

## OGM Materials

### Executive Reports



## APLA President's Annual and OGM Report June 2026

Terri Winchcombe

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### President's Annual Report 2025–2026

This year has been one of both challenge and progress for APLA. Across the Atlantic region, I have seen libraries continue to demonstrate their vital role as community hubs while navigating financial pressures and change. At the same time, APLA has made meaningful strides in strengthening advocacy, strategic direction, and member engagement.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to APLA members, the Executive, and our many volunteers who have generously shared their time and expertise this past year. Thanks to your efforts, we have made meaningful progress—conducting a membership survey, strengthening our advocacy through letters, engaging in a SOAR exercise, and developing a strategic plan to guide APLA forward.

#### Advocacy

Over the past several months, we have seen how difficult this period has been for library workers in Nova Scotia. University, college, public, and school libraries have experienced funding reductions in the 2026 provincial budget, in many cases resulting in staff cuts, reduced service hours, and library closures.

In response, our members have:

- Written letters to government representatives
- Participated in demonstrations
- Supported colleagues and communities affected by funding reductions

We will continue to actively monitor and advocate for public library funding across the Atlantic Provinces.

#### Strategic Planning

As part of strengthening APLA's long-term direction, the Executive and I participated in a SOAR

(Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, Results) exercise in October 2025, facilitated by Suzanne van den Hoogen.

In November 2025, we:

- Developed an action plan based on the exercise
- Identified member engagement as a key priority

Our first action item was to conduct a membership survey. The results are already helping to inform our strategic priorities. Results are highlighted in the following section.

## Membership Engagement

### Membership Survey Highlights

Thank you to all members who contributed valuable feedback. Key themes include:

#### Mandate

Members expressed interest in strengthening APLA's mandate to emphasize:

- Advocacy, including potential lobbying
- Education and professional development
- Commitment to Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA)

#### Mission & Strategic Goals

Feedback indicated the need to:

- Clarify and modernize existing statements
- Improve communication across the association
- Establish measurable outcomes
- Better align with national library initiatives

#### Accessibility & Inclusion

Opportunities identified include:

- Greater inclusion of special libraries
- Continued hybrid and virtual programming
- Health-conscious approaches to in-person events

#### Professional Development

Members expressed strong interest in:

- Webinars and virtual learning
- Mentorship and career support (Mentorship program coming Fall 2026)
- Recruitment initiatives for the profession
- Networking and social opportunities

#### Communication

Members want:

- Clearer onboarding and communication for new members
- Stronger institutional engagement
- Increased participation in newsletters and events

## Member Benefits – Perkopolis

We continued to promote the Perkopolis benefits program:

- Instructions were shared with members
- A survey was conducted to confirm participation (24 responses received)
- Ongoing promotion has helped raise awareness

Members who have not yet signed up are encouraged to contact: [membership@apla.ca](mailto:membership@apla.ca)

## Partnerships and Representation

- I ensured that APLA remained actively involved and connected across the sector by participating in :
  - CFLA/FCAB annual meeting (Feb 25, 2026 – via Zoom)
  - IWB Conference (March 2, 2026 – APLA hosted a table and recruited new members)
  - The Partnership meeting (March 26, 2026 – via Zoom)

I also represented APLA at the OLA Super Conference 2026, where I:

- Strengthened vendor relationships
- Recruited exhibitor and sponsors for APLA 2026
- Observed strong enthusiasm for returning to an in-person APLA conference

## Governance and Operations

I am pleased to report that Cynthia Holt has agreed to serve as:

- Financial Examiner for fiscal year 2026
- Parliamentarian for the 2026 Conference

## Awards and Recognition

We launched an updated Funding and Awards page on the APLA website.

I encourage members to:

- Review available awards
- Submit applications and nominations

Recognizing excellence in our community remains an important priority for APLA.

## Looking Ahead

- As I look ahead, in my role as Past President, I remain committed to ensuring that APLA:
- Strengthens its advocacy efforts across the region
- Advances strategic priorities informed by your feedback
- Expands professional development and engagement opportunities
- Supports a strong, inclusive, and resilient library community

Thank you again for your continued support, engagement, and dedication to APLA. Please feel free to reach out at any time with ideas, feedback, or interest in getting involved.

Respectfully submitted,

**Terri G Winchcombe**

APLA President 2025/26

June 2, 2026



## **APLA Vice President Report**

**June 2026**

**Lisa Marshall**

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### **A Year of Learning**

My term as Vice President has been one of personal growth, connection, revitalization, and pride. I have had the absolute pleasure of working alongside an amazing team of volunteers whose passion for libraries and library workers is unparalleled.

This is my first time volunteering with APLA in any capacity, and while the learning curve was steep, the support from the Past President, President, and all members of the Executive was instrumental to my success. I would like to extend a special thank you to Marc Harper, VP New Brunswick, whose invaluable guidance was greatly appreciated throughout my term.

#### **Committee on Aims and Objectives and Interest Groups**

The Committee on Aims and Objectives met via email. Calls for convenors for Intellectual Freedom and Government Information were circulated via the listserv. We were unsuccessful in reviving these groups, and I hope to support the incoming Vice President/President Elect as we identify the direction that members would like to see the interest groups take.

