased and enter to win a draw for an Indigo gift card. Lots of people commented and won. Thank you to Delmar Davies for the drone footage, to staff who did the voiceovers, and to Nick Lamb for editing.

Mini-Fair at Palliser HQ

On July 3, on the official anniversary date, Palliser Headquarters hosted a mini-fair in our parking lot. We had food trucks and a bouncy castle, we gave out cupcakes, and we had our button maker and other crafts and activities. The day dawned sunny and a little windy but despite that it was a great family event, with an estimated 300 people attending. Thank you to everyone who came and all the staff who helped out with the event.



Celebrating 50 years: 1973 - 2023

Local Branch Events

Palliser offered grants of up to \$750 to each of our local branches to hold their own 50th anniversary celebrations. Many branches took us up on the offer, and the party is going to extend in 2024 with more branch celebrations.

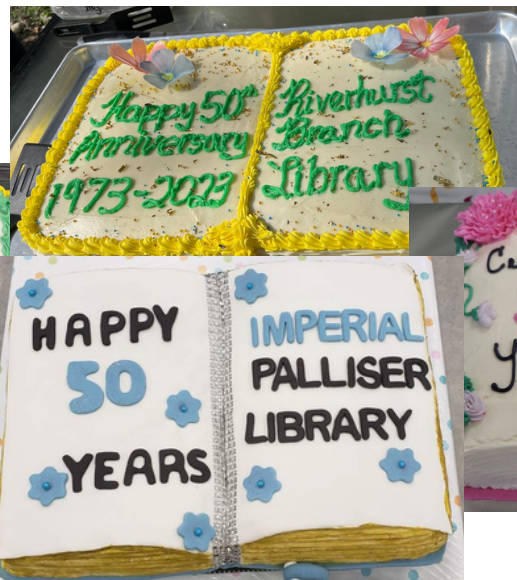


Willow Bunch and Loreburn made good use of the button maker kits.

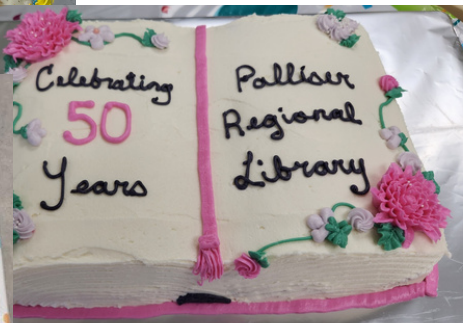


Making bird feeders at Riverhurst

So many beautiful cakes!



Clockwise from Left:
Mossbank, Riverhurst,
Loreburn and Imperial



Celebrating 50 years: 1973 - 2023

Local Branch Events

Some highlights include a “Party like it’s 1973’ retro-themed BBQ at Willow Bunch; a fancy tea party at Tugaske; a family dance at Rouleau; and a book-themed trivia night at Moose Jaw Public Library. Thank you to all our branches and patrons for celebrating with us!



Family Dance at Rouleau



Cupcakes & Temporary Tattoos at Davidson



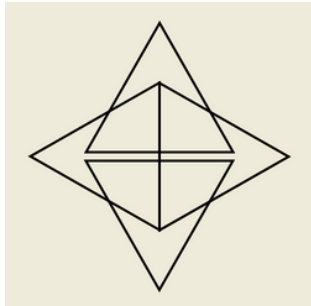
50th Birthday Barbecue at Imperial



All dressed up for tea at Tugaske

History of the Palliser Logo

1973-1984



This logo was created in 1973, when Palliser was first established. It pays homage to the Palliser Triangle, the driest part of the Canadian prairies. The overlapping triangles represent intersection and collaboration, and the entire logo looks a bit like a compass, just like the library is a place for everyone to find their way together.

1984-2023

This logo was the result of a contest open to all library borrowers. The grand prize was an Apple II C Computer donated by Microfuture. Contest winner LaRene Stewart of Rockglen described her design: "The overall triangle shape represents Palliser's triangle. The wheat on the sides symbolizes the wheat he said we couldn't grow. A book forms the base." In 1998, the logo was digitized, colorized, and a drop-shadow was added.



2023-



Our new logo was created in honor of Palliser's 50th anniversary. In the words of designer Roberta Landreth: "The icon shows three people with their heads peeking out over a stack of books — which are simultaneously shafts of wheat. The stem at the base of the wheat shaft is an open book, symbolizing the openness of the library welcoming the community members. Wheat symbolizes renewal, and abundance — a wheat field is many parts coming together to form a whole, just like the regional libraries in your community."



