



Alberta Association of Academic Libraries
AAAL 2025 Fall Meeting Agenda and Package

Date: 20 November 2025, 9 AM MDT

Location: Hosted Virtually by AAAL

Meeting Link: [Zoom Link](https://zoom.us/j/87990032251)

Meeting ID: 879 9003 2251

Passcode (if prompted): 364995

Upon sign-in, please add your preferred name, pronouns, and institutional affiliation

AAAL Executive & Key Contact Information

General Contact: aaal.executive@gmail.com

Chair:

Andrea Johnson, Red Deer Polytechnic

Chair-Elect:

Celine Gareau-Brennan, University of Alberta

Treasurer:

Yvonne Phillips, Red Deer Polytechnic

Secretary:

Sheena Sereda, NorQuest College

Past Chair:

Jane Duffy, MacEwan University

Communications Committee:

Caitlin Ratcliffe, NorQuest College

(Web, News & Social Media)

Meghan Staal, U of Alberta

aaal.communications@gmail.com

Tessa Brodhead, King's University

Mentorship Committee:

Roxy Garstad, MacEwan University

aaal.mentorship@gmail.com

Ron Rooth, MacEwan University

Holly Hoffman, St. Mary's University

Sarah Chomyc, University of Alberta

Shaun McMullen, Portage College

Statistics & Assessment Committee

Adam Cohen, Mount Royal University

aaal.assess@gmail.com

Jenn Laskosky, Concordia University

Emily Villanueva, University of Lethbridge

Learning & Development Committee

Ali Foster, MacEwan University

aaal.learningdevelopment@gmail.com

Dana Ouellette, University of Alberta

Christena McKillop, University of Calgary

Emma Scott, University of Lethbridge

Rynelle Wiebe, Medicine Hat College

Business Portion

8:45 am – 9:00 am

Morning “Registration” – Online Gathering

9:00 am – 9:10 am

Opening Remarks (AAAL Chair)

AAAL Land Acknowledgement - Andrea Johnston

Approval of Minutes of the Spring 2025 AGM ([Link to Meeting Minutes](#))

Approval of Fall 2025 Meeting Agenda

9:10 am – 9:25 am

AAAL Executive: Verbal Reports

- Chair – Andrea Johnston (4 minutes)
- Chair-Elect - Celine Gareau-Brennan (3 minutes)
- Treasurer - Yvonne Phillips (3 Minutes)

AAAL Committees Reports

- [Please see the written reports below](#)

9:25 am – 11:00 am

Member Roundtable - Please submit your updates in writing into the chat or email

aaal.executive@gmail.com

11:00 - 11:15

Coffee Break

Facilitated Discussion Sessions (simultaneous breakout rooms)

11:15 am - 12:15 pm

Room #1 (moderator: Rynelle Wiebe, Medicine Hat College)

AI

Inspired by the article [Investigating the “Feeling Rules” of Generative AI and Imagining Alternative Futures](#)

Room #2 (moderator: Dana Oullette, University of Alberta)

Climate Change: Culture, Values, and Practice

Inspired by the article [Towards a Librarianship of the Future: Fostering Cultural Adaptation to Climate Change](#)

Room #3 (moderator: Ali Foster, MacEwan University)

Revising & Revisioning Library Research Guides (Libguides)

Inspired by the article [Using a Proposed Library Guide Assessment Standards Rubric and a Peer Review Process to Pedagogically Improve Library Guides: A Case Study](#)

Room #4 (moderator: Christena McKillop, University of Calgary)

Student Belonging

Inspired by the article [Inclusion and Empathy Are Not Enough: Cultivating Student Belonging in the Academic Library Through Compassion](#)

Room #5 (moderator: Emma Scott, University of Lethbridge)

Library Impact Framework

Inspired by the article [The CARL Library Impact Framework: A Logic Model Approach To Impact Assessment For Research Libraries](#)

Room #6 (Moderator TBD)

Troubleshooting and/or open discussion - Feel free to drop in and continue conversations from Roundtable, or start a new discussion!

