

### 2021 for the Library is about community recovery.

We share the City's focus on community recovery – the 2021-2022 Library Strategic Plan supports social and economic recovery for individuals, organizations and businesses. SAPL recovery priorities identify and support all St. Albertans through early literacy, digital literacy, support for teachers, learners and parents, job and career supports, social and community connections.

### Supports for job seekers & the Career Resource Centre



*I'm glad you're open. I had to scan and send some documents to my new job and I don't have a computer at home."*

### Supports for educators and learners – remote & in person

In 2021 we amped up learning supports for educators and students: monthly Educators newsletter, STEAM videos, virtual classroom visits, and the return to in-person programming. In response to demand, SAPL was one of the first libraries to re-open study spaces; multiple study locations in both locations and the bookable study room Downtown are well used.



Rooney & Punyi  
Reading show:  
61 classes,  
1,400 students



Christmas Around  
the World:  
84 classes,  
1,591 students



Study space at  
Jensen Lakes Library

### The Library is the community's gathering space



We quickly pivoted and reinvented library services online, outside and remotely when the COVID crisis hit. But the library is a community gathering place, and people have been grateful to be back in the buildings.



Our Children's programmers, in particular, dug deep to plan safe in-person programs. Why? Because parents told us their kids need these programs. Screens are not enough. We need to be together and our kids need to be together, too – to learn, to meet each other, to grow.



*We're so happy to have storytimes back. Thank you so much for running them again!"*

### Jensen Lakes Library shines in 2021



- JLL was the ideal location for Curbside Pickup service when libraries closed;
- Curbside Pickup service at JLL continues to be used by our most vulnerable patrons;
- JLL had designated hours for vulnerable patrons at the height of the pandemic;
- In person afterschool JLL programs fill fast with waiting lists (Slime, Bridge Building Bonanza).

## SAPL is one of the best-used libraries in Alberta



We're proud of the work we do to deliver valuable services to thousands of St Albertans each year. The value of public library services has become more apparent than ever as we work together to recover from the social and economic impacts of the pandemic – we were pleased to see the Province recognize that value in September when they designated libraries an essential service. We look forward to continuing our collaborative work with The City to maintain critical services and explore new opportunities to achieve shared strategic goals that benefit St Albertans.

Like the City, the Library continually benchmarks against peer libraries in similar Alberta municipalities: Lethbridge, Red Deer, Airdrie, Grande Prairie, Medicine Hat, Sherwood Park (Strathcona County) and Fort McMurray (Wood Buffalo). 2019 comparators.

**#1**  
circulation  
per capita

**Largest**  
collection  
per capita

**#2**  
program  
attendance

Second lowest  
**cost**  
per circulation  
**\$5.33**

More  
**in-person**  
**visits**  
than the average of  
our peer libraries

## 2022 Library budget

St. Albert Public Library shares the City of St. Albert's goals to continue managing the financial impact of COVID, as identified in the SAPL 2021-2022 Strategic Plan. As part of the City team, we reduced our budget allocation in 2020 by 7% and maintained that reduction in 2021. We are prepared to continue the zero increase for 2022.

### In 2021, maintaining the 7% budget reduction came from these areas:

1. Service level reduction – 20% reduction in opening hours and the resulting salary savings;
2. Permanent elimination of 2 positions that equal 1 FTE;
3. Cuts to materials budget and other non-personnel areas;
4. Use of library reserves to fund some operating costs.

### In 2022, maintenance of the 7% budget reduction will come from these areas:

1. Permanent elimination of 1 more FTE position;
2. Cuts to materials budget and other non-personnel areas;
3. Continued use of library reserves to fund some operating costs.

Library staff have helped St. Albertans of all ages and abilities access, print and laminate their vaccination records, and find and download the Alberta Health QR code. These seemingly small services are part of everyday life at the Library, and they mean the world to residents who are struggling.

*You've been so helpful and I just LOVE the library. You're always willing to help me out and have incredible resources."*

**Here for you. Here for all.**