Programs & Services

Centralized Interlibrary Loans

2023 marked the 10th year that Palliser has been providing Interlibrary Loan services for the entire province. We received **5,932** requests. **3,648** came from public libraries in Saskatchewan and **2,284** came from outside agencies. We filled **5,526** requests and cancelled **775** for a fill rate of **88%**. We increased our purchasing for the Provincial Library & Literacy Office, as an alternative to borrowing items through ILL, and purchased **1,543** items, totalling **\$35,274.30**. Thank you to our staff, Head of Interlibrary Loans Jackie Bocek and assistant Jody Arnold, for all their hard work.

Kit Circulation

Item	Holdings	Circulation
Book Club Kits	240	209
Story Trails	58	86
Regional Park Passes	55	444
Button Maker Kits	2	30

New in 2023: Radon Detectors



We launched our new Radon Detector Kits in November, with 8 kits. Radon gas can be a problem in homes in Saskatchewan, and it's a good idea to test periodically.

Programming Highlights



Summer 2023 was another year of Palliser doing our own program, and it went very well. The theme in the rural branches was “Mysteries and Capers.”

Moose Jaw Public Library received a grant from the **Canadian Space Agency**, so they had an awesome space-themed summer program.

Pictured on the right, Moose Jaw Public Library Summer Student Abdul Alabi poses in astronaut gear in front of the space-themed mural in the children’s area.



We had a total of **9,850** participants in summer programming across the region. We once again used both the Reader Zone app and paper sheets to track minutes read, and **549** readers recorded **649,481** minutes read.

Statistical Summary: Programs

	2023	2022	2021
Programs Offered	2,911	1,707	1,212
Attendance	29,255	16,835	15,892

Programming Highlights: Branches



Handmade Moosehide Mitts at Tugaske



Murder Mystery Night at Elbow



Community Gardens at Davidson



Bricks 4 Kidz at Mossbank



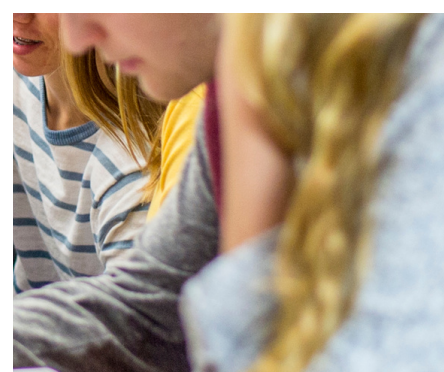
Young Wizard Camp at Bethune

Statistical Summary: Patrons

	2023	2022	2021
Visitors to Library	215,424	165,759	96,425
New Cardholders	2,149	1,808	1,296
Active Cardholders	12,443	13,048	12,783
Total Cardholders	18,783	18,591	19,107
% Population with Card	33.85%	33.5%	34.45%
% Rural Cardholders	32.53%	32.52%	33.23%
% MJPL Cardholders	67.47%	67.48%	66.77%
Age Breakdown			
Child	1,340	1,230	715
Young Adult	981	1,087	981
Adult	7,426	7,997	6,655
Senior	2,696	2,734	2,226

\$5.8 M

Amount our
patrons saved
by using the
library!



Statistical Summary: Processing & Collections

Processing Statistics

Material Type	2023	2022	2021
Books	11,281	10,709	13,186
DVDs	1,525	1,629	1,487
CDs	248	221	237
Other	7	32	0
Total	13,061	12,591	14,910

Items Added & Removed from Collection

	2023	2022	2021
Items Added	15,470	15,448	17,368
Items Repaired	20	53	51
Total Items Deleted	23,989	33,479	
Items Withdrawn	21,535	28,464	17,023
Items Missing/Lost			2,649
Items Lost	2,069	7,488	
Items Missing	375	1,297	