True to form, the Information Literacy Interest Group has remained active under Agnieszka Hayes's thoughtful and reflective leadership. This group is steadfast in its resolve to keep members informed of trends and scholarship in the area, and I am thankful for their continued dedication.

#### **First Timer's Grant**

We had two applications for this year's First Timer's Grant, and we were able to cover expenses for both to attend, and ultimately present at, this year's conference.

#### **Carin Alma E. Somers Scholarship Trust Fund Committee**

Applications for the Carin Alma E. Somers Scholarship were invited on December 3, 2025, through the listserv and via email to all Canadian schools offering library and information science programs. Reminder emails were circulated on January 22 and March 2, 2026.

We received five (5) applications, all of which met the scholarship's criteria. The committee of provincial VPs selected Anna Benoit of Nova Scotia as the winner. Anna will begin full-time studies in the MLIS program at Western this Fall.

### **Resolutions Committee**

A resolutions reminder and call for the Resolutions Committee was circulated via the listserv on April 21, 2026. It included details on submission guidelines and deadlines.

The Resolutions Committee will meet in advance of the OGM on June 16, from 9:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

### **Looking Forward: Focus on Continued Advocacy and Interprovincial Networking**

I am so glad I took the leap last June and accepted Terri's nomination for this role. Her commitment to advocating for all libraries and library staff members is second to none, and has inspired my own focus. I am indebted to Terri's leadership over the past year, as well as the support provided by the entire Executive, which enabled tasks to be completed with ease. I am committed to offering the same support to incoming volunteers.

Being physically located on the island of Newfoundland can be isolating at times, but the connections I have made across provinces and systems has been both fulfilling and energizing. I look forward to continuing my advocacy work on behalf of the Association and its members, and to strengthening connections among library workers throughout Atlantic Canada.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Marshall

Vice President/President Elect

June 5, 2026



## **APLA Past-President Report**

**June 2026**  
**Emily Blackmore**

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### **Executive Duties**

My time with the APLA Executive, APLA committees, groups and The Partnership will be complete as of the OGM this June. It has been a privilege and an honour to work with this Executive. Our work on Advocacy this year has been particularly strong. I know that APLA is in good hands with the current Executive of dedicated, committed professionals. I will be updating the Procedures Manual before my term is up.

### **Merit Award**

I placed calls for Merit Award nominees via email and social media and we have selected a very deserving candidate who was nominated by their peers. The award will be presented during the OGM at this year's conference by the nominating colleagues of the winner.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Blackmore

June 4, 2026



## **APLA Vice President New Brunswick Report**

**June 2026**

**Marc Harper**

As a former APLA President, I've given myself the creative freedom to approach the role of VP-NB with a little bit of an informal tone, all while respecting the guidelines and fulfilling my official duties. I have maintained correspondence with my contacts in the province and encouraged them to reach out to me if, at any point in time, they believe APLA can help any ideas or initiatives. I have also reminded them when APLA Bulletins are upcoming. I also stressed the need for membership engagement and encouraged everyone to put in a good word for APLA sponsored groups, meetings, town halls, conferences, etc.

My role as VP-NB over the last year has involved working with the Advocacy Chair (which is currently vacant), reviewing APLA policies, and reviewing applications for those who have applied for our awards. My volunteer work with the Dalhousie Library and Information Alumni Association (DLIAA, formerly known as the School of Information Management Associated Alumni) has also intersected with APLA. The role of VP-NB will be open to a new person in 2026 with the hopes that a new member of New Brunswick's library community can take over. If no such person is available, I will remain for one more year and conclude in 2027.

Respectfully submitted June 4th 2026,

Marc Harper

Vice President-New-Brunswick



## APLA VP PEI Spring Report 2026

Juanita Rossiter

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### Administrative work:

- Cleaned out the email drive (1000+ emails)
- Organized the PEI-VP google folder.
- Created a contact list to help future VPs when it comes to contacting individuals in the PEI Library community for content for the APLA bulletin.

### APLA Bulletin:

I prepared content for the fall 2025, winter 2026, and spring 2026 bulletins and highlighted programs and work being undertaken at the Holland College Library Service, PEI Public Library Service, Kensington Heritage Library, Summerside Rotary Library, Montague Rotary Library, UPEI's Robertson Library, and the Benevolent Irish Society.

### Membership Survey:

In October of 2025, the APLA executive underwent a SOAR (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations and Results) analysis that was facilitated by Suzanne van den Hoogen, the University Librarian at Saint Mary's University. Building on this momentum, I worked with Lisa Marshall (President-Elect) to develop a membership survey based on the outcomes of this SOAR analysis. The membership survey was distributed on February 9, 2026.

### Advocacy:

Initiated and developed advocacy letters for:

- 6 letters to politicians regarding the decommissioning of the Canadian Register of Historic Places website.
- 31 letters to Atlantic Canada politicians regarding DHCP funding cuts
- Contributed to the letter concerning the NSCC librarian layoffs.

### APLA Policies

Worked with President Terri Winchcombe to create a policy for honorariums, per diems, and mileage reimbursements

## **APLA Website**

I went through the entire website and made a list of 22 items to be addressed (documents to be added, dead links, pages to be deleted, etc...)

