

Library Organizations and Associations

There are a number of national and provincial library organizations that library workers may come across through their library work. Some are government bodies and have the power to impact library services in your community, while others are professional organizations you may wish to join and participate in.

Public Library Services Branch (PLSB), Government of Alberta

PLSB is the branch of the Alberta Ministry of Municipal Affairs responsible for public library services at the provincial government level. They provide a variety of library support services and expertise to public libraries and library boards across the province, including:

- Providing consultative support to over 200 municipal and intermunicipal library boards and seven library system boards established under the [Libraries Act](#) in areas related to legislation and management of public library service.
- Delivering orientation programs for public library trustees.
- consulting with staff and trustees of municipal and system boards on planning and policy development for municipal boards and regional service delivery at the library system level.
- Developing financial policy and delivering [Public Library Board Operating Grants](#) to help public library boards in the provision of library service.
- Collecting and publishing provincial [public library statistics](#) which provide a summary of library funding and performance indicators for all public library boards.
- Supporting Ministry initiatives including the annual [Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Library Service](#).
- Funding access to the National Network for Equitable Library Services (NNELS) and the Centre for Equitable Library Service (CELA), which provide library services for patrons with print disabilities.
- Funding and supporting the TAL Online catalogue, which allows Albertans to search the catalogues of all public libraries (and most academic ones) in the province at once and place requests on materials not available at their local libraries
- Funding and supporting an interlibrary loan system, ~~VDX~~, that automates the processing of interlibrary loan requests.

- Facilitating delivery of interlibrary loan materials across the province through the Alberta government courier service.
- Facilitating public library access to the SuperNet, a Government of Alberta initiative that enables access to secure, stable, high speed internet in public institutions.
- Providing province-wide equitable access to various eResources.
Learn more: <https://www.alberta.ca/public-library-services-branch.aspx>

The Alberta Library (TAL)

The Alberta Library is a province-wide consortium serving 48 member libraries at 300+ service points in Alberta, including public, academic, and special libraries. By working together in this way, TAL allows Albertans at even the smallest libraries to access more than 30 million resources.

Services provided by TAL include:

- TAL Online: A discovery service that allows users to find resources (print and digital media) in libraries across the province, as well as place interlibrary loan requests for them.
- TAL Card: Provides borrowing privileges at all TAL Card participating libraries across Alberta.
- Licensing: TAL negotiates licensing agreements so that member libraries are able to provide access to digital resources like newspapers, magazines, eBooks, databases, and more.
- Library Toolshed: A joint venture between TAL and the Association of B.C. Public Library Directors, the Toolshed is an online platform for share and download library training resources. Visit: <https://librarytoolshed.ca/> for access.

Learn more: <http://thealbertalibrary.ca/>

Library Association of Alberta (LAA)

The Library Association of Alberta is the major professional organization for librarians, library technicians, library trustees, institutions, and other library-adjacent personnel and groups in Alberta. It provides a space and voice for library workers to discuss issues, voice concerns, grow their networks, and access professional development opportunities. They are responsible for organizing and hosting the biggest annual professional development event for Alberta library workers, the Alberta Library Conference (ALC), which is held in Jasper every April.

LAA membership allows library professionals to access professional development opportunities (including ALC and other events throughout the year), grow their networks, and be a voice for

libraries in the province through participation on the LAA's Board of Directors and various committees. Membership rates are on a sliding scale based on your income.

Learn more: <https://www.laa.ca/>

Alberta Association of Library Technicians (AALT)

The Alberta Association of Library Technicians is the major organization representing library technicians in Alberta. Its main goals include addressing the professional development, networking, and educational needs of its members; ensuring high educational standards for library technician programs in Alberta; and interact with other organizations in the library and information field. They are responsible for organizing and hosting the annual AALT Conference, which is held in various locations around Alberta and is intended to provide professional development and networking opportunities to technicians working in various sectors and types of libraries.

AALT membership is a great way to access professional development opportunities (including workshops and the annual conference), grow your network, and be a voice for issues affecting library technicians in Alberta.

Learn more: <https://aalt.org/>

Alberta Library Trustees' Association (ALTA)

ALTA represents the library boards and trustees that govern public libraries across Alberta. It is the collective voice for library trustees across Alberta and promotes effective library service and leadership through training, resources, communication, and advocacy. They actively support trustees to become strong leaders in their library communities and strive to ensure that all library trustees have access to the information, resources and education they need to be effective and strong leaders within their library communities. ALTA supports professional development opportunities for its members in a variety of ways, including workshops and online education, a regular newsletter, and special ALTA-hosted events, as well as specific learning and networking opportunities at general PD events like the Alberta Library Conference.

ALTA membership is a great way for library trustees to grow their expertise and networks in Alberta's library community. Membership is open to current and past trustees, and fees operate on a sliding scale, depending on the size of the community served by a library.

Learn more: <https://www.librarytrustees.ab.ca/>

Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA-FCAB)

CFLA-FCAB acts as the united, national voice for Canada's library communities. They work to: advance library excellence in Canada; champion library values and the value of libraries; and influence national and international public policy impacting libraries and their communities. CFLA-FCAB represents both library staff and library trustee organizations from various sectors nationwide, including public, academic, school, research, and special libraries.

Learn more: <http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/home-page/>

The Partnership

The Partnership is Canada's national network of provincial and territorial library associations. The organization meets twice a year to collaboratively develop services and programs for members of their respective organizations. Some of their initiatives include the [Job Board](#) (for library job postings in Canada), the [Education Institute](#) (continuing education for library workers), and an academic, peer-reviewed journal about library work and research in Canada.

Learn more: <http://www.thepartnership.ca/>