

MARKHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

Notice of meeting to be held on Monday, May 25, 2026, 8:00 p.m. Markham Village Library, 6031 Highway 7 East, Markham, ON L3P 3A7

AGENDA

1.0 Call to Order/Adoption of Agenda

- 1.1 Adoption of Minutes: (April 27,2026)
- 1.2 Declaration of Conflict of Interest
- 1.3 Delegations
- 1.4 Chair's Remarks
- 1.5 Board-CEO Linkage BCL-2e Policy: Performance Review (Chair)

2.0 Ownership Linkage

- 2.1 Reports from Board Members

3.0 Board Education

- 3.1 Partnerships and Community Engagement at MPL (D. Macklin)

4.0 Information Requested by the Board

- 4.1 CEO's Highlights: May 2026

5.0 Items for Decision

- 5.1 Financial Statements of the City of Markham, Markham Public Library Board, December 31,2025 (moved ahead after 1.5)
Ms. Maria Khoushnood, Partner, Audit, KPMG LLP
KPMG Approval of 2025 Financial Statements of the Markham Public Library Board (M. Sawh)

6.0 Monitoring Performance

- 6.1 **Ends:**
 - 6.1.1 Strategic Plan Update (D. Walker)
- 6.2 **Executive Limitations:**
 - 6.2.1 Financial Condition: EL-2d (R. Chan/M .Sawh)

7.0 **Consent Agenda**

All items under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and are recommended for approval by the Chair.

7.1 **Declaration of Due Diligence by the CEO**

7.2 **Communication and Correspondence:**

7.2.1 Opposition to Alberta's Bill 28 and Defense of Local Library Governance, Letter of Support

8.0 **Board Performance and Self-Evaluation**

8.1 Questionnaire: Performance of Individual Board Members

9.0 **New Business**

10.0 **In-Camera**

11.0 **Adjournment**

**NEXT MEETING: Monday, June 22, 2026 7:00 p.m.
Aaniin Library
5665 14th Ave.
Markham, ON L3S 3K5**

AGENDA 5.1

TO: Markham Public Library Board
FROM: Catherine Biss, CEO & Secretary-Treasurer
PREPARED BY: Michelle Sawh, Director, Administration
DATE OF MEETING: May 25, 2026
SUBJECT: Financial Statements of the Markham Public Library Board, December 31, 2025

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the report entitled “Financial Statements of the City of Markham Public Library Board, December 31, 2025” be received; and,

That the Board approves the Financial Statements of the City of Markham Public Library Board, December 31, 2025; and,

That the Board Chair be authorized to sign the approved 2025 Financial Statements on behalf of the Board; and,

That the Board authorize Staff to issue the final audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2025;

AND That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

KPMG LLP has completed an audit of the Financial Statements of the Library Board and has expressed an unqualified or “clean” opinion that the Financial Statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of the Library.

The audit process included an examination of the Library’s accounts and review of Board minutes for the calendar year 2025, as well as a review of the organization’s procedures and tests of the Internal Control Systems. The financial statements of the Markham Public Library Board were prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles established by the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Report is to obtain the Board’s approval of the “Financial Statements of the City of Markham Public Library Board, December 31, 2025”.

BACKGROUND:

This Report is prepared in accordance with the *Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25 (the Act)*. Section 296 (1) states that:

A municipality shall appoint an auditor licensed under the *Public Accounting Act, 2004* who is responsible for,

- a) annually auditing the accounts and transactions of the municipality and its local boards and expressing an opinion on the financial statements of those bodies based on the audit; and
- b) performing duties required by the municipality or local board.

Section 1(1) of the *Act* indicates that the definition of “local board” includes a public library board.

The City of Markham’s external auditors, KPMG, have completed the examination of the Financial Statements of the Markham Public Library, for the year ended December 31, 2025. The Financial Statements are attached to this report for the Board’s consideration and review (Appendix “A”).

