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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Federal Government supports Downtown Library refresh

ST. ALBERT —The federal government is supporting a refresh of the Downtown Library in St. Albert Place with an investment of \$289,000 through the Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF).

The CCRF is a two-year \$500 million national infrastructure program to support communities across the country with projects that revitalize downtown cores and main streets, reinvent outdoor spaces, create green infrastructure and address accessibility of community space. PrairiesCan is administering the CCRF in Alberta.

“The Library is the heart of the downtown, bringing hundreds of thousands of visitors to the Perron District every year. We are excited to refresh the space with a focus on accessibility and family spaces that invite people to learn, to play, and to stay,” says Peter Bailey, CEO of St. Albert Public Library. “The revitalization work will focus on the Children’s library with a STEAM wall and other toddler interactives, and a Library Living Room that offers welcoming, multi-use spaces for people of all ages.”

Stakeholder consultation work has already begun, with Reimagine Architects (formerly Manaasc Isaac) leading the project. The Downtown Library will remain open during the work, which will take place over the summer and fall.

Library Board Chair Bill Wells says, “The CCRF funding allows us to create friendlier spaces for meeting, for working, and for families, while maintaining the character of the beautiful, historic Douglas Cardinal building. The work we are about to embark on aligns well with the City of St. Albert’s 2022-2025 Strategic Plan, with its focus on a vibrant downtown and community well-being.”

“Our government continues to make investments that transform public infrastructure into modern gathering places for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities through the Canada Community Revitalization Fund,” said the Honourable Daniel Vandal, Minister for PrairiesCan. “Our investment will revitalize St. Albert Public Library and create an inclusive and accessible community space, ensuring that the Downtown Library can deliver important services and programs for all residents and visitors.”

“Community spaces across Alberta bring people together, attract visitors to downtown cores, and help support countless small businesses,” said the Honourable Randy Boissonnault, Minister of Tourism and Associate Minister of Finance. “Today’s investment in the Downtown Library at St. Albert Place will help support recovery in St. Albert by creating jobs and providing opportunities for residents and visitors to benefit from the local businesses and attractions that are at the heart of the community.”

Last month, current Downtown Library users were invited to complete a short survey sharing their experiences using existing spaces; the Library received valuable feedback from 450 patrons that will help to guide the refresh of Downtown spaces.

The Library will conduct further community consultation in the fall focused on a larger community needs assessment; this work ties into the Library's operational review, which will be completed in 2022.

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