## **Carin Alma E. Somers Scholarship Trust Fund Committee:**

Met with the committee to review the 2026 applications for the Carin Alma E. Somers Scholarship Trust Fund and made a recommendation on the 2026 applicant.

## **Grow a Library Program:**

Looked into private book lending programs on PEI and made a recommendation.

Respectfully submitted on May 25, 2026.

**Juanita Rossiter**



## APLA Membership Report June 2026

Terri Winchcome (Acting VP Membership)

### Active Membership Statistics as of May 31, 2026

As of May 31, 2026, APLA has 290 active memberships and 268 inactive memberships. Between June 1, 2025, and May 31, 2026, 108 new, or returning, members joined APLA.

#### Active Memberships by Type

Member Types	May-25	May-26
Complimentary	15	16
Institutional	12	8
Joint APLA/NSLA	27	28
Librarian	42	62
Lifetime	59	59
Retired	2	4
Student	19	84
Support staff	11	26
Unwaged		3
<b>Total</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>290</b>

#### Active Members by Province

Province	May-25	May-26
New Brunswick	53	68
Newfoundland and Labrador	24	22
Nova Scotia	113	154
Prince Edward Island	12	14
Other Provinces/Countries	28	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>290</b>

## Institutional Memberships

There are 8 active and 25 expired Institutional Memberships.

## Join Memberships

APLA/NSLA	May-25	May-26
Support Staff	8	7
Librarians	19	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

## Membership Drives

Forty Dalhousie School of Information Management (SIM) and Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) Library Technician students were recruited at two events attended by Katie McCaskill (Secretary) and Terri Winchcombe (President). APLA hosted tables at the Dalhousie University School of Information Management (SIM) Associations' Display Event in September 2025 and at the Dalhousie SIM Information Without Borders (IWB) Conference in March 2026.

Please note that enrollment in the Dalhousie MI program doubled in the fall of 2025.

## Other

In April 2026, Vice-President, Membership, Katie Puxley resigned due to illness. I stepped in to cover the position until a replacement can be recruited.

Data derived from: Joinit Custom Membership Report, Filter by Joined Date (2025-06-01 to 2026-05-31).

For the next VP Membership:

- Verify the email addresses of expired memberships, as some members may have new contact information, different places of employment, or may be deceased.
- Send reminder emails to all expired members.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri G Winchcombe  
President  
VP Membership (Acting)  
June 3, 2026



## APLA Treasurer Report June 2026

Carolyn Gillis

The Atlantic Provinces Library Association remains in good financial standing. As of June 4, 2026, we have \$178,890.86 in our Operating Account. This includes money for the APLA 2026 Conference as well as the regular APLA money. Once the APLA 2026 Conference is over and the bills are paid, we will have a much better understanding of how much cash we will have to work with going forward. We have \$10,018.04 in our Investment Account. We have one GIC worth \$135,876.21 as of March 31st. It will mature on June 19, 2026. At that point it will be worth \$136,548.25. Our Visa balance is \$1608.38. There is another GIC worth \$5,000.00 that is being held as surety for the Visa. The balance on that GIC as of March 31<sup>st</sup> was \$5,034.82. It matures on January 10, 2028. The maturity value will be \$5,315.24.

### Banking

Our accounts are all at Scotiabank now. We have a cheque for the Memorial Fund for \$55,617.94. The cheque needs to be signed by Cate Carlyle, as she was the signatory on the Memorial Fund account at TD Bank. We will get Cate to sign the cheque at the 2026 APLA conference. Then we will invest the money in a separate account according to the Memorial Fund rules.

We found the key to the Safety Deposit box and on April 17<sup>th</sup>, Terri and I went to TD and emptied it. The account linked to the safety deposit box was the Memorial Fund Account. We closed the account and received the cheque mentioned above.

We are working with Scotiabank to get all of our accounts linked and showing when we login to the Online Banking app.

We have added the money from the 2025 APLA conference to our business account.

### Current/Future Tasks

- Acting as treasurer for the APLA 2026 Conference.
- Refunding Acadia for an extra Institutional Registration (They paid twice.)
- Refunding an APLA conference registration for someone who is unable to attend. Also at Acadia.

All our accounts are up to date, and there are a few invoices which will be due after the conference, for the conference.

I have submitted all of our financial information to Cynthia Holt who has completed our Financial Audit for the 2025/2026 year. She has recommended a few changes to be made to our Award allocations, and I plan to follow her directions. That will bring us into compliance with APLA Standing Orders 3.09 and 3.15 in regards to both the First Timer's Award, and the Memorial Fund Award.

### **Proposed Budget for 2026-2027**

The proposed budget for the 26/27 Financial Year is in. I tried to underestimate our revenues and overestimate our expenditures. This will result in an estimated loss of \$12,350.95. I don't think that this will be the reality, but I would rather budget like we are losing money instead of assuming that we will make money.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Gillis

June 5, 2026



## **APLA Bulletin Management Committee Report May 2026**

**Kate McClintock, Bulletin Text Editor**

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The APLA Bulletin has had another successful year of collecting and sharing updates from libraries, archives, and the APLA Executive. It is a pleasure to facilitate communication and connection between our Atlantic provinces through this newsletter.

