



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Welcome back, public libraries are reopening soon!

(June 3, 2020): The Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library is announcing the reopening of all seven branch libraries as well as resuming the Borrow-by-Mail service, beginning the week of June 15, 2020.

“While we continue to offer a wide range of online services, we are very pleased to announce we have a safe and sensible plan for reopening most of our services to the public,” explains Library Board Chair John Blackwell. “The Library Board thanks all staff members for quickly adapting to this emergency and developing methods to provide materials and services for literacy, education, and recreation.”

Branch libraries and Books by Mail have been closed to the public since the COVID-19 State of Emergency was declared in March. Staff members have been busy expanding online services on our virtual library, www.parl.ns.ca, and planning how to reopen libraries in a safe manner.

Chief Librarian, Eric Stackhouse, explains what will be different. “We created a multi-stage plan that follows Provincial Public Health COVID-19 protocols. It will be a similar experience to visiting a retail or grocery store but with a library atmosphere.” In this initial public stage, branch libraries will open for a slightly fewer hours and allow fewer numbers of people in at a time. However, people can expect to browse for materials, request information, and use a computer for internet access.

The Regional Library will also be introducing outside pickup for requested materials. The public can call ahead to their local library branch, and request to have their reserved library materials brought outside the library’s front door for pick-up. Borrow-by-Mail service will also resume full operation for rural residents of both counties. During this first stage, there will be no in-person programs or events due to social distancing requirements. As restrictions are lifted by NS Public Health, the reopening will move to a next stage.

Library patrons can expect to start receiving telephone calls or emails the week of June 8, 2020 about picking up requests previously submitted. Borrow-by-Mail will also start mailing out requests for users of the service. The open public hours for Antigonish and New Glasgow libraries will begin Monday June 15, and the River John, Pictou, Trenton, and Westville libraries will resume open public hours starting Tuesday June 16. Hours for this first stage can be found online at www.parl.ns.ca. The recovery plan can also be viewed on the website under About Us and Policies. For further information, please call toll-free 1-866-779-7761.

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