

**From:** Adam Hines  
**To:** [melissa.mlaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.mlaoffice@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** [MIN\\_CCTH@novascotia.ca](mailto:MIN_CCTH@novascotia.ca); [PREMIER@novascotia.ca](mailto:PREMIER@novascotia.ca); [PublicOnlyCouncilEmail](#)  
**Subject:** Don't Let The Hantsport Library Close  
**Date:** June 2, 2026 12:16:24 PM

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Hello Melissa,

I am writing to express my deep frustration and disappointment about the decision to close the Hantsport Library, along with four other branches in the Annapolis Valley.

Closing libraries is incredibly short-sighted, especially at a time when children and families need more access to books, community spaces, and meaningful alternatives to screens — not less. Whatever savings may appear on a balance sheet will be far outweighed by the long-term cost to literacy, family life, and community connection.

This is a major loss for Hantsport. My family uses the library multiple times a week. It is right across from our house, and my daughters regularly come home with stacks of books that they love reading, rereading, and carrying with them.

Picture a confident three-year-old crossing the street by herself for the very first time. Her mother had phoned the library to say she was coming to pick up her book. The librarian stepped outside to meet her, handed her the book, and watched as she proudly made her way back home.

That is the kind of human, community-rooted moment a local library makes possible. It is not just access to books. It is independence, trust, relationship, and a child learning that her community is a safe and welcoming place.

I am asking you to publicly oppose this decision and to push for the funding needed to keep the Hantsport Library and the other affected branches open.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Regards,  
Adam Hines

**From:** Gary Ans  
**To:** [PublicOnlyCouncilEmail; premier@novascotia.ca](mailto:PublicOnlyCouncilEmail;premier@novascotia.ca)  
**Subject:** WHAT THE LIBRARY MEANS TO ME  
**Date:** June 2, 2026 12:18:01 PM

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Good afternoon,

I have borrowed books from libraries since I was a child. I have grandchildren now and we like to go to the library together to borrow books, check the magazines, get movies and see what else they have. Such as pictures to colour, seeds to plant, small crafts to make and talk to the friendly, knowledgeable staff who work there.

Now the library is forced to close some branches and cut back in other ways because their two levels of funding are not sufficient for them to operate at current levels.

I will be disappointed if funding is not provided to allow these libraries to continue at their current service level.

Libraries add great value to our communities.

I believe that your two levels of government can come up with the funds to permit the libraries to continue to provide great services to our communities.

Your truly,  
Gary Ans



**From:** Dana Hines  
**To:** [melissa.mlaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.mlaoffice@gmail.com); [PublicOnlyCouncilEmail](#)  
**Cc:** [MIN\\_CCTH@novascotia.ca](mailto:MIN_CCTH@novascotia.ca); [PREMIER@novascotia.ca](mailto:PREMIER@novascotia.ca)  
**Subject:** Keep Hantsport Library Open  
**Date:** June 2, 2026 9:21:30 PM

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### **Caution [External Email]**

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Dear Melissa,

I am devastated and deeply disturbed by the decision to close the Hantsport library branch, along with four other branches across the Annapolis Valley.

In our community, the library is far more than a building filled with books. It is one of the few places in our small town that remains open and accessible to everyone, regardless of age, income, or circumstance. It is a place where people gather, connect, learn, and feel part of something larger than themselves.

As both a resident and a mental health counsellor serving this community, I understand how important spaces like this are. The Hantsport library provides opportunities for connection, learning, belonging, and community engagement. At a time when loneliness, social isolation, and excessive screen use are increasingly common concerns, the library offers something different. It is a place where people come together face-to-face. It encourages curiosity, imagination, literacy, lifelong learning, and genuine community connection.

The value of a library cannot be measured solely through budgets. Its impact is reflected in the child who discovers a favourite book, the senior who finds connection and purpose through a community program, the student who gains access to resources they might not otherwise have, and the countless residents who find a welcoming place to learn, grow, and belong.

I think especially about the impact on children. A library is often where a lifelong love of reading begins. It is where children discover new interests, develop literacy skills, expand their understanding of the world, and build meaningful connections within their community.

