

Provincial Public Library Strategic Plan

Each year the Provincial Librarian convenes a meeting of all Library Directors and Board Chairs of the ten public library systems in Saskatchewan. In recent years, the main item of business is review and discussion of the provincial strategic plan for public libraries and the RPL Board has seen the evolving plan.

The plan *"advances priorities that are in alignment with each organization's mission, values, and goals"*, and there have been three main sources of input for the strategic plan in recent years:

- Library Directors, Board Chairs, and Trustees, through the course of specific meetings or recurring themes in public library practice in the province and in their connections to municipalities;
- The Government & Libraries Forum (2009) that brought administration and trustees from public library systems together with people from all levels and many Ministries within government to look at how our services can be strengthened through partnership; and
- Goals set by the Ministry that are reflected and supported in different topics within the strategic plan.

Along with the Provincial Library and Literacy Office, each of the public library systems participates in the provincial strategic plan for public libraries. This year's plan, discussed at the Library Directors and Board Chairs Meeting earlier this month, is included in the Board's package. It is reflective of areas in which RPL is already very active.

A motion to endorse the plan would be appropriate.

Library Maintenance and Repair

In the next few months, Board members may notice work being done at the Central Library and at the Sherwood Village Branch. At the Central Library, the entry doors are failing and, originally purchased as second-hand doors, it is no longer reasonably possible to replace parts. An investigation into the possibility of replacing the two doors with one entry door has proven to be unjustifiable, as it turns out that the glass wall on which the doors are mounted is being held up by the framing of the doors making that option prohibitively expensive. As a result, the current doors will be replaced as the lower cost option.

At Sherwood Village Branch, access to the parking lot beside the YMCA has been severely hampered in recent months by the closure of the roadway due to huge potholes. For a time, traffic was re-routed through the Library's parking lot which, in turn, worsened the condition of the pavement. The awkward access was accommodated because it was

known to be temporary. The condominium building, long-scheduled to be built on the southwest corner of the mall parking lot, is now going up. By mid-summer, the roadway to Rochdale Boulevard will be torn up so that utilities can be buried underground and the condominium developer will then replace the roadway. However, the work will not be complete until the end of summer. If at all possible, the Library will have its parking lot re-surfaced at the same time.

Although not in the category of Library repair, the roads around the Library will be closed or restricted over the summer. Both Smith Street and Lorne Street, between 11th Avenue and 12th Avenue, are under construction. Lorne Street, Smith Street and 12th Avenue around the Central Library will be open, but traffic may move more slowly than usual.

Sherwood Village Branch

While working through parking lot and access issues, Sherwood Village Branch staff is also to be congratulated for their recent implementation of self-check machines for patrons. Sherwood Village Branch has been the first retro-fitted branch on self-check under the new system and early reports have been very positive.

Prince of Wales Branch

Included in your Board package is an excerpt from the architecture magazine, *Award*, in which a photo of the Prince of Wales Branch is used to highlight some of the open design features incorporated in RPL's new branches.

Design Regina

In recent months, a few senior managers at the Library, including the Library Director, have been participants in the *Design Regina* stakeholder sessions. From differing perspectives, the process looks at the city's growth plan as it moves to a not-too-distant future that will include 300,000 residents. The result of the process will be a new Official Community Plan (OCP). One of the components of the plan is a preferred growth option – that is, how the city should grow to accommodate more people, more business, more industry, and more services.

On May 22, the City provided to the stakeholders group a proposal that the City would favour growth in what it calls the Northwest/Southeast plan. The 44-page proposal has been posted on the City of Regina website:

<http://www.designregina.ca/wp-content/uploads/Stakeholder-Working-Session-3-FINAL-3.pdf>

If this is the option eventually adopted by City Council, it will impact the Board's strategic plan for branch renewal in that we will see larger population growth in some parts of the city than in others and it will impact how the branch network is developed.

Another a key component of the process is *Financing Growth*. The Library does not have the full report on this component but it should be available, at least in draft form, by the June Board meeting. The *Financing Growth* report takes a high-level look at the cost of growth and, in particular, the capital costs of growth. Information has been provided to the City's consultants to make estimates for the Library, and we have gone through one draft. I will bring the updated report to the Board as soon as it is complete.

Library Open Hours

The Library's weekend hours of opening will change in the latter half of the year to test both Summer Sunday hours and additional Sunday hours in the Fall. Over the Summer, the Central Library is normally open on Sunday, but this year the Library will add the Albert, George Bothwell, Glen Elm, and Sherwood Village Branches.

In the Fall, the Albert, Connaught, and Prince of Wales Branches will be added to the list of branches open on Sundays. Sunday hours will also shift from the current 3.5 open hours to 5 open hours – 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Evaluation of the new hours will be completed later in the year to determine whether or not extended hours should continue or change.

Staff Development Day

RPL's annual Staff Development Day has been tentatively set for Friday, October 25th, pending Board approval for Library closure for the day. This RPL mini-conference is our opportunity to learn from each other and from external experts, and is very much appreciated by all at RPL. The day provides insights into broader public library topics, but also focuses on the skills and abilities needed to work in our particular service environment.

SILS Update

At the Annual General Meeting of the Saskatchewan Information & Library Services (SILS) Consortium, I became President of the Consortium. As noted in an earlier report, Joylene Campbell has been appointed to the role of Interim Executive Director, and it is, once again, a great help to have someone in that position who is so familiar with the environment and the work of the Consortium. A new Executive Director will be in place early in the Fall.