



Committee of the Whole Excerpts
July 14, 2026

ANNAPOLIS VALLEY REGIONAL LIBRARY MEETING AND COUNCIL DIRECTION EXCERPT

The recent decision to temporarily pause the proposed branch closures through the use of AVRIL reserve funds was viewed positively, it was a short-term measure intended to provide additional time for discussions with funding municipalities. West Hants has already committed the additional funding requested earlier this year. The intent of the report was to seek Council's support for continued discussions with the Library Board and funding partners, explore all available options, and report back on potential approaches to address the underlying funding challenges, which continue to be the primary issue affecting the long-term sustainability of library services.

The recommended motion was that Committee of the Whole recommends ...

COUNCIL DIRECT THE CAO AND MAYOR TO EXPLORE OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF LIBRARY SERVICES WITHIN THE WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY WITH THE PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA AND THE ANNAPOLIS VALLEY REGIONAL LIBRARY AND TO REPORT BACK TO COUNCIL AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

COUNCIL RECONFIRMAN ADDITIONAL \$67,200 FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF BOTH THE WINDSOR AND HANTSPORT LIBRARIES UP TO FEBRUARY 28, 2027 AS PER THE AVRIL FUNDING REQUEST.



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT

Information ☐	Recommendation ☐	Decision Request ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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To: Council

Submitted by: Mayor Abraham Zebian

Date: July 14, 2026

Subject: Annapolis Valley Regional Library Meeting and Council Direction

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Municipal Government Act

RECOMMENDATION or DECISION REQUEST

Committee of the Whole recommends...

Council Direct the CAO and Mayor to explore options for the future of library services within the West Hants Regional Municipality with the Province of Nova Scotia and the Annapolis Valley Regional Library and to report back to council at the earliest opportunity.

BACKGROUND

Property ☐	Public Opinion ☐	Environment ☐	Social ☐	Economic ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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At the beginning of June, the Annapolis Valley Regional Library announced the closure of 5 branches within the Annapolis Valley Region citing financial constraints. On July 6th, representatives from the municipal funding partners, the AVRLB, and CEO of the AVRL met to discuss the AVRL service model, budget, overview of Provincial funding, timeline of events leading to closures, and frequently asked questions.

DISCUSSION

The meeting on July 6th was highly informative with a healthy discussion on the closures of the 5 branches, many questions on the financial viability of the AVRL going forward, ways to keep libraries open, pausing the closures to allow for proper time and involvement of all stakeholders, and municipal contribution request among other topics.

The common theme recurring during that meeting was the value and importance of libraries in the Annapolis Valley and the desire to keep all branches open.

For the WHRM, the closure of the Hantsport Branch is devastating and will leave the community in a weak position.

This summarized report is intended to stimulate a healthy discussion of council leading to clear direction for Mayor and CAO.

NEXT STEPS

If council approves this recommendation, CAO and Mayor will begin the work requested.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no budgetary implications with the implementation of this recommendation.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Libraries play a vital role as community hubs and gateways to as they serve diverse communities with varying needs, backgrounds, abilities, and experiences.

Libraries help bridge gaps by providing resources, technology, and services to people who may face economic, social, linguistic, or physical barriers.

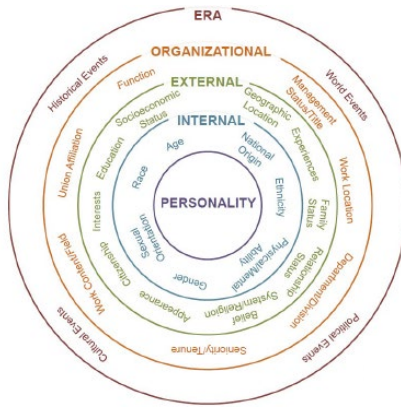
Diverse collections, programs, and services ensure that patrons can see their cultures, identities, histories, and experiences represented and valued.

Libraries create opportunities for all community members to learn, grow, and succeed.

Libraries foster a sense of belonging, encouraging greater participation and community engagement.

Libraries identify and reduce obstacles that may prevent some individuals from fully accessing services, such as inaccessible facilities, limited language support, or inequitable policies.

Library services build trust, encourage dialogue, and support social cohesion across diverse populations.



ALTERNATIVES

Council may not approve the recommendation.

Council may request something different.

ATTACHMENTS

None

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW

The July 6th joint Council and AVRL meeting was informative and provided the opportunity for municipal representatives to ask questions regarding the decision-making process resulting in the closures and what options might be available for avoiding the closures. The AVRL Board is scheduled to meet on Monday, July 13th. Updates are expected as a result of that meeting.

Report Prepared by: Abraham Zebian, Mayor

Report Reviewed by: 
 Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer