

June 17, 2025

St. Albert Public Library CEO Peter Bailey Announces Retirement After 24 Years of Service

St. Albert, AB — The St. Albert Public Library (SAPL) Board announces the upcoming retirement of Chief Executive Officer Peter Bailey, effective August 31, 2025, after 24 years of dedicated service to the library and the community.

Peter Bailey has been a transformative leader at SAPL, serving as CEO for the past 15 years. Since joining the library in 2001, Peter has played a pivotal role in shaping SAPL into a vibrant, inclusive, and innovative community hub. His leadership has guided the library through significant growth, including the expansion of digital services, the launch of impactful literacy and outreach programs, and the establishment of the Jensen Lakes Library.

“Peter’s vision and unwavering commitment to public service have left an enduring mark on our library and our city,” said Meagan Dechaine and Jennifer Freitas, [Co-Chairs of the St. Albert Public Library Board](#). “His advocacy, especially during critical moments such as the 2022 funding crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, ensured that the library remained a vital resource for the people of St. Albert.”

Bailey’s influence extends beyond St. Albert. He has held leadership roles with several national and provincial library organizations, including serving as Chair of the [Canadian Federation of Library Associations](#), President of the [Library Association of Alberta](#), and Director roles with [The Alberta Library](#) and the [Centre for Equitable Library Access](#). He also serves on the Centre for Free Expression’s [Working Group on Intellectual Freedom](#).

Reflecting on his career, Bailey shared, “It has been the honour of my life to serve the community of St. Albert. From the moment I walked through the doors of St. Albert Place in 2001, I knew I had found my place and my people.”

“The future of libraries isn’t digital, it’s biological. It’s about people, not things,” said Bailey. “People are at the heart of what libraries do, what they’re for, why they exist. I extend my heartfelt thanks to

the people of SAPL – staff, trustees and volunteers – who joined with me and supported me on this journey to make our library a true ‘people’s place’. I’m so proud of what we’ve built together.”

The Library Board has initiated a comprehensive executive search to ensure a smooth leadership transition. Plans to celebrate Peter’s remarkable contributions will be announced in the coming months.

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