



2021 Report to the Community

Here for **YOU**. Here for **ALL**.

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Our commitment to reconciliation

St. Albert Public Library sits on Treaty 6 territory, traditional lands of First Nations and Métis peoples, near the sites of the Youville and Poundmaker residential schools. We acknowledge our role as a colonial institution and our responsibility to act on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

Messages from the Chair and CEO



Janice Marschner, Chair

St. Albert Public Library has much to be proud of in 2021. Our focus was on looking ahead; our 2021-22 strategic plan was built around personal and economic recovery goals that impact individuals, families, and the larger community, and Library staff spent the year working to

make these goals a reality. The public library plays a vital role for St. Albertans of all ages and walks of life, building community connections, access to opportunities, and supports for individuals and the collective good.



Peter Bailey, CEO

Recovery, connection, and coming back together safely. These were the recurring themes of 2021, and we heard time and again how happy St. Albertans were to return to the library – the heart of the community – and safely connect with each other and staff, with collections and programs.

Library staff showed innovation and kindness in continuing to meet the evolving needs of the community in a difficult year.

2021 was about community recovery

Here for you. Here for all. It's the foundation for what we do every day. Our mission to serve all St. Albertans makes the Library uniquely positioned to support the community in its recovery from the pandemic. We focused on helping St. Albertans in their lifelong learning, economic recovery, and personal recovery. Libraries are also places of enthusiasm and possibility, and we provided points of connection and joy for citizens through a difficult year.

I really do appreciate the library, especially during this COVID time. Thank you for all you do to keep us sane!

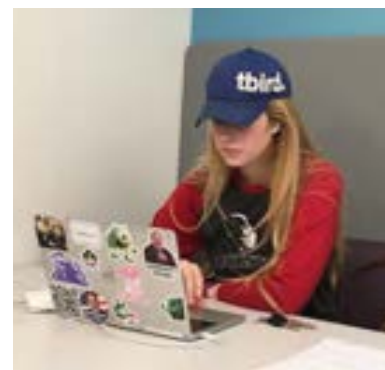
The Library reached into the community in new and innovative ways. Our focus was on: students and educators; families; seniors; isolated individuals; job seekers; business owners; and marginalized communities. We brought people back into the library spaces they love in thoughtful, safe and creative ways.

What an impact you have made in my kids' lives. I never had that when growing up. So many great things the library offers, all for free.



**Library cards
ARE FREE**
for St. Albert residents

 **871,500**
TOTAL VISITS
(in person & online)



The Library builds community

It was exciting to return to in-person services in 2021. In September we led the region in the return to safe in-person storytimes and afterschool programs at both Library locations when Provincial orders made that possible. We're proud of all the online programs we delivered to ensure people stayed connected when they couldn't come together. But people needed to gather in person, and our key focus was on bringing community together in Library spaces.

I am so happy you are doing programs again. I came in with my first son when he was a baby and the programs were really good. It's so nice to have them as something to do again!

The Outreach Team offered year-round outdoor programs in addition to popular storytimes at the Lacombe Community Garden and in the Garden Crescent green space. Staff created popular craft and STEAM education kits that children and teens could pick up at both Library locations.



595 PROGRAMS
21,921 PEOPLE



Spooky Trail Tale

On a cool wintry night at the end of October, 430 people came together in the woods behind the Downtown Library to enjoy a Spooky Trail Tale in English and French, then enjoy hot chocolate afterward.

Well done, SAPL team, it was an amazing event! So glad I could make it with my little ones! They all loved it!



The Library is for everyone

Vulnerable populations were top of mind in our recovery plans. Most programming and services offered to vulnerable St. Albertans pre-COVID were reinstated in 2021, with some expansions:

- Deliveries to seniors' homes and homebound St. Albertans;
- Programming with Outloud St. Albert;
- In-person supports for newcomers to Canada.

The St. Albert Library is doing an amazing job at diversity in their programming that allows for so many voices of the community. I am so impressed and looking forward to seeing more.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Indigeneity

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Indigeneity (EDI) work in 2021 included Black, Indigenous and LGBTQ2+ Film Watch Parties and teen book club events with Outloud St. Albert.



All Abilities Afternoons

Online and in-person: adults with disabilities and their care workers.



Indigenous Canada Learning Circle

Exploring the history of Canada on a shared journey to reconciliation.



Film Watch Parties

Black, Indigenous and LGBTQ2+ films

The Library is for learning

We are home schooling and we really love coming in to the library. The community vibe that is in here is so important to us!

Summer Reading Game

In pandemic times, literacy supports are more important than ever. Participants played the SRG online, in both Library locations, and at a pop-up tent in the park.

