

Albert Community Library Committee

After some breaks in continuity, the Albert Community Library Committee (ALCLC) has welcomed some new participants and they are once again engaging with the Branch. As part of the agreement between the Community Association and the Library Board, the Committee is asked to present annually to the Board. The Committee will be at the Board meeting this month with their presentation for 2013.

Council of the Federation Award

The Council of the Federation Award *"is presented in every province and territory, and recognizes outstanding achievement, innovative practice and excellence in literacy."* Saskatchewan's 2013 recipient is a nominee from Regina Public Library's literacy program. Phyllis Jones has been a literacy volunteer at RPL for 24 years and has helped many new Reginans settle into their chosen country and learn or improve their English language skills.

The award will be presented to Ms. Phyllis Jones by Honourable Don Morgan, Minister of Education, at the Legislature on 28 November. Board members may recall that an RPL literacy program participant, Dr. Wei He, received Saskatchewan's Council of the Federation Award in 2011.

Fall Media Campaign

As part of the media work being done over the next six months, a fall campaign is about to be launched that focuses on the Library's digital downloads. Particular emphasis is on magazines and music with ad placement through transit, billboards, cinema, and Captive Audience. Some ad samples will be brought to the Board meeting for information if they are ready in time.

RSO Free Concert Series

The 2013-14 RSO Free Concert Series has been confirmed recently under the name of a new sponsor – Dr. Roberta McKay and Elmer Brenner. The concerts are held at Central Library on the mezzanine and the series dates this year are:

Sunday, November 17: 2:00 pm
Saturday, December 14: 1:00 pm
Thursday, January 23: 7:00 pm
Sunday, February 9: 2:00 pm
Wednesday, March 19: 7:00 pm
Sunday, April 13: 2:00 pm

Staff Holiday Reception

Each year in December the RPL Board hosts a Holiday Reception for Library Staff. It has usually been held on the first Friday in December, and this year that would be the 6th. If the Board would like to host a Holiday Reception in 2013, a motion from the Board is in order to set a date and initiate the planning process.

Public Accounts

The Library's Public Accounts document for 2012 has been prepared and is included in the Board package for review and approval. Once approved, the statements are posted on the Library's website and provided to the City for information.

Public Accounts includes salary range for every employee (by job title) in the Library, Board member honoraria and expenses, and amounts in excess of \$10,000 paid to Library vendors.

Audit 2013

By virtue of the *Public Libraries Act, 1996*, RPL's auditor is the same as the auditor for the City of Regina. As such, an audit engagement letter from Deloitte LLP is included in the Board package for signature by the Board Chair and the Library Director & CEO. A motion to authorize engagement of the auditor is in order.

Budget 2014

The Library's 2014 budget is included in the Board package and is presented for discussion and approval in advance of submission to City Council for the Library's 2014 mill rate request.

Through its Strategic and Service Plans, RPL strives always to adapt to and meet community needs. In broad terms, 2014 will be a significant planning year for RPL as the Library engages in further public consultation, renews the Service Plan, and continues capital planning for Central Library and the branch system. Areas of focus for 2014 include:

- Operating:
 - Enhanced resources in print, production, and promotion to support the winter/spring public engagement and communications campaign
 - Moving forward with IT and electronic services initiatives for library users

- Known and anticipated inflationary increases for products and services (utilities, contract services, etc.)
- Increases in library materials expenditures, improving electronic services and adding a new national service to support print disabled users
- Review and renewal of the Library's Service Plan
- Contract negotiations with CUPE 1594

- Capital
 - Anticipated payments in support of the Library's commitment to the North Central Shared Facility for the Albert Branch
 - Planning for branch development initiatives to begin in 2015
 - Continue work toward Central Library Development

The budget, as proposed, calls for a mill rate increase of 3.64%.

City process and dates are just being confirmed but the latest information indicates that the RPL Board will present its mill rate request on 13 November and that the request will be addressed by City Council for decision in February.