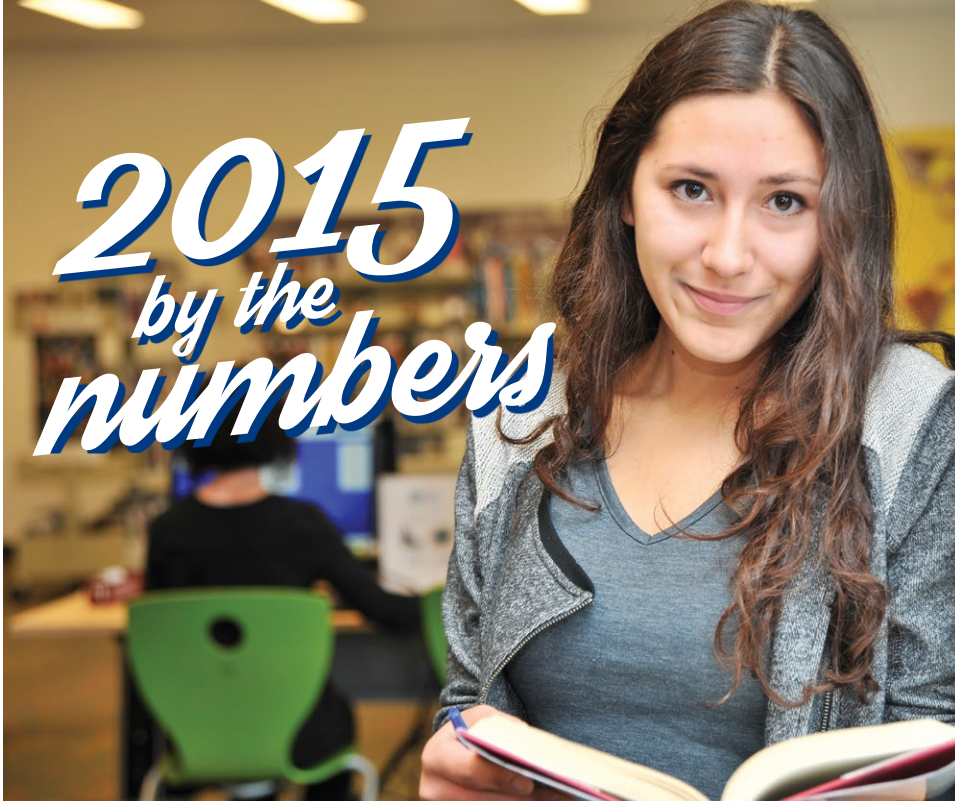


# 2015 by the numbers



RPL's access to materials from all over Saskatchewan makes it easy for patrons to find their next great read.

Photo by Don Hall

- 25,495 hours** open to the public
- 1,410,332 in-person visits**
- 76,369 active library cards**
- 84,560 physical items** added to the collection
- 2,060,197 overall circulation**
- 123,116 e-books** borrowed
- 29,366 e-audiobooks** borrowed
- 10,190 streaming music tracks** played
- 8,659 streaming TV shows and movies** circulated
- 187 public access computers**
- 150,604 hours** of public Internet usage
- 207,664 in-house computer sessions**
- 677,559 Wi-Fi sessions**
- 6,400 library programs** provided
- 135,000 attendees** at library programs
- 225 programs and events** offered at Dunlop Art Gallery
- 36,013 in-person visits** to the Dunlop Art Gallery
- 555 film screenings** offered at the RPL Film Theatre
- 10,130 in-person visits** to the RPL Film Theatre
- 1,419,468 e-visits** to reginalibrary.ca

Audited financial statements are available at [reginalibrary.ca/about/budget.html](http://reginalibrary.ca/about/budget.html).

## LITERACY VOLUNTEERS

Late 2015 saw the first influx of Syrian refugees into Canada. RPL anticipated a need for additional tutors to help newcomers learn English, and issued a call to the public, requesting volunteer support. The response from the community has been overwhelmingly positive: Hundreds of volunteers have contacted RPL to offer their help and support for the volunteer tutor program, which has helped address a backlog of requests from newcomers hoping to learn English. New tutors will also help provide these new residents with the confidence they need to integrate into our society.

## ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

In 2015 RPL partnered with the Regina Downtown Business Improvement District and the city's Attractions Committee to maintain a constant presence at events across Regina. The library was present at the Regina Farmers' Market, the Regina Teachers' Convention, the Community Fair for Newcomers, the Cathedral Village Arts Festival, the Queen City Pride event, I Love Regina Day, and many more events across the city.

The library held its annual summer reading contest for children, teens and adults. Close to 5,000 children participated in the contest - an increase of 20% over 2014. 2015 was the first year RPL offered special services to visually impaired patrons who wanted to participate in the Summer Reading Contest and Club.

The Library's Outreach Unit offered Aboriginal programming for the first time. The staff in the unit have been very involved in the Centre for Equitable Library Access program, which expanded RPL's collection of resources available to the visually impaired.

In 2015 RPL introduced a community access card, to provide access to library materials for members of the public who don't have a home address.

### 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Darryl Lucke, <i>Chair</i>	Renu Kapoor, <i>Deputy Chair</i>
Elmer Brenner	Councillor Sharron Bryce
Mayor Michael Fougere	Cindy Kobayashi
Barbara March-Burwell	Sean Quinlan
Jerven Weekes	

**Jeff Barber, Library Director & CEO**  
*Secretary to the Board of Directors*

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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# 2015 Annual Report

It's been a great year





## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

2015 was a terrific year for Regina Public Library.

One of the most exciting projects we began in 2015 was renovating the George Bothwell Branch at the Southland Mall. With a 20-year history of great service in the current branch, it is time to create a 21st Century Library that is functional, flexible, inspiring, inviting, and welcoming to all. Work will continue into the new year and we expect the newly-renovated Branch to reopen late in 2016.