Supports for Educators and Parents

The Library supported students, teachers and parents with: the Educators Newsletter; Trail Tale loans; Earth Day and Arbor Day seed packs and activities; school break programs; and free tutoring for students through our partnership with Discover Prep. The Outreach Team connected with 607 children during 31 visits to preschools and daycares.

Reading Buddies mentorship program

Reading Buddies pairs struggling readers with teen mentors. In 2021, 43 teens volunteered an incredible 372 hours to help 65 struggling readers. Their little buddies read for 251 hours!


It was really fun and something I enjoyed ... I liked seeing my buddy grow as a reader and get better at sounding out words.



785 SRG KIDS
207,120
reading minutes



19 SRG
pop-ups
1,868
ATTENDEES



Teen
SRG
47%

2,856
PLAYS 
Teen Escape Rooms

The Library helped people find jobs

I really truly appreciate this ... Been down in the dumps since losing my job, and hearing that I'm not alone made me feel a lot better, thank you.

In 2021, the Library helped people to get jobs and learn new skill sets. We shared resources with job creators and local businesses, and worked with new and existing partners to broaden the reach of the Career Resource Centre (CRC).

Free CRC supports:

- Résumé Tutor Service offers résumé and job search help
 - Professional and skills development via LinkedIn Learning
 - Career workshops
 - Dedicated work search computers
 - Free printing of résumés, cover letters and job postings
 - Laptops, webcams and headsets for interviews and training
 - Print, eBook and audiobooks on career and job search topics
 - Support from knowledgeable Library staff
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This was AWESOME. You helped me with so many little issues today and now I can apply for jobs easily. Thanks for taking the time to help me, this is exactly what I needed.



 **1,810**
**people supported at the
Career Resource Centre**



The Library was everywhere

Inside, outside, north side, south side, the Library was everywhere in 2021. Our award-winning Outreach Team delivered pop-up library services in parks and neighbourhoods, offering on-the-spot library memberships and material loans. Trail and Stroller Tales in parks and along trails promoted active literacy. Adults love the Trail Tales as much as children do!

We just did the scavenger hunt today and had to let you know that we thoroughly enjoyed this! This was so fun and funny and just perfect for my young children. Thank you so much!

Year-round scavenger hunts and self-directed Forest Friends programs in the woods behind the Downtown Library received great feedback from families needing to get out of the house for safe, fun activities. Library staff used a donated Book Bike to take library services deeper into the trail system.

What a good program! I saw lots of children running sign to sign yesterday.



60
**TRAIL AND
STROLLER
TALES**



22
**pop-up
libraries**
547 PEOPLE

99 
participants
seniors & multigenerational
programs


7 **Forest
Friends
Events**
153 people

Jensen Lakes Library came into its own in 2021

We are loving the Jensen Lakes Library. It is so easy to get out of the car and just walk in the door without having to wrangle the kids across the busy road. And the staff are so helpful!

This small but mighty library location with a staff of three has steadily worked its way into the hearts of the community despite its challenging start, opening only six weeks before the pandemic changed everything in 2020. Residents of north St. Albert and beyond have embraced Jensen Lakes Library (JLL) for its ease of access to all library collections, the Spring Break and Summer Reading Games, quiet study spaces, and continued Curbside Pickup service.

It's so convenient to have a library up here!

In September, JLL staff began offering weekly in-person storytimes and three afterschool programs each month. The popular afterschool programs fill up fast with waiting lists.



↑ **14,994**
VISITS
377%


↑↑ **JLL loans**
60%



23 **PROGRAMS**
99 **ATTENDEES**
(Sept. — Dec.)

2021 highlights

 **4%**
Total loans
(physical + digital)

 **19%**
Total visits
(in-person + virtual)

**Total
physical loans**
(books + AV) 
↑11%

Holds 
64%

Holds 
219%
at Jensen Lakes Library

 **Memberships**
26%

**Total
loans** 
656,729



Thanks to our partners and supporters

St. Albert Public Library is a municipal service funded primarily by the City of St. Albert. We thank the City for its ongoing support of Library collections, programs and services.



The Province of Alberta supports St. Albert Public Library and other public libraries across Alberta, including annual grant funding and support of shared provincial resources. In addition, we thank the Province for support of the Library's Career Resource Centre.

The Government of Canada supports St. Albert Public Library through Canada Summer Jobs.



We thank the McCoy Foundation for their financial support of the Summer Reading Game. More thanks to the Friends of St. Albert Public Library for their ongoing support of STARFest and the Summer Reading Game. And our gratitude to the many individuals whose donations support free Library memberships, STARFest and Library collections.





**St. Albert
Public
Library**

St. Albert Place | 5 St. Anne Street | St. Albert, AB | T8N 3Z9 | 780-459-1530
Jensen Lakes Library | #1010 880 St. Albert Trail | St. Albert, AB | T8N 7V2 | 780-544-0444

   **sapl.ca**