

## From the President's Desk



**Terri Winchcombe**  
**Fall 2025**

Dear APLA Members,

### **Advocacy Update**

In September, the APLA Executive wrote a letter to the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism & Heritage MLA, **Dave Ritcey**, to bring attention to the urgent need for renewed provincial support for Nova Scotia public libraries. We specifically requested that the Government of Nova Scotia:

1. Renew and modernize the provincial funding framework to provide stable, multi-year support.
2. Ensure equitable baseline funding for both urban and rural communities.
3. Support infrastructure and technology upgrades to promote digital equity.

I am pleased to share that the Hon. Dave Ritcey responded with encouraging comments regarding the importance of public libraries and the province's commitment to continued collaboration. In his letter, he wrote:

*"Like you and the members of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA), I believe that public libraries are important community assets. They have demonstrated their strategic position and willingness to assist government in getting resources and information to Nova Scotians. Their contributions to their communities are significant.*

*Also, I am aware of the challenges that the public libraries face as they serve their communities. We will continue to work collaboratively with the sector to address the issues and find solutions for sustainable funding for Nova Scotia's public libraries."*

*- Hon. Dave Ritcey, email message to APLA, October 15, 2025*

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APLA will continue to monitor the Atlantic Provinces governments' funding of public libraries.

## **Strategic Planning Update**

In October 2025, the Executive participated in a Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, and Results (SOAR) exercise as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the association's direction and impact. During the two-hour session facilitated by **Suzanne van den Hoogen**, there were thoughtful discussions and numerous ideas for enhancing and growing APLA's work. In November, the Executive will create an action plan for the exercise. We look forward to sharing more details soon.

## **Perkopolis**

Early in November we reminded the APLA membership about the Perkopolis program and its benefits, and sent a survey asking members to opt in or out. Due to the limitations of our free SurveyMonkey account, we were able to collect 24 responses. Members who were unable to respond to the survey and would still like to opt in to the program are invited to email [membership@apla.ca](mailto:membership@apla.ca).

Warm regards,

**Terri Winchcombe**

APLA President 2025-26