12:15 pm - 12:30 pm

Brief Summary of talking points from breakout rooms by moderators, closing remarks

List of Reports

Chairs Report

Chair-Elect Report

Treasurer Report

Communications Committee Report

Learning and Development Committee Report

Mentorship Committee Report

Statistics and Assessment Committee Report

Chair's Report - Andrea Johnston

Happy Fall everyone! It is my absolute pleasure to be the Chair of such an incredible organization. We truly have the best committees, the best Executive, and the best membership and I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve and learn from you all.

This year, AAAL has a number of exciting opportunities and changes. As we have heard, the process has begun to dissolve NEOS. This is certainly a loss for the Alberta post-secondary community but also an exciting opportunity for AAAL. Before the announcement, NEOS Executive met with AAAL's Executive to discuss ways that AAAL can answer the call should NEOS dissolve. This would be in the form of taking on the professional development opportunities that NEOS previously offered and growing our membership to include special libraries that were once under the NEOS umbrella. AAAL is excited for this opportunity and our amazing Chair-Elect is currently undertaking this project and laying the path forward for our

organization. This will most likely include changes to our bylaws and we will be keeping everyone in the loop as things progress. Look forward to hearing more about additional PD opportunities, as well as more ways to get involved! Stay tuned!

I also had the extreme pleasure of attending the Stronger Together conference this year. I have to say, it was an *incredible* event with amazing, interactive presentations. I would strongly encourage anyone and everyone to apply to speak next year. We have to be the change we want to see if we want more academic content. This is a fabulous learning opportunity, a great time to connect, and to be inspired! Save the date for next year's conference: **Oct. 22 & 23**, and keep an eye open for the call for proposals! And to further incentivize you, the AAAL Executive is working on creating a sponsorship / grant / PD award to attend Stronger Together so stay tuned for more information about that as well.

And speaking of PD awards, the AAAL Executive is proud to announce that for this year's AGM, we will be offering **three** PD awards to attend. We recognize that we have missed the past couple of years and would like to make up for it by offering more awards this year. Stay tuned for when to apply!

I am so happy to be a part of this community and look forward to connecting with you all further. If you have any questions, or if you have an idea or need extra support, AAAL is here for you. Please reach out to myself anytime (andrea.johnston@rdpolytech.ca) and thank you for your continued dedication and participation.

Warmly,
Andrea Johnston, AAAL Chair.

Chair Elect Report - Celine Gareau-Brennan

I started my role as Chair-Elect after being acclaimed by the AAAL electors during our 2025 spring meeting. Since then, I have had the pleasure of working with the Executive and some of our subcommittees. Some of my completed duties have included sitting on our mentorship committee as well as sending out a call for volunteers for our Learning & Development Committee. As a member of the executive committee, we've had some conversations with NEOS as to their possible dissolution in 2026 and how AAAL could be welcoming and inclusive to NEOS members. As a personal project, I've reached out to many AAAL subcommittee chairs and NEOS directors and members. I am consolidating what I have learned from these conversations and will be making recommendations that will be brought to AAAL executives, AAAL subcommittee members, and the broader AAAL community. I look forward to continuing this work and the rest of my chair-elect responsibilities with the AAAL Executive, all the AAAL committees, and with the broader AAAL community.

Respectfully submitted,
Céline Gareau-Brennan

Treasurer Report - Yvonne Phillips

Since our Spring 2025 Meeting, main duties of the Treasurer have included:

Preparing and submitting our *Society Annual Return* to the Alberta Government to maintain our status as a society. The key part of this submission is our financial statement as audited by two AAAL members who are not part of the Executive Committee. Much thanks to Nicole Eva (U of L) and CJ de Jong (U of A) for volunteering to audit our financials; our paperwork has been sent to Alberta Registries.

Preparing the paperwork to update our Bylaws with Alberta Corporate Registry, as we voted in two key changes in May 2025: changing our fiscal year to May 1 to April 30, and having our membership fees payable October 31. Our paperwork has been submitted.

