

Annapolis Valley Regional Library

P.O. Box 510 236 Commercial Street Berwick, NS B0P 1E0

Phone 1-866-922-0229

www.valleylibrary.ca email: administration@valleylibrary.ca

Mayor Abraham Zebian
West Hants Regional Municipality
P.O. Box 3000
76 Morrison Dr.
Windsor NS
B0N 2T0

July 17, 2026

Dear Mayor Zebian,

I am writing on behalf of the Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board to respectfully resubmit the AVRL Board's request for additional operational funding for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

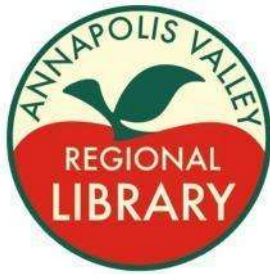
Since 2009, AVRL's budget has increased by 10% while the Bank of Canada estimates that inflation has increased by 43% during that same time period. Since 2015, AVRL has implemented significant cost-savings measures including reducing the permanent staff body by 25%, and eliminating programs, services, and partnerships.

2026-27 marked the year that status quo service at the branches became unsustainable, and the AVRL Board made the difficult decision to close five branches effective July 19, 2026.

In response to requests for more time to find a sustainable funding solution, the AVRL Board has agreed to use over 50% of its remaining reserve funds in the amount of \$88,000 to fund the continued operation of these branches until September 30th. We hope that this will offer all of our funding partners the time to consider supporting the continuation of comprehensive library service in the Annapolis Valley Region.

Since the Library Board's last meeting on July 13th, 2026, the Village of Lawrencetown has indicated that it wishes to withdraw from a service partnership with the AVRL.

Pending a full funding commitment from all funding partner municipalities, the remaining ten branches would be able to remain open until March 31, 2027. Without this full commitment, branches closures will need to go ahead in this fiscal year.



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Below is the chart of additional funds requested and granted to date, with the final column representing the updated amount respectfully requested by the AVRL Board. Municipalities are asked to respond by September 10, 2026.

Municipality	Amount Requested	Amount Granted	Updated Request Amount
Annapolis County	\$65,350	\$16,991	\$48,359
Annapolis Royal	\$1,700	\$1,700	n/a
Berwick	\$6,500	\$4,350	\$2,150
County of Kings	\$165,800	\$82,900	\$82,900
Kentville	\$21,400	\$21,400	n/a
Middleton	\$6,150	\$1,600*	\$6,150
West Hants	\$67,200	\$67,200**	\$67,200
Wolfville	\$15,150	\$3,939	\$11,211
Totals	\$351,450	\$200,080	\$217,970

* subject to matching contribution from the Province of Nova Scotia.

**subject to service levels remaining status quo in West Hants.

Although the AVRL Board recognizes that it was not able to meet the condition originally placed on this additional funding, the Board sincerely thanks the West Hants Regional Municipality for its previous commitment for the 2026-27 year. We hope that the WHRM will reconsider in light of the opportunity to preserve service in West Hants for the remainder of the 2026-27 fiscal year. The Board also notes that if the WHRM wishes to make a contribution to the AVRL above and beyond the original request, that such an amount would be gratefully received.

AVRL recognizes that library branches are used extensively by residents across the Region and in this very difficult time, we are asking the municipalities to support the AVRL and its service to the community as a whole. AVRL is likewise committed to working with the Province of Nova Scotia and all funding partner municipalities to identify sustainable funding solutions.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our libraries and the communities we serve. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Janet Ness, Chair

Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board