This issue is also deeply personal to me. My children are three and one years old, and they have borrowed hundreds of books from the Hantsport library. We regularly walk across the street to the library where the children choose new books, chat with our wonderful librarian, and interact with the community members who gather there at the same time each week. These moments may seem small, but they are the building blocks of community. They are exactly the kinds of experiences that become increasingly rare when public spaces disappear.

What disturbs me most is that this decision appears to measure the value of a library primarily through numbers and costs while overlooking its broader impact on

community wellbeing. Once resources like this are lost, they are incredibly difficult to restore. My concern is not only about the loss of a library today, but about what that loss says about the future we are creating for small communities like ours.

I urge you to do everything possible to prevent this closure. The Hantsport library is not simply a service. It is a gathering place, a learning space, a source of connection, and an important part of the fabric of our community. Losing it would be a significant loss for Hantsport and the surrounding area.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

Dana Hines

**From:** [Abraham Zebian](#)  
**To:** Zoe Brewster  
**Cc:** [PublicOnlyCouncilEmail](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Urgent Concern Regarding the Proposed Closure of the Isabel & Roy Jodrey Memorial Library - Hantsport  
**Date:** June 3, 2026 3:49:30 PM

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On Jun 3, 2026, at 3:29 PM, Zoe Brewster

**Caution [External Email]**

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Dear Councillors,

We, the undersigned residents and regular patrons of the Isabel & Roy Jodrey Memorial Library in Hantsport, Nova Scotia, write to you today with deep concern and urgency regarding the proposed closure of our community's beloved library — and the very real threat facing library services across the West Hants region, including the Windsor Public Library. As a member of the West Hants Regional Municipality Council, you have both the authority and the obligation to act. We are calling on you, and on Council as a whole, to commit to full municipal funding for both the Hantsport and Windsor libraries, and to ensure that these essential public institutions remain open and accessible to all residents of this municipality.

**What Is at Stake for Our Communities**

The Isabel & Roy Jodrey Memorial Library and the Windsor Public Library are not amenities — they are essential public services. Together, they serve thousands of residents across the West Hants region, providing free and equitable access to knowledge, technology, programming, and community connection. Their potential closure represents a failure of public service that would be felt most

acutely by those who can least afford it, including:

- Children and youth who rely on the library for literacy programs, after-school support, and access to educational resources unavailable in their homes.
- Seniors and elderly residents who depend on the library for social engagement, access to information, and programming that supports lifelong learning and combats isolation.
- Low-income families and individuals who rely on free computer access, internet, printing services, and employment resources that they simply cannot afford elsewhere.
- Residents without personal transportation, for whom the loss of a local library branch is not an inconvenience but a complete loss of access to vital services.

### **The Municipality Must Step Up: The Case for Full Municipal Funding**

We understand that library funding in Nova Scotia is shared between the provincial government and municipal governments, and that changes in provincial funding contributions may be placing pressure on local library operations. However, we wish to be unequivocal: the responsibility for ensuring that residents of West Hants have access to library services does not end at the provincial level. It rests squarely with this Council.

If provincial funding has been reduced, withheld, or made insufficient to sustain library operations, then the West Hants Regional Municipality must be prepared to bridge that gap through full municipal funding. Libraries are a core municipal service. The cost of fully funding both the Isabel & Roy Jodrey Memorial Library in Hantsport and the Windsor Public Library is a modest investment when weighed against the profound social, educational, and economic value these institutions provide to this community every single day. The municipality spends public funds on roads, recreational facilities, and administrative infrastructure — and yet libraries, which serve some of the most vulnerable members of our population, are being left to face closure. This is unacceptable.

We further note that the closure of these libraries would not eliminate costs — it would simply transfer them. The social consequences of closure, including increased isolation, reduced literacy outcomes, loss of employment support

services, and the erosion of community cohesion, carry real long-term costs that will ultimately fall on the municipality and the province alike. Investing in libraries now is the fiscally responsible choice, not merely the compassionate one.