Approval of the Financial Statements is required each year as a condition of continued funding from the Province of Ontario. The 2025 Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport survey was submitted last year, and the Public Library Operating Grant of \$228,778 was received following submission. Financial disclosure to the Ministry is required under the *Public Libraries Act, R.S.O. 1990, P.44*, Regulation 976 “Grants for Public Libraries,” sec. 1(b).

DISCUSSION:

KPMG LLP has completed an audit of the Financial Statements of the Markham Public Library Board and has expressed an unqualified or “clean” opinion that the Financial Statements present fairly and, in all material, respects the financial position of the Board.

The audit included an examination of the accounts and Library Board Meeting minutes for 2025. The auditor reviewed the Library’s procedures and conducted tests of the Internal Control Systems. A major part of the audit was conducted from the City of Markham’s Financial Services Department, where the Library’s accounting and payroll data is stored.

On May 15, 2026, the Library Board Chair, the CEO Designate, Director of Administration, met with the auditor to review the audited Financial Statements. In attendance from KPMG LLP were Maria Khoushnood, Partner, Audit. She provided a summary of the audit results which will be confirmed at the Board meeting on May 25, 2026.

The Financial Statements of the Markham Public Library Board were prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles established by the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. These statements indicate the operating results and how the Library financed its activities and met its cash requirements. Additionally, the statements confirm that the resources were obtained and used in accordance with the Operating and Capital Budgets as approved by the Board.

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Appendix “A” (*Financial Statements of City of Markham Public Library Board, December 31, 2025*) is the audited statements document and accompanying notes, consisting of the following:

- Statement of Financial Position
- Statement of Operations
- Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets (Debt)
- Statement of Cash Flows
- Notes to the Financial Statements

(1) **Statement of Financial Position** (Appendix A – page 1 of 12)

The Statement of Financial Position outlines the Library’s financial assets, financial liabilities and non-financial assets.

Financial Assets:

These are the resources controlled by the organization as a result of past events and from which future economic benefits are expected to flow to it. Financial assets include cash, receivables and other assets expected to be converted to cash, sold or consumed either within a year or within the operating cycle. These assets are continually turned over in the course of normal business activities.

The Financial Assets figure in 2025 was \$7,412,532 compared to the 2024 figure of \$7,642,694. The difference between these figures is mostly explained by the “**Due from the City of Markham**” figure, which is a mathematical calculation prepared for the financial statement based on the balances at year-end.

“**Cash**” consists of the money received at the end of each calendar year but was deposited to the library bank at the beginning of the following year. In 2025, the figure was \$9,995 compared to \$2,770 in 2024.

In 2025, \$7,317,092 was “**Due from the City of Markham**” compared to \$7,567,244 in 2024. This amount due from the City is not subject to any specific terms of repayment and does not bear any interest. The amount arises primarily as the result of net current year’s operations and capital expenditure incurred by the City on behalf of the Markham Public Library Board and is consolidated with the City’s financial statements. See further explanation outlined within Note 6 on page 10 of the Statement.

“**Other**” consists of HST receivables, as the government reimburses most of the HST that MPL pays to purchase products and services. This figure was higher in 2025 than it was in 2024.

Financial Liabilities:

These are financial obligations to outside organizations or individuals that are the result of transactions or events that occurred on or before the end of the accounting period.

“**Accounts payable**” is a figure representing amounts owed by the Library to vendors and contractors and is shown as a liability on the balance sheet. In 2025, this figure was \$39,223

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compared to \$24,209 in 2024. In 2025, more invoices were received late and therefore could not be processed prior to year-end.

“**Accrued salaries and wages**” are salaries and wages that were earned at the end of one calendar year but were actually paid out in January of the next year. This figure varies each year and is a function of the calendar, i.e. the timing of the first pay period in any year and when that pay period is actually paid out to employees. In 2025, this figure was \$706,134 compared with \$633,267 in 2024, representing an increase in this liability due to the cost-of-living adjustment.