I am grateful to Nailisa Tanner for her work as Technical Editor, who is currently managing the migration of our Bulletin digital archive from the OJS Software at Acadia University, to a new home at the University of New Brunswick.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate McClintock

May 25, 2026



## APLA Communications Report June 2026

Hannah Smith

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### Communication Coordinator Report

I stepped into the role of APLA Communications Coordinator in October 2025 - this report will cover activity from October 2025 to June 2026.

#### Social Media

Any APLA interest group or committee with information to share is encouraged to reach out to the communications coordinator to get events and other information published on the socials. Members of the executive have access to Canva to create visuals, and the communications coordinator can also assist in creating visuals as needed.

**Statistics as of June 7, 2026** in comparison with October 2025:

- Bluesky – 133 followers (↑ 17)
- Instagram – 251 followers (↑ 44)
- Facebook page – 420 followers (↑ 66)
- See Appendix for detailed metrics

Engagement metrics for Meta platforms (Facebook and Instagram) have had a significant increase in followers over the last eight months. Posts of our advocacy letters see the most engagement (likes, comments, shares) and we have seen a large boost in followers on these platforms because of these posts.

While we continue to gain followers on Bluesky, there is little to no engagement with posts, and unfortunately there is no way to gather analytics for Bluesky.

Please see Appendix for further analytics on Facebook and Instagram from Meta Business

Suite. **Publications**

Since October 2025, posts and reminders were published on all social media outlets

regarding various APLA related activities, such as:

- Info Learning Space for December 10
- Urgent Action Needed for Bill C-15
- Announcement of 2026 APLA Conference
- Sponsorship & Call for Proposals for 2026 APLA Conference
- Open Letter Regarding Provincial Budget Cuts
- APLA Conference Registration
- APLA Conference Call for Proposals
- APLA Early Bird Rates Extended
- Open Letter Regarding the Elimination of Campus Librarian Positions at NSCC
- APLA Pre-Conference Registration Open

The post that received the top content for views and engagement across all outlets was our open letter regarding the elimination of campus librarian positions at NSCC. While this content is not favourable in matter, we saw lots of shares and digital-positive engagement with this post.

Reminder: APLA maintains a presence on the following platforms:

- Facebook - [facebook.com/APLAContact](https://facebook.com/APLAContact)
- Instagram - [@aplagram](https://instagram.com/aplagram)
- Bluesky - [@aplacontact.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/aplacontact.bsky.social)

## Listserv

No significant Listserv updates to report - job listings, studies, events and other inquiries shared as requested.

## Other Business

- I represented APLA at the NSCC awards ceremony on June 4, 2026, where we honoured Erin MacKinnon, an outgoing graduate of the Library Information Technology program with the 2026 APLA Prize.
- I received an email that the platform Later, a Meta post scheduler, that APLA is subscribed to has failed to process payment. This platform has not been used to schedule any posts as Meta

Business Suite is the easiest way to schedule these posts. My recommendation is to cancel the Later subscription and to continue with Meta Business Suite as the schedule platform.

- The APLA Facebook account must be attached to someone's personal Facebook account, and

I have been unable to figure out who this is. It would be great to figure out whose personal account the page is attached to, so the admin can reply to comments, share posts, etc.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Smith, Communications Coordinator

June 7, 2026



## **APLA 2025 Conference Final Report, August 2025**

**Evelyn Trainer, Terri Winchcombe, Conference Co-Chairs, 2025 Conference Committee**

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### **Note from the Co-Chairs**

Congratulations to the 2025 Conference Planning Team who made the fifth virtual APLA conference a success. Because we had a small number of team members the report comes from the team members.

In this report we have recommended changes to the conference manual to aid future virtual conference planning committee teams.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Trainer, Co-Chair, APLA 2025 Conference Committee  
Terri Winchcombe, Co-Chair, APLA 2025 Conference Committee  
Jason Lee  
Lisa Marshall  
Katie McCaskill  
Hailey Wills

### **Theme**

Breaking Barriers

### **Hosting Platform and Website**

Pheedloop - registrations, program submission, vendor applications

Zoom - sessions and recordings

Conference website

## Exhibits and Sponsors

<b>SPONSORSHIPS</b>	
CAAL	\$200
Carr McLean	\$200
Clarivate	\$200
Grey House	\$200
McIntyre Media	\$200
NBPLS	\$1,000
NFB	\$200
OurDigitalWorld Organization	\$200
PEI Public Library	\$200
TD/LAC	\$575
Trojman Corporation	\$200

3375.00

## Program

Sessions

Keynote speakers

## Promotion, PR, Publicity

APLA Bulletin

Instagram

Facebook

APLA List

NSLA List

The Partnership

[Librarianship.ca](http://Librarianship.ca) website

## Registration

### Jason Lee

Our original plan was to conduct an in-person conference since the onset of Covid. However, due to a financial crisis faced by Canadian institutions, many prospective attendees preferred a virtual conference, leading us to decide on a virtual format.

Reflecting on the APLA 2024 Conference, we used Pheedloop as our registration and Conference hosting system (<https://www.pheedloop.com>) and Stripe as our online payment system <https://stripe.com/en-ca>. Both systems performed exactly as advertised, and we would recommend their use again.