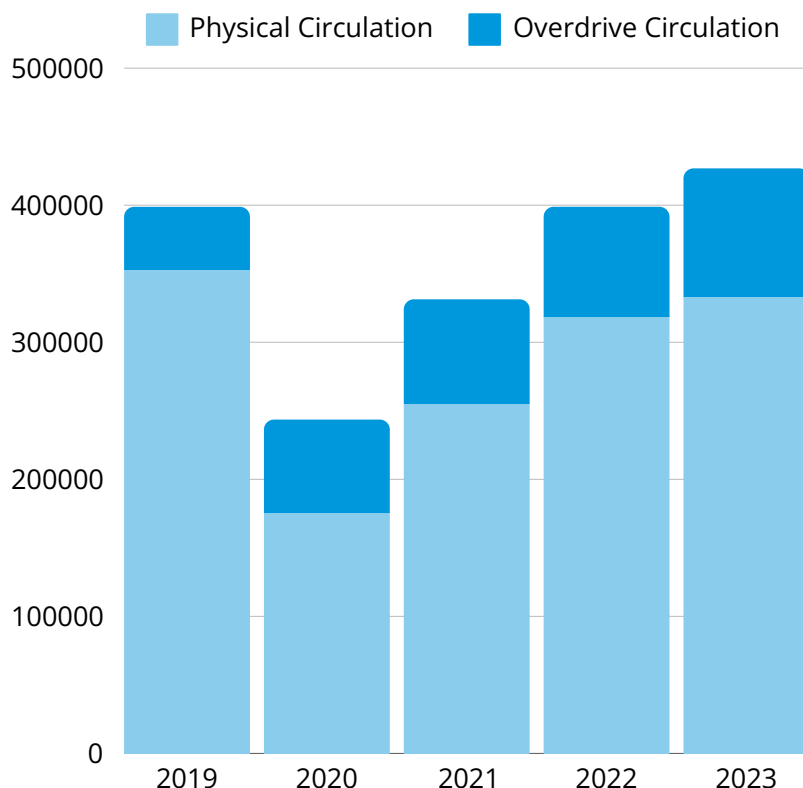
Current Holdings by Material Type

Material Type	2023	2022	2021
Adult	134,763	141,781	140,926
Young Adult	18,439	18,746	18,497
Juvenile	78,692	78,685	78,905
Large Print	11,195	11,396	11,113
Audiobooks	4,793	4,766	4,926
DVDs	26,913	26,472	25,666
CDs	3,983	4,220	4,158
Magazines	14,160	13,819	17,416
Video Games	1,433	1,368	1,171
Kits/Other	860	801	1,708
Total	295,231	302,054	304,486



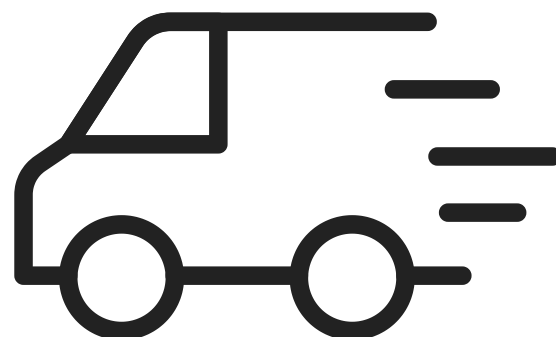
Statistical Summary: Circulation

Physical Circulation & Overdrive Ebook Circulation 2019 - 2023



Total circulation has now surpassed pre-covid levels, and online materials such as Ebooks and Eaudiobooks from Overdrive continue to gain in popularity.

Palliser continues to be a net supplier of physical items to other libraries in the province, sending out almost twice as much as we bring in.



41,946

items shipped
in from other
regions

26,628

items shipped
within Palliser

80,061

items shipped
to other
regions

Statistical Summary by Branch - Collection & Circulation

Branch	Collection Size	Active Patrons	Physical Items Checked Out	Overdrive Ebooks Checked Out	Total Holds Placed	Holds Sent In Region	Holds Sent Out of Region	Total Holds Sent
Assiniboia	21,340	861	27,497	5,400	9,072	1,904	6,282	8,186
Avonlea	5,961	189	3,654	3,252	2,143	657	1,609	2,266
Bethune	8,210	194	4,491	1,522	1,592	928	2,411	3,339
Briercrest	4,829	114	3,161	424	1,141	591	1,182	1,773
Coronach	8,186	185	3,629	1,752	1,625	833	2,039	2,872
Craik	7,393	243	6,534	2,632	2,725	1,075	2,342	3,417
Davidson	11,089	409	16,452	3,644	7,026	1,165	1,789	2,954
Elbow	7,997	164	4,953	588	1,549	1,030	2,006	3,036
Headquarters	1,652	56	1,157	212	2,375	2,202	1,761	3,963
Holdfast	5,204	131	1,140	823	467	601	1,322	1,923
Imperial	7,857	160	3,669	829	1,296	968	2,132	3,100
Loreburn	4,449	86	1,479	383	556	555	925	1,480
Moose Jaw	155,515	8,395	226,703	63,144	40,262	9,206	45,078	54,284
Mortlach	4,684	116	2,612	825	1,407	578	738	1,316
Mossbank	10,152	228	6,015	1,646	2,196	793	1,258	2,051
Riverhurst	5,874	82	1,721	262	507	781	1,200	1,981
Rockglen	4,803	262	5,154	2,162	1,917	478	907	1,385
Rouleau	6,054	251	3,174	2,297	1,208	541	898	1,439
Tugaske	4,993	129	5,970	574	2,889	595	1,501	2,096
Willow Bunch	5,220	114	3,161	476	1,452	699	1,582	2,281
Wood Mountain	3,769	74	1,358	365	693	448	1,099	1,547
Totals	295,231	12,443	333,684	93,212	84,098	26,628	80,061	106,689

