

August 9, 2023  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## St. Albert Public Library embarks on community-driven strategic plan

ST. ALBERT — St. Albert Public Library embraces the future with a new five-year strategic plan driven by St. Albertans that prioritizes literacy, community and reconciliation. The strategies, goals, and objectives in the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan: Here for YOU, Here for ALL focus on community needs and priorities that were identified by St. Albertans through broad community engagement, research, and focused planning sessions.

“In the spring of 2023, the Library began the process of building our next five-year strategic plan with a commitment to ensuring that Library services are in sync with the needs of St. Albertans,” says Library CEO Peter Bailey. “The process took months and involved significant public consultation and input from staff at all levels, all guided by the Library leadership team and the Library Board of Trustees. The result is a strategic direction that comes from the community, and reflects who we are and where we want to go.”

The first strategic direction is **Create Young Readers: Early Literacy**. Early literacy is foundational to all future learning and educational success, and this strategic direction ensures that children will have the programs, services, collections, space, and staff support to ensure they will be ready to learn to read, write and listen.

The second strategic direction is **Participate and Connect: Community Engagement**. The Library is a community gathering place, and this strategic direction focuses on ensuring that community members have opportunities for community dialogue, collaboration, partnership, and civic engagement.

The third strategic direction was strongly supported throughout all the Library’s community consultation as well as by staff: **Pursue Truth and Reconciliation**. This strategic direction focuses on ensuring that community members are supported in their Truth and Reconciliation journeys.

The Library developed this strategic plan based on comprehensive input from the community: a Community Needs Assessment, and two Community Conferences peopled by a range of St. Albertans who volunteered their time for two full days over two months to identify priority service roles for the Library based on community need.

The Library Board, leadership team and staff provided feedback on those community-identified priorities through a series of sessions. From there, Library staff developed the goals and objectives that will guide the Library's work through to 2028.

"The Library is constantly collecting feedback from patrons to evolve our collections and services. For the strategic planning, we took that feedback to the next level," says Library Board Co-Chair Colleen McClure. "We thank these committed St. Albertans for their generous and thoughtful contribution to the strategic direction of the Library over the next five years."

Find the 2023-2028 St. Albert Public Library strategic plan on the Publications page at [sapl.ca](http://sapl.ca).

-30-

**Media contact:**

Peter Bailey, CEO

780-459-1681 | [pbailey@sapl.ca](mailto:pbailey@sapl.ca)