For this theme, breaking barriers, there is no APLA member or non-APLA member rate. Our final registration numbers looked like this:

Professional Librarian - 65

Library Support Staff - 36

Student and Retirees - 10

Submitted by Jason Lee

August 2025

## Events

### Lisa Marshall & Katie McCaskill

In the initial planning stages, there were discussions of ghost walks, walking tours, as well sorting the arrangements for the dinner and dance. However, once we moved to an online format, we focused on virtual events that would provide social networking and ice breaking opportunities.

### Virtual Trivia

### Virtual Escape Room

After some initial research, Lisa presented the idea of purchasing access to an online escape room that conference attendees could attend as part of an evening event. Three options were considered:

1. [Wolf Escape Games](#)
2. [MeetMax Games](#)
3. [The Escape Game](#)

Wolf Escape Games provided the service that fit our requirements the best. It did not require a live host, it could be played at any time, we were able to run the experience via Zoom, and we could choose amongst three potential game titles/themes. We selected a Sherlock Holmes themed game titled *Phantom's Hour*.

12 participants registered to play, and 11 attended. We started the experience on Wednesday, June 11th at 7pm AST. Wolf Support Games provided discount codes for each member of the winning team, which we were able to track via a real time leader board.

Despite greatly underestimating the time that would be required to play the game through, all participants reported that they enjoyed the experience and would like to take part in something similar in the future. It was a great way to make connections and break the ice in a virtual format.

## **Budget**

A tentative budget was created in September 2024 based on the previous year's budget information. The budget was continuously revised as income and expenses changed. The East Coast Credit Union in Elmsdale, NS was the bank the conference used so that we could accept and send electronic payments. Stripe was used to accept credit card payments from PheedLoop and the Conference Website. Electronic funds transfer was also an option for registrants so that they could avoid PheedLoop and Stripe fees.

## **Recommendations:**

- Have the APLA Treasurer be the Conference Treasurer so that there is no need for new bank accounts to be created and signing authority assigned. This should save time and effort for the Conference committee.
- Include the whole committee in the budget process.
- Set up Stripe and PheedLoop early and have multiple team members trained in the software.
- There is not likely a need to purchase virtual exhibitor booths, they were not used this year. Instead we offered time in the schedule for vendors to give sessions.

## **Conference Grant**

Additional funds from APLA were required to renew PheedLoop subscription early in the planning process.

## Donations and Prizes

We donated \$500 to literacy associations in each of the 4 Atlantic Provinces. Prizes were awarded to winners of Trivia, Virtual Escape game, vendor session attendee draw, and early registrations.

## Software

We renewed the PheedLoop subscription, purchased additional user credits and exhibit booths, and bought a temporary Zoom account for online conference sessions.

## Conference Financial Summary

Description	Revenue	Expenses
Conference Grant	\$5,192	\$5,192
Donations and Prizes		\$2,450
Entertainment		\$742
Keynotes		\$500
Registrations	\$12,753	
Software		\$4,727
Sponsorship	\$3,375	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21,320</b>	<b>\$13,611</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$7,709</b>	



## APLA Information Program Department of Information Science Report

Sandra Toze

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### Updates from the Department of Information Science, and the Director of the Master of Information Programs

#### Annual Update 2025/2026

It has been an exciting year for the Information Programs here at Dalhousie. Our Information programs include our ALA accredited Master of Information (MI) degree, our mid-career Master of Information Management (MIM) degree, the INFO courses we have launched at the undergraduate level, as well as our newly launched PhD in Information. We are working to ensure Information is central to all Dalhousie students!

#### MI Program Updates

Despite the unusual start to the term, we welcomed 58 new students into our Master of Information Program. Thanks to the returning MI students and the Information Science Student Society (ISSA) team for welcoming and orienting our new students during the labour disruption. Our next comprehensive review for Accreditation will be in the Fall of 2027, so our plans are well underway. Our Information Programs committee is leading the ongoing planning for our degree, and we have added an Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility, Indigenization and Decolonization Committee to help evaluate how EDIAID principles are integrated into the MI program. Our EDIAID committee has also created a draft document articulating our values. You will hear from us over the spring and summer as we solicit feedback. This is all part of our continual work to ensure our program meets the changes in the Information field, and that we have robust ways of measuring how our program learning outcomes are being met.

#### Announcing our new PhD in Information Program

A program that has been many years in the dreaming and planning, is now a reality. As the only PhD in Information in the Atlantic region, we are looking for students who want to explore how access to the right data, information, and knowledge shapes the way we live, work, and make decisions; and can help create a more just society. Our new program connects research on information, technology, society, and ethics, giving you the tools to address pressing challenges, including the ongoing digital divide, access to

information, the growing issues around misinformation, and the ethical use of generative Artificial Intelligence, just to name a few key topics. This fall we welcomed two incoming students, and two transferring students into our program. Curious about how this might fit with your career goals – take a look. Along with the PhD program, our faculty is now part of the iSchool caucus. More ways for us to connect to, and help advance Information based research in the world.