Statistical Summary by Branch - Branch Activities

Branch	Open Hours/ Week	Annual In-Person Visits	Reference Questions	Information Questions	Computer Users	Programs Offered	Program Attendance	Volunteer Hours
Assiniboia	47.00	15,381	5,007	5,720	2,512	165	1,293	872.00
Avonlea	16.00	3,429	804	117	44	115	1,376	83.00
Bethune	19.00	3,029	462	437	31	111	1,402	63.00
Briercrest	10.75	1,327	814	1,188	65	176	1,132	319.00
Coronach	21.00	2,000	152	91	60	45	619	132.50
Craik	22.00	3,334	682	208	62	210	1,389	639.75
Davidson	35.00	6,347	2,482	4,237	537	146	2,491	211.00
Elbow	15.00	2,400	2,287	4,295	30	39	336	2,003.25
Holdfast	10.50	658	46	66	1	62	797	187.75
Imperial	19.50	1,697	526	115	50	41	316	187.75
Loreburn	10.50	754	244	212	21	125	536	415.50
Moose Jaw	67.00	159,517	16,402	7,237	11,083	695	10,644	300.00
Mortlach	11.50	1,024	164	411	0	21	218	89.00
Mossbank	17.50	3,093	1,908	2,199	133	50	1,025	559.00
Riverhurst	11.50	1,222	456	273	17	17	197	147.50
Rockglen	15.25	1,313	195	164	8	53	392	123.00
Rouleau	15.00	1,727	603	1,408	34	54	557	190.00
Tugaske	12.00	5,539	5,244	1,064	197	640	3,115	1,616.50
Willow Bunch	14.50	1,204	230	544	55	75	1,143	313.00
Wood Mountain	5.50	429	283	273	5	71	277	67.50
Totals	396.00	215,424	38,991	30,259	14,945	2,911	29,255	8,520.00

Appendix A: Staff 2023

Headquarters Staff		Moose Jaw Public Library Staff	
Director	Arwen Rudolph	Head Librarian	Gwen Fisher
Systems Librarian	Brianna Miller	Assistant Head Librarian	Shevaun Ruby
Office Manager	Wanda Parker	Community Outreach Librarian	Jennifer Doede
Computer Technician	Melissa Silzer-Frank		
Library Clerks	Jacqueline Bocek	Library Technicians	Jordan Bosch
	Linda Peters		Taylor Harder
	Delmar Davies/Jody Arnold		Katrina Howick
	Wendy Robbins**		Christine Hinds*
	Sam Hodgson		Stephanie Jeanes
Courier Drivers	Delmar Davies		Aislinn Lawreniuk
	Mark Dreger		Andrew Martens
	James Miller		James Miller
	Doug Reichel		
Caretaker	Sam Hodgson/Delmar Davies	Library Clerks	Brooke Adkins
Rural Branch Staff			Hamida Ahadi
Assiniboia	Lori Crighton		Sarah Chase
Assistant Librarians	Lori Ciocia		Tailynn Douglas
	Gus Gere		Glenda Green
	Lois Seeley		Morgan Keens
Avonlea	Diane Kramski		Sara Mokonen
Bethune	Robbie Brooks		Holly Moroschan
Briercrest	Sharon Duncan		Megan Nash
	Lacey Acramel		Steve Nicholl
Coronach	Marlene McBurney**		Naiomi Setter
Craik	Denise McNab		Lori Vansickle**
Assistant Librarian	Karen Crowley		
Davidson	Megan Booker	Summer Students	Abdul Alabi
Assistant Librarian	Heather Reich		Avery Surtees
Elbow	Sandy Dean		
	Maxine Hedin	Retirements**	Marlene McBurney - Coronach
Holdfast	Nicole Brooks		Wendy Robbins - HQ
Imperial	Rhonda Cooper		Lori Vansickle - MJPL
Loreburn	Sue Ann Abbott		
Mortlach	Kimberley Dreger	On Leave as of Dec 31, 2023	Sandy Dean - Elbow
Mossbank	Kimberly Miller		Brianna Miller - HQ
Riverhurst	Valerie Bennett		Sara Mokonen - MJPL
Rockglen	Angela Stewart		
Rouleau	Marla Gellvear	*No longer an employee as of Dec 31, 2023	
Tugaske	Violet Beaudry		
Willow Bunch	Barb Gibbons		
Wood Mountain	Jocelyn Todd		