### **Our Demands of Council**

We respectfully but firmly call upon you, as a member of West Hants Regional Municipality Council, to take the following actions without delay:

1. Vote in favour of full municipal funding for both the Isabel & Roy Jodrey Memorial Library in Hantsport and the Windsor Public Library, sufficient to guarantee their continued operation regardless of any changes to provincial funding.
2. Publicly commit to opposing the closure of either library and make clear to your constituents that you stand behind library services as a non-negotiable municipal priority.
3. Advocate within Council for an emergency budget review or supplemental funding allocation specifically designated to sustain library operations in Windsor and Hantsport for the immediate and foreseeable future.
4. Support the convening of a public community meeting at the earliest opportunity, so that residents may be fully informed of the current funding situation and may participate meaningfully in decisions affecting these institutions.
5. Engage with the Nova Scotia Provincial Library Service, the provincial government, and any available grant programs to pursue every possible avenue of additional funding support, in parallel with the municipality's own commitment.
6. Provide a formal, written response to this letter within fifteen (15) business days, clearly stating your position on municipal library funding and the specific steps you intend to take on behalf of your constituents.

A library is not a luxury — it is a right. The Isabel & Roy Jodrey Memorial Library stands as a tribute to the legacy of a family whose generosity helped shape this region. The Windsor Public Library serves as a vital hub for the heart of our municipality. Both deserve the full and unwavering financial support of this

Council. To allow either to close due to a funding shortfall that this municipality has the capacity to address would be an abdication of your duty to the people who elected you.

You were elected to serve the residents of West Hants. Every resident of this municipality — in Hantsport, in Windsor, and in every community in between — deserves access to library services. We are asking you to fund them. The community is watching, and history will remember which members of this Council chose to stand with their residents when it mattered most.

Should you wish to meet with a delegation of community members, we are prepared to make ourselves available at your earliest convenience. We thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Respectfully and urgently submitted,

**Zoe Brewster & The Concerned Residents and Patrons of the Isabel & Roy  
Jodrey Memorial Library**

On behalf of the community of West Hants

**From:** Sarah Himelman  
**To:** [administration@valleylibrary.ca](mailto:administration@valleylibrary.ca)  
**Cc:** [hrcinquiries@novascotia.ca](mailto:hrcinquiries@novascotia.ca); [councilandmayor@kentville.ca](mailto:councilandmayor@kentville.ca); [shamilton@kentville.ca](mailto:shamilton@kentville.ca); [PublicOnlyCouncilEmail; villageoffice@portwilliams.com](mailto:PublicOnlyCouncilEmail@villageoffice@portwilliams.com); [info@town.middleton.ns.ca](mailto:info@town.middleton.ns.ca); [villageclerk@lawrencetownnovascotia.ca](mailto:villageclerk@lawrencetownnovascotia.ca); [chrispalmermla@gmail.com](mailto:chrispalmermla@gmail.com); [johnlohrmla@gmail.com](mailto:johnlohrmla@gmail.com); [mlajulievanexan@gmail.com](mailto:mlajulievanexan@gmail.com); [accessibilityboard@novascotia.ca](mailto:accessibilityboard@novascotia.ca); [barbadamsmla@gmail.com](mailto:barbadamsmla@gmail.com); [mlaritcey@gmail.com](mailto:mlaritcey@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Request for Accessibility Impact Assessment Prior to Implementation of AVRL Library Closures  
**Date:** June 4, 2026 4:33:48 PM

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### **Caution [External Email]**

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To the AVRL Board and participating Municipal Councils, the NS Accessibility Advisory Board and honorable members of the provincial cabinet,

I am writing to request that an Accessibility Impact Assessment, or equivalent accessibility review, be completed and made public before any final decision is implemented regarding the proposed closure of library branches within the Annapolis Valley Regional Library system.

Public libraries provide more than access to books. They serve as community hubs that offer accessible information, internet access, technology, educational programming, social connection, and public services that are particularly important for seniors, persons with disabilities, individuals without reliable transportation, and residents facing economic barriers.

Nova Scotia's Accessibility Act establishes a goal of an accessible province by 2030 and requires public-sector organizations to identify, prevent, and remove barriers to accessibility. Given these objectives, I believe it is important that the impacts of any branch closure on accessibility be carefully evaluated before decisions are finalized.