“**Accrued vacation pay**” results from full time employees carrying forward vacation entitlement earned in one calendar year to be used in the next, which represents a liability. In 2025, this figure was \$197,019 compared to \$186,572 in 2024, representing an increase in this liability due to the cost-of-living adjustment. The number of carried-over vacation days increased to 544.88 (2025) from 525.02 (2024) – see Note 4 on page 9 of the Statement. Under the Full Time Collective Agreement and Library policy, full time employees are entitled to carry forward up to 50% of earned vacation entitlement, to be used no later than June 30th of the following year.

“**Deferred revenue**” is revenue received in 2025 from customers for paid for programs and room rentals that commenced in calendar year 2026. Deferred revenue is considered a liability until the funds are spent, and it varies from year to year.

Non-Financial Assets:

Non-financial assets are assets that have a physical value such as property. They include “**Tangible capital assets**” (TCAs) and “**Prepaid expenses**”. TCAs includes Library collections, furniture and fixtures. The net book value of TCAs is comprised of the gross capital asset cost, plus additions, less disposals, less accumulated amortization and other adjustments.

The TCAs figure for 2025 of \$6.46M compares to the 2024 figure of \$6.16M. Details of the TCAs can be found in Note 3 on page 9 of the Statement.

“**Prepaid expenses**” include subscriptions and contracts whose terms are for fixed periods commencing in calendar year 2025 and continuing into the next year. This figure includes both paper and electronic subscriptions, including databases to which the Library subscribes. This figure can fluctuate from year to year based on timing differences related to the payment of invoices through Financial Services. In 2025, there was a decline in this figure compared to the previous year.

Accumulated Surplus:

This is the sum of Net Debt and Non-Financial Assets. This is the go-forward balance and is equivalent to Retained Earnings.

(2) **Statement of Operations** (Appendix A – page 2 of 12)

This statement accounts for the Library’s operating revenues and expenditures and includes amortization of TCAs in the accounting period – the second line under **EXPENSES**.

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(3) **Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets (Debt)** (Appendix A – page 3 of 12)
This statement presents changes in net financial assets such as TCAs and describes the change in value of the Library's non-financial assets from the previous year.

(4) **Statement of Cash Flows** (Appendix A – page 4 of 12)

This statement presents changes in cash and cash equivalents by highlighting the sources and uses of cash. The statement indicates how the Library's activities were financed and how cash requirements were met.

(5) **Notes to the Financial Statements** (Appendix A – pages 5 to 12)

Detailed discussion and explanations of the following:

1. Description of business
2. Significant Accounting Policies, including:
 - Basis of Accounting
 - Government Transfers
 - Non-Financial Assets
 - Tangible Capital Assets
 - Deferred Revenue
 - Pension Agreement
 - Use of Estimates
 - Vacation Pay
 - Related Party Transactions
 - Adoption of New Accounting Standards
 - Future Accounting Pronouncements
3. Tangible Capital Assets
4. Accrued Vacation Pay
5. Pension Agreements
6. Due from the City of Markham
7. Budget
8. Financial Instruments
 - Fair Value Measurement Hierachy
 - Credit Risk
 - Liquidity Risk
 - Market Risk



Catherine Biss
CEO & Secretary-Treasurer

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ATTACHMENTS:

- **Appendix “A”** – Financial Statements of City of Markham Public Library Board, December 31, 2025

TO: Markham Public Library Board
FROM: Catherine Biss, CEO & Secretary-Treasurer
PREPARED BY: Deborah Walker, Director Strategy & Planning
DATE OF MEETING: May 25, 2026
SUBJECT: **Strategic Plan Update**

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report “Strategic Plan Update” be received.

REPORT:

Implementation Plan and Roadmap

On May 11th, the Strategic Planning Staff Team met with our consultant in a session focused on operational planning for our new strategic plan. We identified the key initiatives we need to pursue to reach the strategy's desired outcomes. We then performed high-level sequencing to create a roadmap for short, medium, and long-term actions.