### **Information courses offered to Undergraduate Students**

Digital, data and information skills are core to all sectors. To respond to the growing need for digital literacy, we have created a suite of courses including: Digital Society; Digital Citizenship; Through the Looking Glass: Recognizing and Debunking of Conspiracy Theories; The Revolution Will Not Be Tiktoked: Information for Social Change; and Critical Approaches to Knowledge and Data Justice. This past year more than 800 undergraduate students enrolled in our classes from all faculties. This has resulted in a much greater awareness of how information, misinformation and privacy intersect with our lives and work.

We would love to hear your ideas and thoughts about our programs. Feel free to reach out to me at any time. We are always looking for ways to both integrate our MI program with our professional communities and to ensure we are doing all to support the libraries. Given the current climate please let us know how we can work together to advocate for the profession.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Toze

Director, Information Programs, Associate Professor, DIS

stoze@dal.ca

Sandra Toze (she/her)

O5-31-2026



## APLA Finance Committee Report June 2026

Carolyn Gillis (Treasurer)

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### Update

The finance committee is made up of the President, the President-Elect and the Treasurer. The finance committee last met on April 21, 2026.

We discussed raising the Per Diem rate to match those used by ISI/Novanet and CAAL-CBPA to more accurately reflect the costs of travelling. We discussed getting a new safety deposit box at our Scotiabank branch in Elmsdale. We discussed doubling the APLA prizes from \$500.00 to \$1000.00 each going forward from next year. A new policy for Travel and Expense Reimbursement has been shared with the membership in preparation for a vote at the OGM.

Executive travel amounts were discussed and it was agreed that we might want to raise those as well. We discussed the idea that Conference Registration, meals and accommodation costs over and above professional development allocations could be covered by APLA for the Executive members and the Organizing Committee members? This idea is being discussed by the Executive.

It was decided to put the proposed amounts into the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Gillis

June 4, 2026



## APLA 2025-26 Financial Examiner's Report

June 2, 2026

Cynthia Holt

### Summary

I have examined the financial records of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association for the period between April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026, for integrity and accuracy in accordance with best practices in financial risk management for not-for-profits such as APLA, including such tests and procedures considered necessary in the circumstances.

My examination process included a review of the bank statements, visa statements, Stripe account transactions, bank slips, and receipts. In preparation for my review of the Association's records, I met with the APLA Treasurer to gain access to necessary documents, and to clarify points of uncertainty.

Although APLA subscribes to the QuickBooks accounting system, due to inconsistencies in its use in FY24-25, the system was not used consistently over the examination period. Carolyn Gillis, the current APLA Treasurer, is working diligently to ensure that FY24-25 and FY25-26 transactions are comprehensive, accurate, and current in the QuickBooks system.

I was able to verify the financial position of the Association and its investments as of March 31, 2026, the results of its operations, and the changes in its financial position for the year ending on March 31, 2026. Based on my review, I find that the APLA financial operations are in good standing, with one minor compliancy issue to address (see [Recommendation](#) below). For the year ended March 31, 2026, reporting of financial operations is accurate, and there is no evidence of fraud.

### Recommendation

Based on my examination of APLA's financial records for the year ended March, 31, 2026, and to bring APLA back into compliance with Standing Order 3.15 for the Memorial Awards Trust Fund, it is strongly recommended that when the current GIC noted in the [Investments](#) section of this report matures on June 19, 2026, **\$5,997.74** of the **\$100,345.77** earmarked for the Carin Alma E. Somers

Scholarship Fund be redistributed to the APLA Memorial Awards Trust Fund to raise the equity value of the Memorial Awards Trust Fund to **\$61,617.68**.

## Bank Accounts

### East Coast Credit Union Limited

APLA had a Business Chequing account with the East Coast Credit Union Limited solely for transactions associated with the 2025 APLA Conference. The balance from this account, **\$11,999.47**, was transferred to the Scotiabank Chequing account on October 22, 2025, and the account was closed.

### TD

APLA changed banks during the examination period, with the following TD accounts being closed on the dates indicated:

ξ Chequing - December 5, 2025

ξ Business Investor - January 14, 2026

ξ Memorial Fund - April 17, 2026

### Scotiabank

Two accounts were opened with Scotiabank on August 22, 2025.

ξ Business Investor Account

ξ Chequing Account

\$243,586.35 (\$243,896.35 less a \$9.95 draft commercial fee) was transferred from the TD Chequing account to the Scotiabank Chequing account on December 5, 2025. Of these funds, \$137,748.12 was transferred on December 16, 2025, to the Scotiabank Business Investor account. These funds had previously been held in the TD Business Investor account.

The Business Investor Account was opened August 22, 2026, but was not active until December 16, 2025, when the funds from the Scotiabank Chequing account were transferred into this account. This was noted in the Treasurer's April 28, 2026, Report to the Executive Committee as being the amount invested in a GIC, but it is more accurately the amount transferred from the Chequing account to the Business Investor account.

As of March 31, 2026, the Scotiabank Business Investor account balance was **\$2,577.37**, and the Scotiabank Chequing account balance was **\$118,612.50**, for a total bank assets aggregate of **\$121,189.87**. There is also an outstanding cheque for **\$55,617.94** to be deposited in a new Scotiabank account exclusively for the Memorial Awards Trust Fund (see explanation in [Investments](#) section below).

