

NORTHERN LIGHTS LIBRARY SYSTEMS  
ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

**Meeting Date:** September 3, 2019 at Centennial Library, Vegreville, Alberta  
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**Present:** Elaine Sorochan, Justin Thompson, Cindy Heslin, Larry Tiedemann and  
Dianne Saskiw

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1. The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Elaine Sorochan. Dianne Saskiw volunteered to do Minutes.

2. At this time nominations were held to choose a Chair for the Advocacy Committee. Dianne Saskiw nominated Larry Tiedemann. Cindy Heslin wished to put her name forward. There being no further nominations, Justin Thompson moved that nominations cease. Motion Carried (M.C.).

Vote was held by secret ballot. Member from the library staff collected and counted the ballots, declaring Larry Tiedemann as the Chair.

Justin Thompson moved that ballots be destroyed. M.C.

Additions to the agenda as follows : Selection of Vice Chair for the Advocacy Committee, next meeting date and adjournment.

3. Nominations were held to choose a Vice Chair for the Advocacy Committee. Cindy Heslin wished to put her name forward. Elaine Sorochan nominated Justin Thompson. There being no further nominations, Dianne Saskiw moved that nominations cease. M.C.

Vote was held by secret ballot. Member from the library staff collected and counted the ballots, declaring Justin Thompson as Vice Chair.

Elaine Sorochan moved that ballots be destroyed. M.C.

4. Terms of Reference. Cindy had a hand out of possible ways to develop our terms of reference. Discussion and Terms of Reference developed as per the attached. This is to be forwarded to the Policy Committee for review before implementation.

5. Responsibilities (as per terms of reference).

6. Future Plans for Advocacy: Cindy reminded everyone that it is AUMA month and at some point we may have an opportunity to advocate with MLA's or Ministers. Ask them about the 50% hold back on funding. Also if any Councils are meeting with MLA's, they can also discuss this issue and ask about funding for 2020. Larry recommended that the executive advocate for next year's budget (2020 budget year).

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Action Item: That we develop a "cheat sheet" so that we are all presenting the same message.

We should be looking to:

1. Identify possible concerns and opportunities
  2. Create a cheat sheet outlining concerns. Our wins/victories, uniqueness, cost savings to the public by using libraries
  3. Have an 'elevator speech' that we can use if the opportunity arises with any meetings with MLA's etc.
- Engage with Premier/Ministers. Do you have a library card? Get a photo.
  - Engage with Library Manager's Council
  - Engage with members at large
  - Engage patrons via our local Library Boards
  - NLLS Plan of Service is due to be redone. Can possibly include/review Advocacy in the new Plan of Service.
7. Next meeting date: October 18, 2019 at the Centennial Library in Vegreville, AB. It was also discussed that all communications outside of our meetings be cc'd to all via an email. All correspondence should also be cc'd to the Chair of the NLLS Board.
  8. Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.