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3rd SESSION, 67th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Province of Prince Edward Island
5 CHARLES III, 2026

(Bill No. 30)

Public Libraries Act

Hon. Robin Croucher
Minister of Education and Early Years

GOVERNMENT BILL

Andrea MacRae
Acting King's Printer
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

For House Use Only

Prince Edward Island
Legislative Assembly

AMENDMENTS

ASSEMBLY / SESSION / YEAR
67th General Assembly / 3rd / 2026

BILL NUMBER: **30**

TITLE: **Public Libraries Act**

#	SECTION	AMENDMENT	DATE

NOTED:

_____
COMMITTEE CLERK

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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CHAIR, IN COMMITTEE

PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT

BILL NO. 30 **2026**

BE IT ENACTED by the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island as follows:

1. Definitions

(1) In this Act

(a) "**former Act**" means the *Public Libraries Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. P-31.1;

(b) "**library**" means

(i) a collection of materials, which may include print media, digital media, recordings, films and other materials, organized and maintained for use or circulation but not for sale; or

(ii) the premises or digital space in which a collection referred to in clause (a) is located;

(c) "**library services**" means the resources, programs and assistance provided in a library, which may include circulation services, reference and research services, interlibrary loans of materials, and community programs;

(d) **"Minister"** means the Minister of Education and Early Years;

(e) "**public library**" means a library operated under this Act to provide library services to the public.

Terms in *Education Act*

(2) In this Act, the terms "**school**" and "**education authority**" have the same meaning as they do in the *Education Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. E-.02.

2. Duties of Minister

(1) The Minister shall ensure, support and enhance the provision of library services in public libraries.

Powers of Minister

(2) For the purpose of subsection (1), the Minister may

(a) operate public libraries, solely or in partnership with other persons or organizations, including non-profit organizations, municipalities and education authorities;

(b) operate a centralized cataloguing service for public libraries and school libraries;

(c) purchase materials for public libraries;

(d) coordinate and facilitate interlibrary cooperation with federal and other provincial and territorial library agencies; and

(e) take other actions as the Minister considers appropriate.

Agreements

(3) The Minister may enter into an agreement with a person or an organization, including a non-profit organization, a municipality or an education authority, with respect to the operation of a public library.

Termination of agreement

(4) An agreement made pursuant to subsection (3) shall include provisions respecting the termination of the agreement by the Minister and the other party.

Transitional - agreement

(5) An agreement made pursuant to the former Act in effect immediately before this Act comes into force is considered to be an agreement made pursuant to this Act and continues in effect in accordance with its terms.

Transitional – public library

(6) A public library in operation under the former Act immediately before this Act comes into force is considered to be a public library operated under this Act.

3. Fee for damaged or lost materials

Where a person damages or loses library materials belonging to a public library, the Minister may charge the person a fee equal to the cost of repairing or replacing the library materials.

4. Regulations

The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations respecting any matter the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers necessary or advisable to carry out the intent and purposes of this Act.

5. Repeal

The *Public Libraries Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. P-31.1, is repealed.

(Bill No. 30)

Public Libraries Act

STAGE:	***DATE:***
1st Reading:	November 3, 2026
2nd Reading:	
To Committee:	
Reported:	
3rd Reading and Pass:	
Assent:	

SIGNATURES:

Honourable Dr. Wassim Salamoun, Lieutenant Governor

Honourable Brad Trivers, Speaker

Joseph Jeffrey, Clerk

Hon. Robin Croucher
Minister of Education and Early Years

GOVERNMENT BILL

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