## Investments

At the discretion of the Executive, **Standing Order 3.09** directs that up to \$1,000 of any annual operating surplus may be transferred to the APLA Memorial Awards Trust Fund, and **Standing Order 3.15** that 50% of any annual conference surplus be divided between the Memorial Awards Trust Fund and the First Timers Conference Grant. **50% of the \$11,999.47** transferred from the East Coast Credit Union Limited account (the 2025 APLA Conference account) is **\$5,999.74** for one fund and **\$5,999.73** for the other.

**Carin Alma E. Somers Scholarship Fund and the APLA First Timer's Conference Grant** In accordance with Standing Order 3.10, my examination included a review of the status of funds for both the Carin Alma E. Somers Scholarship Fund and the APLA First Timer's Conference Grant. On December 19, 2025, **\$135,000** was invested in a Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC). This amount is the combined total for the **Carin Alma E. Somers Scholarship Fund** and the **APLA First Timer's Conference Grant**, with **\$99,208** of this amount being earmarked for the Carin Alma E. Somers Scholarship Fund, and **\$35,792** being earmarked for the APLA First Timer's Conference Grant to comply with Standing Order 3.15.

The GIC will mature on **June 19, 2026**, at a total value of **\$136,548.25**. Per my conversations with the APLA Treasurer, **\$100,345.77** of this amount will be the value of the Carin Alma E. Somers Scholarship Fund, and **\$36,202.48** will be the value of the APLA First Timer's Conference Grant. The value of this GIC on March 31, 2026, was **\$135,876.21**. Once this GIC matures, the amounts for each fund will be invested in separate GICs for a year.

The equity value of the Carin Alma E. Somers Scholarship Fund on June 24, 2024, as noted in the 2024-25 Financial Examiner's Report, was **\$83,489.30**. This is the amount at maturity of these funds when the GIC in which they had been invested matured on that date. The difference between the \$99,208 noted above as being invested in a GIC for the Carin Alma E. Somers Scholarship Fund, and the equity amount for this Fund on the maturity of the previous GIC on June 24, 2024, represents a **value increase of \$15,718.70** (18.8% increase) at the time of investment on December 19, 2025, and an increase of **\$16,856.47** (20.2% increase) at maturity on June 19, 2026.

Unfortunately, the First Timer's Conference Grant funds became intermingled in the TD bank accounts after the previous GIC matured. As such, I did not observe any explicit transfer of funds into the First Timer's Conference Grant over the course of the examination period. That said, as reported though in the FY24-25 financial examiner's report, the balance at maturity of the First Timer's Conference Grant GIC on June 25, 2024, was **\$29,791.69**. Combined with the 2025 APLA Conference account surplus of **\$5,999.73**, the expected value of the First Timer's Conference Grant fund after the 2025 Conference surplus funds transfer was **\$35,791.42**. The value of the amount invested on December 19, 2025, for the First Timer's Conference Grant was **\$35,792** making **APLA was compliant with Standing Order 3.15 for the First Timer's Conference Award Fund** after the surplus 2025 Conference funds were transferred to the APLA accounts (October) and before the funds were invested in the GIC (December).

### APLA Memorial Awards Trust Fund

On April 17, 2026, when the TD Memorial Fund account was closed, a cheque was drafted in the value of **\$55,617.94**. This cheque will be invested in a separate account per the Memorial Fund rules. This fund grew by **\$836.90** over the examination period due to **accrued interest** in the TD account, instead of the expected **\$5,999.74** from the 2025 APLA Conference surplus on top of the interest income.

**To bring APLA into compliance with Standing Order 3.15 for the Memorial Awards Trust Fund**, it is strongly recommended that when the current GIC investment matures on June 19, 2026, **\$5,999.74** of the **\$100,345.77** earmarked for the Carin Alma E. Somers Scholarship Fund be redistributed to the APLA

June 2, 2026 Financial Examiner's Report for Year Ended March 31, 2026 3 Memorial Awards Trust Fund to raise the equity value of the Memorial Awards Trust Fund to **\$61,617.68**.

The redistribution above will leave the **Carin Alma E. Somers Scholarship Fund with a balance of \$94,346.03**, which is a **\$10,856.73** (13%) increase over the equity amount for this Fund recorded on June 24, 2024.

### Other

On January 9, 2026, **\$5,000** was transferred to a GIC as **surety** for the APLA visa card. The value of this GIC on March 31, 2026, was **\$5,034.82**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Holt



## **NSCC Library and Information Technology (LIT) Program Academic Year 2025-26**

**Kristina Parlee: Faculty, NSCC LIT Program**

Hello from the NSCC Library and Information Technology (LIT) Program! We are pleased to share this report on program activities for the 2025-6 Academic year. As libraries work to respond to Generative AI and the latest round of monumental changes to the way our profession functions, this report outlines the LIT Program's work to prepare new information professionals for the challenges of our changing information environment.

### **Significant Program Updates**

It has been several years since we have submitted an OGM report and will begin with some changes.

In 2021, NSCC made significant changes to the delivery of our online program. The fully online eCampus program is now part-time with a new intake of students every two years. The Ivany Campus program continues as full-time, with a new intake of students every year.

