



**GRANDE PRAIRIE
PUBLIC LIBRARY**
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Former GPPL Board Chair Recognized with Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal

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On Thursday, January 26, 2023, former Grande Prairie Public Library Board Chair, Nicole Chappell, was recognized, along with four other outstanding Albertans, for the significant contributions she made to the province of Alberta in a ceremony hosted by Volunteer Alberta.

Ms. Chappell joined the Grande Prairie Public Library Board in 2018, bringing her knowledge and skills in human resources with her. In February 2020, Ms. Chappell was elected Chair of the Board and the following month, she changed the way the Board does business to ensure the Library continued to thrive during COVID-19 lockdowns. She helped the Library as it faced human rights challenges to the rules created to protect the public and staff, ensured the Library had funding to acquire the supplies necessary to operate safely, and she supported the mental health of all staff as the Library carved a new path to serve the community during this challenging time.

Ms. Chappell's greatest contributions include helping to educate new Board members of the philosophy of library work, providing a lay-person's understanding of why libraries strive to provide barrier-free, equitable access, explaining why intellectual freedom must be upheld in public libraries, and speaking to others about the role the Library plays in making the City of Grande Prairie a more desirable place to live.

During her time on the Board, Ms. Chappell freely shared the role the Library played in a challenging time in her own life. She spoke of the support she received from the Library, the community she became a part of in a time she otherwise felt isolated, and the help library programs provided to get her through that difficult time.

"I am honored to receive the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal for my volunteer work with the Grande Prairie Public Library. It was my privilege to serve on the Board for five years and serve as Chair for two. The Grande Prairie Public Library is an essential part of the community and I am very grateful that I was given the opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way," says Ms. Chappell.

About the Grande Prairie Public Library

The Grande Prairie Public Library is proud to serve the City of Grande Prairie, the County of Grande Prairie, and the Municipal District of Greenview. In 2022, our 21,595 cardholders borrowed 463,630 items, including resources like our mobile hotspots, Library of Things, Tool Library, and more. Visit us in the Montrose Cultural Centre, online at www.gppl.ca, or call 780-532-3580.