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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Library Board votes to undertake operational review with City support

ST. ALBERT — The Board of Trustees of St. Albert Public Library voted unanimously Wednesday night to accept \$100,000 from the City of St. Albert to fund a third-party operational review of library services in the community. St. Albert City Council made the decision to offer the Library funding for the review at their December 7 Council meeting. With four new members joining the Library Board in 2022, Board discussion and decision was tabled until the Board’s January 19 meeting.

“The Library Board believes that periodic operational reviews are valuable to every organization, and unanimously agreed that the City’s offer to fund this review is a great opportunity,” says Board chair Bill Wells. “We believe that the Library provides great return on investment, particularly in comparison to other cities in Alberta of a similar size, but looking for improvements is always a good approach. We appreciate the City’s support to undertake this important work.”

The Library undergoes a comprehensive financial audit by an external auditor every year in conjunction with the City of St. Albert annual audit. For that reason, Library CEO Peter Bailey notes that, going forward, the work will be considered an operational review to avoid confusion with the Library’s existing financial audit practices.

“Library services and collections are driven by St. Albertans, and we are constantly collecting feedback through our patrons, our partnerships and our funders, as well as through benchmarking with our peer libraries in Alberta,” Bailey says. “This additional funding from the City will also allow us to augment that work with a community needs assessment and other evaluative research. We’re excited to begin this work with an independent consultant.”

Also at the Library Board’s meeting, William (Bill) Wells was elected Board Chair, Colleen McClure as Vice-Chair, and Trustee David Hlokoﬀ began the second year of his term. Four new members appointed by City Council were welcomed to the Board: Meagan Dechaine, Donna Kawahara, Julie Mann-Johnson and Deborah McTaggart-Baird.

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