We will focus next on refining and finalizing our initiatives and on their sequencing over the life of the new strategic plan.

Communication to Staff

Our new **2026-2031 Strategic Plan** will be unveiled to library staff at three Town Halls on May 28, June 1, and June 3.

This is the result of a year's worth of work gathering feedback and information from the community, our staff team, and combining it with environmental scan data and research to create a plan to guide Markham Public Library through the next five years.

A key theme of the Town Hall presentations will be to emphasize the importance of staff input at our 2025 Strategic Planning Focus Groups. Management will highlight those initiatives that are driven and informed by staff input from the frontlines of library service, to ensure they see their voices reflected in the plan.



Catherine Biss
CEO & Secretary-Treasurer

AGENDA 6.2.1

TO: Markham Public Library Board
FROM: Catherine Biss, CEO & Secretary-Treasurer
PREPARED BY: Michelle Sawh, Director, Administration
DATE OF MEETING: May 25, 2026
**SUBJECT: INTERNAL MONITORING REPORT: Executive Limitation EL-2d,
Financial Condition**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides the Board with an update on the year-to-date financial condition of the Library.

This is a report on Actual and Budgeted Operating Budget expenditures for the four-month period ending April 30, 2026. This is the second of three financial reports to the Board covering fiscal year 2026 (Jan – Apr).

The Library ended the period in a favourable position with a net surplus of **\$267,077** based on Library Income which was above budget and Expenditures that were below budget.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report entitled “Internal Monitoring Report: Executive Limitation EL-2d, Financial Condition” be received.

POLICY TYPE: EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS

POLICY TITLE: FINANCIAL CONDITION (EL-2d)

[Report on actual expenditures compared with budget]

GLOBAL POLICY LIMITATION:

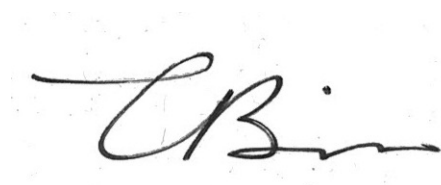
With respect to the actual, ongoing financial condition and activities of the organization, the CEO shall not cause or allow the development of fiscal jeopardy or a material deviation of actual expenditures from Board priorities established in Ends policies.

CEO RESPONSIBILITY:

Consistent with statutory obligations and prudent financial management, funds will be allocated and expended in a manner that is consistent with Board priorities established in the Board Ends policies.

ASSERTION OF COMPLIANCE

Per the Report below, I assert that I am in compliance with this Global Policy Executive Limitation.



Catherine Biss
CEO & Secretary-Treasurer

AGENDA 6.2.1

1. **POLICY LIMITATION:** *The CEO shall not expend more funds than have been received in the fiscal year to date unless the debt guidelines (below) are met.*

CEO RESPONSIBILITY:

The CEO shall not operate in a deficit situation at any time during the fiscal year that cannot be repaid within 60 days.

EVIDENCE OF COMPLIANCE:

- The CEO is in compliance. As of April 2026, the Library had a net budgetary surplus of **\$267,077** based on a favourable variance in Library Income of **\$13,553** and the favourable variance in Expenditures of **\$253,524**. See Appendix "A" (Statement of Revenue and Expenditures – Four Months Ended 04/30/2026).
- **Library Income** – The 2026 year-to-date Actual was \$ 138,642 against a Budget of \$125,089 creating a favourable variance of \$13,553.
- **Expenditures** – The 2026 year-to-date Actual was \$5,793,866 against a Budget of \$6,047,390 creating a favourable variance of \$253,524.
- All figures in this Report are based on the Financial Statement dated April 30, 2026, received from the City of Markham's Financial Services Department on May 11, 2026.