Appendix B: Municipalities Served

Municipality	2021 Census	Representatives	Municipality	2021 Census	Representatives
City of Moose Jaw	33,665	Jaimie Atkins	Limerick	114	Lorelei Rogers
		Cody Sharpe	Marquis	90	
		Sarah Vennes-Ouellet	Mistusinne	118	Linda Reiss
		Heather Eby	North Grove	175	
		Megan Latta	Pense	603	Tricia Jones
			South Lake	226	
			Strongfield	55	Michelle Selinger
Towns with a Library			Sun Valley	154	
Assiniboia	2,333	Graham Harvey	Tuxford	103	Perri Thomas
Avonlea	411	Jenny Arnold	Wee Too Beach	75	
Bethune	419	Terri Pollock	Rural Municipalities		
Briercrest	155	Eileen Jeffery	11 Hart Butte	263	Pamela Krusky
Coronach	612	Jim Achtymichuk	12 Poplar Valley	190	Lynn Fisher
Craik	405	Kim Bakken	42 Willow Bunch	285	Jeanette Mondor
Davidson	1,044	Arlene Low	43 Old Post	352	Vicky Greffard
Elbow	341	Rhett Bokitch	71 Excel	411	Braden Paradon
Holdfast	173	Kristal Coles	72 Lake of the Rivers	252	Karen Meagher
Imperial	372	Debbie Van Damme	73 Stonehenge	385	Clayton Batty
Loreburn	100	Grant Abbott	100 Elmsthorpe	195	Dallas Luebke
Mortlach	274	Marg Apperley	101 Terrell	210	Dale Petersen
Mossbank	368	Gregory Foreman	102 Lake Johnston	140	Maureen Hutchinson
Riverhurst	152	Shelley Potts-Weigetz	103 Sutton	239	Natalie Nagel
Rockglen	399	Gina Beliveau	130 Redburn	253	Jordan Clark
Rouleau	505	Colin Jones	131 Baidon	583	Kristine Hanlan
Tugaske	79	Lynn Wellings	132 Hillsborough	97	
Willow Bunch	299	Jeanette Mondor	133 Rodgers	105	
Wood Mountain	20	Lara Moroz	160 Pense	441	Joanne Simpson
Other Towns & Villages			161 Moose Jaw	1,207	Kim Dalgarno
Alice Beach	82		162 Caron	603	Leah Erickson
Aylesbury	67	Denise Leduc	163 Wheatlands	157	
Belle Plaine	79		190 Dufferin	655	Patricia Fraser
Brownlee	55		191 Marquis	303	
Caronport	1,033		193 Eyebrow	220	Shannon Harrison
Chamberlain	96		221 Sarnia	326	Tammy Bilsky
Coderre	30		222 Craik	272	Amanda Werdal
Dilke	60		223 Huron	205	Leanne White
Drinkwater	74		224 Maple Bush	213	Edie Marshall
Etters Beach	40		251 Big Arm	184	Gaylene Parry
Eyebrow	130	Shannon Harrison	252 Arm River	258	Emily McIvor
Grandview Beach	118		253 Willner	293	Mary Smillie
Hawarden	50	Barb Martin	254 Loreburn	380	Candace Wankel
Liberty	68		Total Population	55,498	



Thank You

As we conclude this year's annual report, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all staff, board members, and patrons, past and present, for their unwavering support and commitment. We've come a long way driven by passion, innovation, collaboration, and a shared vision for excellence. Thank you for being part of our journey for 50 amazing years. Here's to 50 more!



306-693-3669



366 Coteau Street West, Moose Jaw, SK S6H 5C9



www.palliserlibrary.ca