Further to the latter task, invoices went much more smoothly this year with the later due date (which I think worked better for everyone) and electronic funds transfer was offered as one of the payment options.

As of this writing, of our 32 members, we have received payment from most institutions. If for some reason you did not receive an invoice despite my best efforts, please let me know. I imagine some cheques are still lost in the mail due to the postal strike.

Our membership fee structure has not changed for 2025-2026 and remains as follows:

- FLE 1-999: \$101.25
- FLE 1000-6499: \$135.00

- FLE 6500+: \$270.00
- Tribal College: \$33.75
- TAL: \$67.50 (Affiliate non-voting)

We also have a new member from Edmonton: Newman Theological College! Welcome Newman.

Our starting financial position for 2025-2026 is healthy at **\$17,486.25**. Thank you for supporting AAAL.

Respectfully submitted by:

Yvonne Phillips (Red Deer Polytechnic)
AAAL Treasurer

Communications Committee Report

AAAL communications are shared on the [AAAL Website](#), Bluesky ([Alberta Association of Academic Libraries](#)) Facebook ([Alberta Association of Academic Libraries](#)), the AAAL Newsletter ([subscribe here](#)), and the Jerome-L listserv ([subscribe here](#)).

- We've continued to add events to our AAAL [library events calendar](#). If you have events that you would like to see added to the calendar, please reach out to us at aaal.communications@gmail.com
- The Communications Committee has consolidated the AAAL membership contact list into a single, centralized location. Please let us know if there are any changes to your preferred contacts!

If you have any communications you would like to share via AAAL, please contact aaal.communications@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Caitlin Ratcliffe (NorQuest College), Social Media Manager
Tessa Brodhead (The King's University), Webmaster Administrator
Meghan Staal (University of Alberta), Blog Administrator

Learning and Development Committee Report

Spring 2025 AGM

As always, thank you to all our colleagues who participated in the Spring 2025 AGM at MacEwan University in May. Whether attending, presenting, or organizing, everyone's presence and support are crucial to our ongoing success. In our post-meeting survey, we received 25 responses, and feedback was overwhelmingly positive! Below are some highlights of the responses, as well as suggestions for programming:

- The quality, variety, and pacing of the programming were appreciated by multiple respondents, who noted that the meeting stayed on schedule and the break schedule kept up energy throughout the day. The longer breaks allowed attendees time to connect with other participants.
- Having the tour run during the lunch break, the timing and delivery of the tour were well-received. Many thanks to Nicolle Lemay for her time and expertise!
- Sharing the menu for the day beforehand and connecting with members with dietary considerations were both noted as “please continue.” Multiple responses noted that the vegetarian menu was inclusive and offered variety to all members.
- Suggestions for programming:
 - More presentations related to actively decolonizing library spaces
 - A “get to know your librarian” activity where multiple tables are set up to highlight different crafts, activities, or spaces that their library features and participants can then interact with and try out the different offerings.

A gentle reminder that we are still **seeking a host for the Spring 2026 AGM**. Please reach out to ali.foster@macewan.ca if your institution is interested in hosting!

Committee Updates since Spring 2025

Our committee is grateful to Christy Nichols for her contributions to the committee over the past two years, as she needed to step down from the committee in Summer 2025. After a call for committee members, the L&D committee is excited to introduce Emma Scott (University of Lethbridge), who joined us in August 2025!

We have been working on the Fall 2025 meeting for the past several months. With the support of the Executive Committee and due to scheduling challenges in finding a keynote speaker, our committee organized drop-in, topic-based discussion rooms for our participants. Given the period of change many of our member institutions are experiencing, we look forward to offering members an opportunity to connect and discuss their work.

Looking ahead, our committee is working closely with the Executive Committee to discuss the future of our program planning and how AAAL can continue to offer timely and relevant support to our members.

