

Media Release

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St. Albert Public Library Announces Appointment of New CEO

St. Albert, AB — The Board of Trustees of the St. Albert Public Library (SAPL) is pleased to announce the appointment of Laura Winton as the Library's new Chief Executive Officer, effective February 2026.

Winton brings extensive experience in library leadership, community engagement, and innovative service design to the top job at SAPL. She joins the team from the Bibliothèque de Beaumont Library, where she spearheaded transformative initiatives including major facility redesigns, enhanced spaces for children and quiet study, and collaborative projects with the City to expand access to recreational and literacy resources.

Winton's leadership extends beyond her local contributions. She currently serves as Past President of the Library Association of Alberta and Vice-Chair of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations, reflecting her dedication to advancing library services at both provincial and national levels.

"Laura is a visionary leader with a deep understanding of how libraries can serve as vital community hubs," said Meagan Dechaine, co-chair of the SAPL Board of Trustees. "Her passion for inclusive, innovative library services and her proven track record of fostering strong partnerships aligns perfectly with SAPL's mission and values and makes her the ideal person to lead SAPL into its next chapter."

In her new role, Winton will lead SAPL's passionate team through strategic priorities, foster staff engagement, and strengthen partnerships across the community. She is deeply committed to community-centered service, innovation, and maximizing public impact.

"I'm honoured to support the talented staff at SAPL and inspired by St. Albert's engaged and vibrant community," said Winton.

Winton will officially assume her role in February 2026. In the interim, Lisa Old, SAPL's Collections and Member Services Manager, will continue to serve as Interim CEO, ensuring continuity and strong leadership during the transition.

The Board of Trustees and SAPL staff are excited to welcome Winton and look forward to her leadership as the Library continues to grow its programs, partnerships, and community reach.

"We are delighted to welcome Laura as our new CEO," says Jennifer Freitas, co-chair of the SAPL Board of Trustees. Her strategic vision, collaborative leadership style, and deep appreciation for the role of libraries in building vibrant communities make her an exceptional fit for SAPL. Her passion for lifelong learning, community engagement, and innovation aligns with the long-term vision for the Library as an essential, inclusive, and forward-looking part of St. Albert."

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