

Regent Place Relocation RPL Staff Information January 2012

Questions and Answers:

Why is Regina Public Library looking at moving the Regent Place Branch?

In anticipation of the end of our current lease, (January 31, 2012), the Board directed the Administration to review our situation and the marketplace to determine whether there were other options. A number of proposals were reviewed and analyzed against our current situation and our new location was selected.

What are the benefits to changing locations?

RPL patrons will have better access and parking at the new larger location and the community will have greater flexibility in accessing our collections and programs.

Are we moving because of the Tim Horton's drive-thru?

The decision to relocate was based on what is best for RPL today and in the long-term future. The landlord at our new location is making significant investment in the building infrastructure.

It will be an as-new building where all of the building maintenance and design issues have been addressed.

Tim Horton's is a great community partner and as a very successful business, they brought many visitors to our site.

Were there ever any plans to just close the Branch?

No. Closing was never a consideration.

Is the new Branch larger?

Yes. The new location is almost 30% bigger (the current branch is 9,000 and the new branch is 11,500 square feet). This will allow us greater flexibility in serving the community.

Where is the new Branch?

The new Branch is two blocks south of the current location. It will be in the Market Mall on North Albert Street (331 Albert Street).

Will there be a large cost difference to run the new Branch?

While there initially would be start-up costs and a small increase in operating expenses, RPL will benefit financially in the long term, as this will be similar to a new building with energy-efficient options like updated insulation and windows.

There would have been additional future costs associated with our current location that have been considered in the final decision.

The Library Board has committed Home Lottery money to Branch development, is this new Branch being funded by the Home Lottery?

Yes. The proceeds of the 2012 Library Home Lottery are earmarked for the new Regent Place Branch.

Who made the final decision to move?

After reviewing the information provided by the Administration, the Regina Public Library Board made the final decision to move locations.

Their decision was based on what is best for Regina Public Library and the community.

Will the new Branch design focus on the current Service Plan vision?

Yes. RPL will be creating a welcoming space that is designed to meet the needs of the community. It will embrace the changes we want to make in all our locations. It will build on some of the innovative ideas presented in the new Prince of Wales Branch.

Will the new Branch be getting new furniture and shelving?

Yes. The Board has set aside capital resources for new shelving and furniture.

The RPL Design Board will be used as the guide for finishes and colours. Our stable long-term purchasing agreements for furniture and shelving will be used to purchase furnishings.

When will we be moving into to the new Branch?

We will take possession of the new Branch in early June and begin moving in the new furniture, shelving and our collections.

We expect to be providing full Library services to the community by July 1 at the latest.

Why do we have to wait to July 1 to be in the new location?

The landlord is completely renovating the property to install a new structural floor and implement a design that will meet our current and future needs.

What happens between January 31 and July 1?

We will have a smaller, temporary location in the Market Mall (309 Albert Street). This space is 1,500 square feet (just over 1.5 times the size of the old Prince of Wales).

A smaller location will mean less staff are needed. What will happen to the current Regent Place staff?

Deputy Library Director Julie McKenna and the Public Service Managers have developed a temporary plan for staff relocation.

What hours will the temporary Branch be open?

At this time we plan to have the same hours as we have now at Regent Place.

What services will we offer our patrons in this smaller location?

We will offer our patrons limited services while we are in transition. These services will include:

Programming for preschoolers

Popular Picks

Reduced collection size with content for all ages

Small DVD collection

Hold Pickup

24-hour outdoor book drop beside the temporary branch

We will keep a close watch on the services we provide at the temporary location and will have the flexibility to make changes to ensure that patron's needs are being met.

Do we have to change phone numbers while in transition?

No. Our phone numbers will remain the same.

Will we have Internet Access?

Yes. RPL is looking at having two patron computer work stations as well as wireless Internet service.

Are there washroom facilities?

Yes. The temporary Branch will have a wheelchair accessible washroom.

Does this change in location fit into the overall RPL long term strategic plan?

Yes. Since the new Board of Directors was formed in 2004 to find alternatives to closing Branches, they have strategically found options to create new and more modern facilities like the new Prince of Wales Branch, the relocation of Albert Branch to the North Central Shared Facility and now Regent Place.

Is the new Branch hard to get to?

No. The new location is only two blocks south of the current location and has very good Regina Transit access and parking.

Does the new Branch have a bus stop close by?

Yes. Regina City Transit stops just south of the new location.

How and when will you tell patrons we are moving?

Staff at Regent Place had a briefing with Julie McKenna in November. They were also provided with some materials to help them answer patron questions.

Now that our lease negotiations are concluded, Marketing and Communications will provide signage and handouts, as well as a multi-media campaign to inform our patrons of our new temporary location.

We will place "coming soon" signage at our new location and continue to provide updates on the progress as the design and construction work continues.

A special grand opening ceremony, similar to that held at Prince of Wales will be planned once we are comfortably in our new Branch.

Who can I ask if I have more questions?

If you have any questions please call Marketing and Communication at 777-6113.