Current full-time faculty in the new structure are:

- Meredith Cleversey MLIS Western – eCampus
- Kristina Parlee MA Info and Library Management Northumbria – Ivany Campus
- Bruce Ross MLIS Dalhousie – Ivany Campus

Additional LIT faculty support at Ivany campus was provided by Jamie Serran, Katherine McQueen, and Courtney Bayne, covering Archives and Records Management courses.

As part of our commitment to program quality and in consultation with industry, graduates and students, NSCC completed a comprehensive review of the LIT program in 2025. As a result, a fully refreshed LIT program will be launched in September of 2026. A listing of the new courses being delivered beginning September 2026 can be found on the [NSCC LIT Program Page](#).

### **Upcoming Changes to Campus Libraries at NSCC**

Other changes impacting the LIT program come from a recent restructuring at NSCC due to mandated

reductions to Nova Scotia Public Service positions. As was reported in the media, Campus Librarian positions have been cut. Library services will be provided by remaining campus Library Technicians and Central library staff.

## Enrolment and Graduates

We continue to see a wide range of students coming to the LIT Program and our enrolment remains strong. 2025-26 academic year numbers:

- 48 students in the Ivany program (including 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year students)
- 28 in the eCampus program (part-time)
- 23 total graduates this spring: 17 from Ivany and 6 from eCampus.

Both Ivany and eCampus have a class intake for Fall 2026 and both programs are currently full with additional potential students waitlisted.

## Applied Learning in the LIT Program

We continue to focus on applied learning in our classrooms to give our students the hands-on skills and experience to prepare them for work. At Ivany Campus Library these activities included:

- LIT student led tech support in September for new campus students
- Collection displays in the campus library highlighting digital and physical collections 📖  
In-person and forms-based Readers' Advisory service for staff and students in the lead up to December break
- Planning, promoting and hosting 5 library programs in the month of November with the support and guidance of our Campus Librarian Kydra Mayhew and Campus Library Technician (and NSCC program graduate) Sharyn Larter.
- Class projects where 2<sup>nd</sup> year Information Services students provided bibliographic instruction and citation assistance support to 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Business Administration Students in an International Business Course and 1<sup>st</sup> Year LIT students in an English Literature course.

Additionally, students in both streams of the program now take a required course on Community Leadership that requires them to engage in volunteer work or civic engagement. Over the four years that the course has been running, students have provided over 2000 hours of volunteer service to community organizations (with a focus on Libraries, Archives and Museums).

## Community Connections

The support of our community continues to play an important part in the development of the next generation of library and information workers. Support from libraries, archives and records

management departments across the province continues to allow our students to visit sites, hear from information workers in guest lectures and complete 5-week work placements. We thank each individual and organization for their continued support.

In Fall 2025, Ivany Faculty Bruce Ross and Kristina Parlee spoke at the 2025 LAMNS in a session on “From Campus to Careers in LAMs”. In this talk, they highlighted the mutual support between the program and the Library and Information Community. We are always looking for new partnerships, and encourage community members to reach out.

## 2026 Student Award Winners

The following awards were presented in June 2026:

### Industry Awards

- APLA Award: Erin MacKinnon
- NSLA Award: Noah Wolfe
- ARMA Nova Scotia Chapter Award: Maggie Daley

### NSCC Ivany School of Business Awards

- Highest Recognition Award: Ashley Douglas
- First Year Student Award: Ren Dewolf

## Remembering Our Colleague Harvey Ratchford

We would like to end with a note of remembrance for our retired colleague Harvey Ratchford.

We were saddened to learn that Harvey passed away in the fall of 2025. Harvey shared his knowledge and wit with students in the program for 30 years. We know that for many in the APLA community, particularly those who attended the LIT program up until his retirement in 2020, Harvey was an important and well-loved figure. An obituary was published online in January: [Mr. Harvey Ratchford Obituary | 1961 | The Chronicle Herald](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Parlee, Faculty ([kristina.parlee@nsc.ca](mailto:kristina.parlee@nsc.ca))

June 05, 2026



## APLA Technology Coordinator Report June 4, 2026

Leah Griffiths

### Google Workspace

#### Service Usage as of June 1, 2026

- 28 active user accounts (16 logged in within the last 3 months)
- 43.43 GB of shared storage used
  - Gmail: 20.35 GB
  - Drive: 23.08 GB
  - Heaviest users by total storage:
    - [Treasurer@apla.ca](mailto:Treasurer@apla.ca) – 12.7 GB
    - [Technology@apla.ca](mailto:Technology@apla.ca) – 9.2 GB
    - [Bulletin@apla.ca](mailto:Bulletin@apla.ca) – 2.45 GB
    - [Secretary@apla.ca](mailto:Secretary@apla.ca) – 2.17 GB
    - [President@apla.ca](mailto:President@apla.ca) – 1.97 GB

### APLA-LIST (Listserv)

As of June 1, 2026, there were 925 subscribers.

For the period of February 1, 2025 – June 1, 2026:

- 15 new subscribers
- 12 subscribers left
- messages required moderation

## Web Statistics

A comprehensive website traffic summary derived from Google Analytics can be found below.

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Griffiths

June 4, 2026