Specifically, I request information on the following:

- Whether an accessibility impact assessment or accessibility review has been completed in relation to the proposed closures.
- Whether AVRL's accessibility planning process or any accessibility advisory committee was consulted.
- How the impacts on seniors, people with mobility disabilities, people with visual or cognitive disabilities, and individuals without access to private transportation were assessed.
- Whether increased travel distances and transportation barriers were considered.  
Whether the loss of accessible technology, internet access, programming, and community space at affected branches was evaluated.
- Whether any mitigation measures have been proposed to address identified accessibility concerns.
- Whether any reports, studies, analyses, or briefing materials related to accessibility can be made publicly available.

If no accessibility assessment has been conducted, I respectfully request that one be completed and released for public review before any closure is implemented.

The purpose of this request is not to oppose accessibility planning or fiscal responsibility, but to ensure that decisions affecting public services are informed by a thorough understanding of their impact on residents who may face barriers to accessing alternative services.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Sarah Himelman  
Kentville, NS

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [hrcinquiries@novascotia.ca](mailto:hrcinquiries@novascotia.ca); [Mayor & Council Town of Kentville](mailto:Mayor & Council Town of Kentville); [shamilton@kentville.ca](mailto:shamilton@kentville.ca); [PublicOnlyCouncilEmail;villageoffice@portwilliams.com](mailto:PublicOnlyCouncilEmail;villageoffice@portwilliams.com); [info@town.middleton.ns.ca](mailto:info@town.middleton.ns.ca); [villageclerk@lawrencetownnovascotia.ca](mailto:villageclerk@lawrencetownnovascotia.ca); [chrispalmermla@gmail.com](mailto:chrispalmermla@gmail.com); [John Lohr](mailto:John Lohr); [mlajulievanexan@gmail.com](mailto:mlajulievanexan@gmail.com); [accessibilityboard@novascotia.ca](mailto:accessibilityboard@novascotia.ca); [barbadamsmla@gmail.com](mailto:barbadamsmla@gmail.com); [mlaritcey@gmail.com](mailto:mlaritcey@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Request for Accessibility Impact Assessment Prior to Implementation of AVRL Library Closures  
**Date:** June 5, 2026 10:05:30 AM

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Dear Sarah,

Thank you for taking the time to share this thoughtful and detailed request. Your message underscores how essential accessibility is to the mission of a public library system, and we appreciate the care you have taken to outline the concerns that many residents—particularly those facing barriers—may experience as a result of the planned branch closures.

We want to acknowledge the importance of the issues you have raised. Public libraries serve as vital community spaces, and any change to branch operations has the potential to affect all residents, including seniors, people with disabilities, individuals without access to transportation, and community members who rely on library technology, programming, and welcoming public space. Ensuring that these impacts are fully understood is a responsibility we take seriously.

Your request for clarity regarding accessibility assessments, consultation processes, and the evaluation of potential barriers is both reasonable and appreciated. Accessibility is a core value, and we recognize that decisions of this scale must be informed by a thorough understanding of how they may affect those who depend most on equitable access to library services. I will take your suggestion forward for consideration, and in the meantime, would refer you to AVRL's 2025 Accessibility Plan for further details about how we are working to address accessibility issues [https://valleylibrary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/AVRL\\_Accessibility\\_Plan\\_2025.pdf](https://valleylibrary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/AVRL_Accessibility_Plan_2025.pdf)

We thank you again for bringing forward these concerns with such respect and care. Your input contributes meaningfully to the ongoing conversation, and we remain committed to ensuring that accessibility considerations are part of any decision that may impact our communities.

Thank you,

Julia Merritt  
Chief Executive Officer

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sarah Himelman**

Date: Thu, Jun 4, 2026 at 4:33 PM

Subject: Request for Accessibility Impact Assessment Prior to Implementation of AVRL Library Closures