2. **POLICY LIMITATION:** *The CEO shall not indebted the organization in an amount greater than can be repaid by certain, otherwise unencumbered revenues within 60 days, or hold the controllable expenditures to avoid overspending funds.*

CEO RESPONSIBILITY:

The CEO shall not enter any commitment that cannot be fully paid from unencumbered revenues or monitor the expenditures to ensure commitments are covered, without jeopardizing the Library's financial stability.

EVIDENCE OF COMPLIANCE:

- There are no commitments beyond those identified in the current Operating Budget.

3. **POLICY LIMITATION:** *The CEO shall not allow payroll and debts to be handled in an untimely manner.*

CEO RESPONSIBILITY:

The CEO shall ensure the timeliness of all payroll and accounts payable activities.

EVIDENCE OF COMPLIANCE:

- The Library's payroll and accounts payable activities are undertaken by the City's Financial Services Department. The Library authorizes and submits payroll and payables information, and Finance then carries out the actual transactions. When the Library receives invoices,

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they are processed and submitted to the Accounts Payable Department in a timely fashion. The actual timing of payments to vendors and suppliers is determined by Accounts Payable through its internal processes.

4. **POLICY LIMITATION:** *The CEO shall not withhold, nor otherwise delay, from the Board the results and recommendations of the auditors and the administrative response thereto.*

CEO RESPONSIBILITY:

The Library's financial statements will be evaluated by an independent auditor on an annual basis, who will then express an opinion based on the audit and present it to the Board.

EVIDENCE OF COMPLIANCE:

The "Financial Statements of the Markham Public Library Board, December 31, 2024" were presented to the Board in its meeting of May 26, 2025. The minutes of the meeting records the following resolution:

Staff introduced Ms. Theresa Ho, Manager, Private Enterprise, KPMG LLP.

Ms. Ho gave a brief, high level overview of the 2024 Financial Statements, citing that some of the numbers were consistent year over year, explained some of the items within the report and noted that it was a clean audit overall.

There was an outstanding request from a Board member for a clarifying statement regarding the term "Due from the City of Markham".

The CEO will confer with KPMG and the City of Markham.

Moved by Ms. Gail Vlahopoulos
Seconded by Ms. Winnie Phung

That the report entitled "Financial Statements of the City of Markham Public Library Board, December 31, 2024" be received; and,

That the Board approves the Financial Statements of the City of Markham Public Library Board, December 31, 2024; and,

That the Board Chair be authorized to sign the approved 2024 Financial Statements on behalf of the Board; and,

That the Board authorize Staff to issue the final audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024.

AND that staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried.

The Board's 2025 Financial Statements are an agenda item for today's Board meeting (May 25, 2026).

5. **POLICY LIMITATION:** *The CEO shall not acquire, lease, rent, encumber or dispose of real property.*

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CEO RESPONSIBILITY:

For the purpose of acquiring, leasing, renting, or encumbering, this means new property not currently under Board ownership, lease, or rental. Real property is interpreted to mean real estate, space, and facilities. Disposal would mean the sale of real property.

EVIDENCE OF COMPLIANCE:

- The Library Board does not own real property, nor does it currently lease or rent any spaces. It is responsible for all services, programs and related activities provided to the public within library buildings located on municipal properties. The City of Markham owns the real property.
- The Library pays to the City “Occupancy Costs” for branches located within community centres, which constitutes a funding transfer to the Recreation Services Department. This transfer effectively pays for support provided to the Library by Recreation for building-related services including cleaning, utility usage, telecommunications (e.g. telephone, cable TV, etc.), and basic building maintenance and repairs.
- MPL has eight branch locations, including three stand-alone buildings (Markham Village / Thornhill Village / Unionville) and five community centre branches (Aaniin / Angus Glen / Cornell / Milliken Mills / Thornhill Community).

6. **POLICY LIMITATION:** *The CEO shall not fail to aggressively pursue receivables, fines, and fees, after a reasonable grace period.*

CEO RESPONSIBILITY:

The CEO shall ensure receivables, fines, and fees are recovered through the most current methods.

EVIDENCE OF COMPLIANCE:

- The Library regularly collects outstanding receivables, fines, and fees. These charges arise when customers borrow physical materials and do not return them. Customers typically settle these balances voluntarily to maintain good standing on their accounts. To support timely returns, MPL offers several notification options to help customers track due dates, including pre-due reminders.
- MPL has a partnership with Unique Management Services (UMS), a specialized materials recovery agency. UMS follows up on customer accounts with outstanding balances exceeding \$40 for lost materials when customers have not responded to multiple MPL contact attempts over a minimum period of 45 days. UMS serves thousands of library systems internationally and uses a “gentle nudge” approach designed to recover materials and fees while preserving positive customer relationships.
- The table below is a summary of 2026 (Jan – Apr) information related to MPL’s UMS transactions.

	Description	Amount
A	# of customer accounts submitted to collection agency	141
B	Fines/fees received from customers following UMS contacts	\$3,665
C	Returned items following UMS contact (value)	\$9,792
D	Subtotal – Fines/fees plus returned items (B + C)	\$13,457
E	Fees paid to UMS by MPL	\$1,329

AGENDA 6.2.1

F	Net benefit to MPL (D – E)	\$12,128
G	Net benefit ratio (Benefit per \$1 investment in service) (F/E)	\$9.13

- While the partnership with UMS has delivered positive financial results, its primary benefit is the increased recovery of overdue books and materials. This ensures that items are returned to circulation more quickly, making them available to other customers and enabling the Library to better fulfil its service mandate within the community. The arrangement also helps safeguard resources acquired through taxpayer funding, ensuring they remain accessible public assets and supporting continued community access.

7. POLICY LIMITATION: *The CEO shall not allow tax payments or other government-ordered payments or filings to be overdue or inaccurately filed.*

CEO RESPONSIBILITY:

The CEO shall ensure that the Library submits all tax payments, filings, and other government-required payments in an accurate manner and in compliance with mandated timelines.

EVIDENCE OF COMPLIANCE:

The CEO is in compliance. The Library met the deadline of June 30, 2025, in filing its annual Charity return for 2024 with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

The Library met the deadline of April 30, 2026, in filing its Q1/2026 (Jan - Apr) Public Service Bodies Rebate Claim with the CRA. This submission is required for the rebate of the federal portion of the HST. All other government filings and requests were satisfied within the required timelines throughout 2025.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Appendix “A” – Statement of Revenue and Expenditures – Four Months Ending 04/30/2026.
- Appendix “B” – Variance Report
-

AGENDA 7.0

TO: Markham Public Library Board
FROM: Catherine Biss, CEO& Secretary-Treasurer
PREPARED BY: Susan Price, Board Secretary
DATE OF MEETING: May 25, 2026
SUBJECT: **CONSENT AGENDA**

RECOMMENDATION:

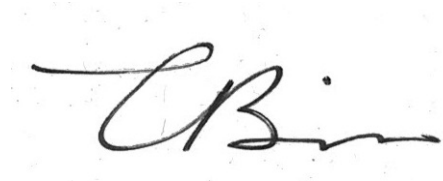
That the Consent Agenda comprising Agenda 7.0 to 7.2.1 and the same are hereby approved as written and the CEO of the Library is hereby authorized and directed to take such action that may be necessary to give effect to the recommendations as therein contained:

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA:

7.1 Declaration of Due Diligence by the CEO

7.2 Communication and Correspondence:

7.2.1 Opposition to Alberta's Bill 28 and Defense of Local Library Governance, Letter of Support



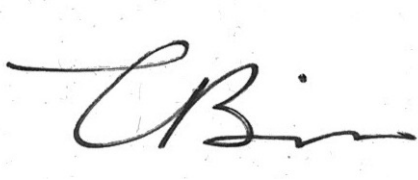
Catherine Biss
CEO & Secretary-Treasurer

MARKHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

DECLARATION OF DUE DILIGENCE BY THE CEO

I, Catherine Biss, Chief Executive Officer of the Markham Public Library Board (the "Board"), hereby declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, Markham Public Library is in compliance with the following from April 22, 2026 to May 19, 2026.