RPL also provided leadership for the design and partnership of the Mâdawêyatitân Centre in North Central Regina. Construction started in April 2015 and is well on its way to completion in mid 2017. The Centre will house RPL's Albert Branch, and will provide an excellent means by which the library can connect with community partners to bring unique and far-reaching programs and services to the community.

Both the George Bothwell renovation and construction of the Mâdawêyatitân Centre demonstrate the Board's ongoing commitment to Branch renewal, to ensure our Branches are well suited to meet the changing needs of our community.

These are just two of the many projects and initiatives RPL undertook in 2015, as we continue to uphold our commitment to enhancing the quality of life in Regina. I invite you to look through this report to learn more.

**Darryl Lucke, RPL Board Chair**

## MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR/CEO

Another successful year has come to an end at Regina Public Library and I am very pleased to report that we celebrated many positive events in 2015.

**I would like to thank our staff for their tremendous efforts in providing dynamic programs, events and services that proactively addressed Regina's growth and changing needs.**

In 2015 RPL had 1.4 million visits to our Branches and an equal number of visits to our website. This increase in demand for electronic materials is reflective of the changes we see the world over. It's integral to the business of the library that we continue to meet the demands of the public through both physical and electronic materials, programs and services.

RPL continues to build and adapt its digital offerings, and providing digital and physical spaces in which the community can connect and share knowledge. Through programs and services such as the Maker conference, new 3D printers, increased self check functionality, and an improved wireless network, RPL is ensuring it remains relevant and of interest to the community in years to come.

We are committed to our patrons and to the community, and we continue to make a difference in the lives of Regina citizens.

**Jeff Barber, Library Director/CEO**

## 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

### GEORGE BOTHWELL BRANCH

In 2015 RPL initiated plans to renovate its George Bothwell Branch at the Southland Mall. The branch is the second-most-used after Central, and serves a large and continuously-growing group of patrons. Bothwell's current space has become too small to accommodate the thousands of patrons who visit it, and it has become clear that the much-loved branch is in need of a renovation.

Early on in the design process RPL solicited input from the public, to make sure the renovations met their needs. RPL has since finalized design plans for a new Bothwell - one that's bigger and even better for patrons to use.

**The plans for the branch reflect the changes happening to libraries the world over... ensuring they are spaces in which the community can congregate, share information, stimulate ideas and learning, and establish connections.**

### MÂMAWÊYATITÂN CENTRE

Regina Public Library partnered with the City of Regina and other groups to lead development and initiate construction of the Mâdawêyatitân Centre. The facility will be a hub of community activities and will include Scott Collegiate, a child care facility, community centre, the RPL's Albert Branch, and a community policing centre.

By the end of 2015 the project was over 25 per cent complete, and well on its way to being finished on schedule in mid-2017.

Like the Library, the Centre is created from community, driven by passion, and inspired by lifelong learning for everyone. The potential for integration of programs and services with other community organizations gives RPL unprecedented reach in serving community needs while showing everyone the incredible offering of RPL and its staff.

### NEW TECHNOLOGY AND MAKER

Technology continues to play an important role at RPL, and at libraries the world over. RPL is building and adapting its digital and technical offerings, and providing digital and physical spaces in which the community can connect and share knowledge.

**In 2015, two 3D printers were purchased for the library. The printers use an additive process, building successive layers of material to construct a three-dimensional object. One printer is available for public use, and a second is being used in RPL programming.**

3D printers are used extensively within the Maker movement, an umbrella term for independent inventors, designers and tinkerers who gather to discuss their hobbies and create new and useful objects. RPL hosted its second successful Maker conference in 2015. The event focused on education, entertainment and art for all ages, and featured groups from around the community demonstrating their hobbies and interests.

RPL continued to introduce self-check stations in its Branches, allowing the public to self-manage their check outs. This provides the ability for RPL staff to shift focus from "transactional" check out services to more "human" interface services such as reference and readers' advisory, helping patrons with technology, and enhancing operational services such as public programming.



*RPL offers many resources and services to help students achieve great things - from free Wi-Fi access to Homework Help programs.*

*Photo by Don Hall*

In 2015 RPL improved its wireless network to enhance the availability and stability of Wi-Fi services for patrons. It made improvements to its wired network, and enhanced its system performance overall to accommodate new systems in the future.

### TRANSITION TO POLARIS

In early fall, Regina Public Library worked alongside the Saskatchewan Information and Library Services Consortium (SILS), of which it is a member, to upgrade Saskatchewan's library catalogue system. The new catalogue system is now installed, and work continues at RPL to fine tune and integrate the system.

### EVACUEES

Summer 2015 brought with it unprecedented wildfires that spread across the province's north. Hundreds of residents were forced from their homes to temporary living spaces, such as at Evraz Place in Regina.

During the evacuation, RPL set up a mobile library at Evraz, providing free materials, literacy programming and daily entertainment to evacuees. RPL staff also worked with SaskTel to hard wire a computer lab for the evacuees to use.

### DUNLOP ART GALLERY'S MATERIAL GIRLS

The Dunlop Art Gallery received national attention with its Material Girls show. The show was developed, curated and hosted by the Dunlop team. It attracted nearly 10,000 visitors and broke attendance records, and received national press coverage from the Globe and Mail and Canadian Art magazine.

**After receiving requests for the show to appear elsewhere, Material Girls was transitioned into a touring show, and is visiting several galleries across Canada. The tour was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Saskatchewan Arts Board's Culture on the Go program.**

*Each RPL location has a dedicated Children's area where families can spend quality time together.*

*Photo by Don Hall*