Respectfully Submitted,

The AAAL Learning & Development Committee: Ali Foster (MacEwan University, Committee Chair); Christena McKillop (University of Calgary); Dana Ouellette (University of Alberta); Emma Scott (University of Lethbridge); Rynnelle Wiebe (Medicine Hat College)

Mentorship Committee Report

The Mentorship Committee was pleased to welcome thirteen mentor–mentee pairs this past fall—surpassing last year’s total and marking the highest participation since before the

COVID-19 pandemic. Participants represent institutions across Alberta, from the northernmost Keyano College to the southernmost University of Lethbridge. A midterm survey will be distributed in January to gather feedback on participant satisfaction, use of mentorship resources, and the level of support provided by the Mentorship Committee.

The current committee members are Sarah Chomyc (University of Alberta), Roxy Garstad (Chair, MacEwan University), Holly Hoffmann (St. Mary's University), Shaun McMullen (Portage College) and Ron Rooth (MacEwan University).

Respectfully submitted by Roxy Garstad.

Statistics and Assessment Committee Report

Membership Updates

There are no new membership updates to share

Annual Survey

The annual survey has been sent off to member institutions with a submission deadline of February 6, 2026. Reports on the data collected will be made available before the Spring 2026 AGM. The survey has not been updated since last year.

Respectfully submitted by,
Adam Cohen (Mount Royal University)
Emily Villanueva (University of Lethbridge)
Jenn Laskosky (Concordia University of Edmonton)

Member Updates

Portage College

In June, not long after our spring AGM, our colleague CJ moved on to greener pastures in the public library world, and although we could never replace her completely, we finally found someone who could take her position in new and exciting directions. In October, we welcomed Mandie Thomson as the new Library Support Specialist at the St. Paul Campus. Mandie originally hails from Ontario, has a BA Hons and MA in English from McMaster, her LIT diploma from Mohawk College, and came to us after a stint with The College of the North Atlantic in Stephenville NL.

Also in October, Portage College welcomed our new President and CEO, Dr. Stephen Price. He will be familiar to our colleagues at Mount Royal University as he spent many years there as an Instructor, Associate Professor, and Dean.

There have been many changes in the programs at the College. The Professional Cook and Heavy Equipment Operator programs have been suspended, but we have also brought in the Addictions Counseling Diploma, we are getting closer to launching the Aircraft Maintenance Engineer – Structural diploma, and we've also taken some big steps towards starting up a Bachelor of Education program.

In the library itself, the Lac La Biche Library was also able to upgrade their furnishings, which was long overdue, and now has new couches, desks, and computer chairs for the students. We have purchased 2 new hush pods, one for Lac La Biche and one for Cold Lake. Now the students have a quiet, ventilated space to do their work. We are

developing new LibGuide in copyright, and of course, use of AI is always on our minds.

Lakeland College

Signed up with Alma, In the process of implementing Rialto. No timelines for implementing Rapido, thereby affecting our ability to process ILL requests. Staffing- Lost our E-Resources Technician. Our manager is on medical leave, We have a skeleton staff for now, otherwise, all is well in Lakeland College.

Keyano College

Keyano College will be welcoming a new president at the beginning of December, after a long executive search process. Dr. Scott MacPherson comes to us from Nova Scotia Community College in Halifax. While it's always a bit of a transition when leadership changes, we are looking forward to seeing how he engages with and supports the Library and the work we do with our campus community.

On the Facilities front, the Library has been making gradual improvements to our physical spaces over the past couple of years. In May, the Library shared an update about our new computer lab furniture which was donated by the Student Association and this time, we are happy to report that our collaborative study zone now features new tables, chairs, and soft seating, and that the computer lab has received a fresh coat of paint. In the grand scheme of things, these are small upgrades, but they've made a noticeable difference for students and the feedback has been really positive.

Finally, the Library has been actively working on integrating into the College's Sustainable Development Goal initiatives. We have been mapping out our programming to align with and incorporate the SDGs, especially in areas like digital literacy and Open Education Resources, which has been a great way for the Library to contribute to some of the bigger conversations happening on campus.