To: <[administration@valleylibrary.ca](mailto:administration@valleylibrary.ca)>

Cc: <[hrcinquiries@novascotia.ca](mailto:hrcinquiries@novascotia.ca)>, <[councilandmayor@kentville.ca](mailto:councilandmayor@kentville.ca)>, <[shamilton@kentville.ca](mailto:shamilton@kentville.ca)>, <[allcouncil@westhants.ca](mailto:allcouncil@westhants.ca)>, <[villageoffice@portwilliams.com](mailto:villageoffice@portwilliams.com)>, <[info@town.middleton.ns.ca](mailto:info@town.middleton.ns.ca)>, <[villageclerk@lawrencetownnovascotia.ca](mailto:villageclerk@lawrencetownnovascotia.ca)>, <[chrispalmermla@gmail.com](mailto:chrispalmermla@gmail.com)>, <[johnlohrmla@gmail.com](mailto:johnlohrmla@gmail.com)>, <[mlajulievanexan@gmail.com](mailto:mlajulievanexan@gmail.com)>, <[accessibilityboard@novascotia.ca](mailto:accessibilityboard@novascotia.ca)>, <[barbadamsmla@gmail.com](mailto:barbadamsmla@gmail.com)>, <[mlaritcey@gmail.com](mailto:mlaritcey@gmail.com)>

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Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Sarah Himelman  
Kentville, NS

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**From:** [Abraham Zebian](#)  
**To:** [PublicOnlyCouncilEmail](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Letter of support – Annapolis Valley libraries  
**Date:** June 5, 2026 11:05:41 AM  
**Attachments:** [AVRL letter of support June 2026.pdf](#)

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**From:** Stacey Cornelius  
**Date:** June 5, 2026 at 11:01:29 AM ADT  
**To:** mayorboyer@annapolisroyal.com, mayor.corkum@countyofkings.ca, dleblanc@annapoliscounty.ca, Abraham Zebian <Mayor.Zebian@westhants.ca>, commissioner.fowler@kingstonnovascotia.ca, breid@synovacorp.com, gsmith@town.middleton.ns.ca  
**Subject: Letter of support – Annapolis Valley libraries**

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Good morning. I've sent the message below to the Premier, Finance Minister, and area MLAs. I'm sending a copy to you, the Mayors, Commissioners, and Wardens in the Annapolis Valley Library region, to clearly state our support for Nova Scotia's public libraries.

= = =

I'm writing to you on behalf of the Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award, a literary program and award for children in grades 4-6 across Atlantic Canada. A vital part of our mission is to instill a love of reading great books – especially Canadian books – in French and English.

Children participate in Hackmatack at a crucial stage in their development. As they move from middle grade reading to young adult and beyond, libraries continue to support both literacy and lifelong learning.

In our 25+ years working with librarians, teachers, and community volunteers, we know libraries are about far more than books. We've witnessed libraries evolve into critical community hubs.

- They provide resources for residents who don't have internet access, or a

- printer, or a computer.
- They help build and sustain communities in a time when people have become increasingly isolated.
  - They are sources of reliable information when deepfakes and disinformation have reached alarming levels.

Many libraries offer children’s programming. This is not a luxury or an “extra.” It’s an opportunity for social contact, support, and sometimes a source of safety.

We know many libraries are struggling as their funding hasn’t kept pace with increasing expenses. And we know library use is up.

Providing proper funding to libraries is an investment in Nova Scotia that will have positive ripple effects across the entire province. It’s an investment in our future.

We urge you to support our public library system to prevent service cuts and closures. Libraries are a renewable resource we cannot afford to lose.

A PDF of this message is attached.

Yours sincerely,

Stacey Cornelius  
Executive Director

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**Stacey Cornelius, Executive Director (she/her/elle)**  
**Hackmatack Children’s Choice Book Award | Le choix des jeunes**  
1113 Marginal Road, Kjipuktuk / Halifax, NS B3H 4P7  
Phone: 902 418 9859

Visit us: [hackmatack.ca](http://hackmatack.ca) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)

Hackmatack is based in Kjipuktuk, Mi’kma’ki,  
which is ancestral and unceded Mi’kmaq territory.



5 June 2026

Premier Tim Houston  
MLA David Bowlby  
MLA Chris Palmer

Finance Minister John Lohr  
MLA Melissa Sheehy-Richard  
MLA Jill Balser

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We urge you to support our public library system to prevent service cuts and closures. Libraries are a renewable resource we cannot afford to lose.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacey Cornelius".

Stacey Cornelius,  
Executive Director