

Library Director's Report

2015 Budget – Draft 3

The 2015 Budget proposal is before the Board for consideration and approval either as presented, or as amended. The City's timeline for consideration of the Library Board's mill rate request will require that the mill rate request and supporting documents be submitted by November 5th for inclusion on the agenda for the Executive Committee of City Council on November 12th. The Library Board is scheduled to present its mill rate request to City Council at that meeting.

A more complete outline of the budget proposal is included with the budget documents but, in summary, the Library's 2015 budget continues to emphasize transition in meeting the needs of the community. The allocation for library collections has grown in recent years to reflect the need to collect materials in physical and digital formats. Support for technology has also grown and, whether intended for base infrastructure or public-facing technologies, meeting community needs for technology is a continued focus for RPL. Adapting existing locations to community spaces from book storage space has led to a modest increase in budgeted amounts for furniture and shelving. The Central Library and branch renewal remain a priority and the budget includes continued work to advance the Central Library discussion and a capital allocation toward the Library's share of the new Albert Branch in the North Central Shared Facility.

As noted in the earlier Board budget discussion, Library Administration is constantly reviewing and updating information that could impact budget projections. Since Draft 2, a few items have been adjusted and the budget, as proposed, represents all known information as of October 25th. As presented, the budget includes a proposed mill rate increase of 2.7%.

Staff Holiday Reception

Each year, the Board hosts a holiday reception for staff in the Boardroom. While the date fluctuates, depending upon the calendar, it is most often on the first Friday of December. This year, the first Friday is December 5th and, if the Board would like to host a reception this year, a Board motion directing Administration to make the arrangements and send the invitation would be in order.

News from the Library Community

- Included in the Board package for information item is the *Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development*. The Declaration was launched this summer at the World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) of the International Federation of Library

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Associations and Institutions (IFLA). Fundamentally, the Declaration calls *"on Member States of the United Nations to acknowledge that access to information, and the skills to use it effectively, are required for sustainable development"*. A number of organizations of which RPL is a member, including the Canadian Library Association and the Canadian Urban Libraries Council, are signatories in supporting the Declaration and advocating for it in the national arena.

- Saskatchewan is, through legislation, a province-wide public library system and RPL works closely with other library systems on a number of services. Recently, a number of changes in public library leadership have been announced. In early October, Provincial Librarian, Brett Waytuck, announced that he had accepted a term assignment (2 to 3 years) to be Executive Director, Student Achievement and Supports, within the Ministry of Education. Over the short-term, Maureen Johns, Director of the Literacy Office, will take his place until an Interim Provincial Librarian is appointed. At the end of this year, two Library Directors will retire – Zenon Zuzak from Saskatoon Public Library and Donna Challis from Lakeland Library Region (North Battleford). The new Library Director for Lakeland Library Region will be Eleanor Crumblehulme. Also, early in 2015, John Murray, Library Director for the Wapiti Regional Library (Prince Albert) will retire.

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