- 1) All wages owing have been paid to all employees of the Board;
- 2) All payroll remittances, consisting of income tax, CPP, EI premiums and Employers Health Tax relating to employee remuneration have been appropriately calculated and withheld, and promptly remitted;
- 3) All the Harmonized Sales Taxes owing have been appropriately calculated based on the Board's current operating procedures and promptly remitted on a quarterly basis;
- 4) All federal and provincial regulatory filings have been made;
- 5) The Board has been informed of any complaints of harassment, including sexual harassment, involving a staff person;
- 6) The Board has been informed of any contraventions of the Occupational Health and Safety Act;
- 7) Other than as previously disclosed to the Board, there are no actual, threatened or potential claims against the Board or its Directors.



Catherine Biss, CEO & Secretary-Treasurer

May 19, 2026
Date



MARKHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

May 13, 2026

To: Christina de Castell
 Executive Director, CFLA-FCAB
 Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries

Subject: Opposition to Bill 28 and Defense of Local Library Governance

On behalf of the Markham Public Library Board, I am writing to formally express our opposition to Bill 28, the *Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act*, and to affirm our solidarity with the Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries in raising serious concerns about the impact of this legislation on public libraries, library governance, and the communities that libraries serve.

At its meeting of April 27, 2026, the Markham Public Library Board passed a resolution opposing Bill 28, recognizing that the proposed legislation represents a significant departure from the longstanding principle of local governance of public libraries by locally appointed boards and trained library professionals. The Bill's proposed transfer of authority undermines the autonomy, accountability, and community responsiveness that are foundational to public library service across Canada.

We share the concerns articulated by the Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries, the Canadian Urban Libraries Council, and library leaders across the country that Bill 28 would create new barriers to access, raise serious privacy implications, and infringe upon intellectual freedom. Public libraries operate under robust collection development policies that are informed by community needs, professional expertise, and respect for individual and parental choice. Requirements for age-based restrictions, parental consent, or physical segregation of materials deemed "explicit" by government authorities not only constitute censorship but also risk compromising the confidentiality of what individuals choose to read, borrow, and explore. These measures run counter to core library values.

The Markham Public Library Board remains firmly committed to intellectual freedom, customer privacy, equitable access to information, and the principle of local governance. We believe these principles are essential to ensuring that libraries remain trusted, inclusive, and accessible spaces for all members of our communities.



905.513.7977



6031 Highway 7 E.
 Markham, ON L3A 3P7

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MARKHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Accordingly, we stand in support of the Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries and call for the withdrawal of the proposed changes to the Libraries Act contained in Bill 28. We commend the Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries for their advocacy on behalf of libraries and appreciate the leadership they have shown in articulating the risks this legislation poses to democratic governance and public access to information.

Please accept this letter as confirmation of the Markham Public Library Board's alignment with their position and our continued commitment to defending the core values of public libraries across Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Biss', written over a light grey grid background.

Catherine Biss
CEO Markham Public Library
905 513 7977 x5999 | cbiss@markhamlibrary.ca
Markham Public Library | 6031 Highway 7 | Markham ON L3P 3A7
Stay connected: markhampubliclibrary.ca | [facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

Copy: Lita Barrie, Chair, CFLA
Dina Stevens, Executive Director, FOPL
Mary Chevreau, Executive Director, CULC
Michelle Arbuckle, Executive Director, OLA
Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries (CAPL)
Steering Committee: Pilar Martinez and Sarah Meilleur
Hon. Stan Cho, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming
Hon. Paul Calandra, MPP Markham-Stouffville
Mr. Logan Kanapathi, MPP Markham-Thornhill
Mr. Billy Pang, MPP Markham-Unionville