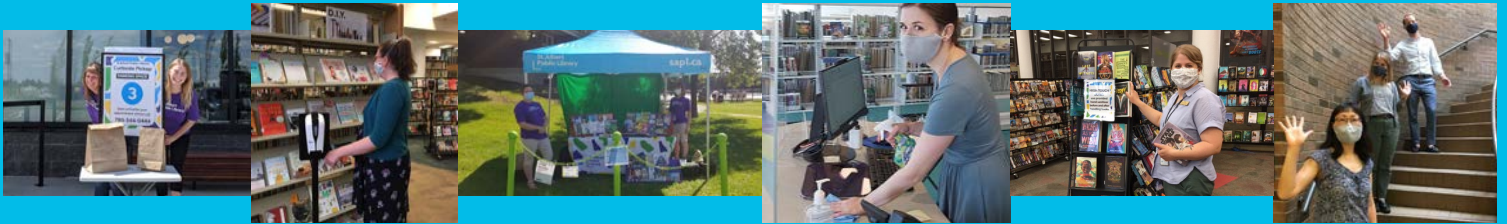


St. Albert Library collaborates with The City of St. Albert on pandemic response

St. Albert Public Library thanks the City of St. Albert for their rapid and thoughtful responses to keep the community safe. We have worked closely with the City in developing each phase of our pandemic response. The expert advice of the CoSA Emergency Operations Centre has been essential in creating a safe path for us all.



Library pandemic response

The Library's pandemic response was a rapid pivot with all hands on deck. We were keenly aware that the Library is vital in hard times – to young people, to families, to seniors, to educators, to the unemployed, and now to people unexpectedly confined to their homes. We were flooded with messages from St. Albertans who rely on the library spaces, collections, services and staff. Library staff responded to those needs while rapidly moving to online service delivery. Our ongoing commitment to serving the evolving needs of our community means moving fast when that community is in a state of emergency lockdown.

The Library rapidly developed and deployed new and adapted virtual services and programs:

- remote memberships, extended expiry dates for memberships and library materials;
- online live and prerecorded programs and experiences for children and families, including a new podcast, STEAM challenges, storytimes, virtual escape rooms and more;
- increased access to eBooks, streaming video and other digital resources (new resources, increased borrowing limits);
- online career workshops and virtual Resume Tutor Service appointments;
- moving two flagship programs online: Summer Reading Games and STARFest;
- expanded virtual learning tools for all ages (four new databases);
- thoughtful and well communicated safety procedures that drew significant praise from library patrons about their feelings of safety;
- provision of critical public health supports, such as mask distribution and access to reliable information sources;
- increased supports for teachers, school from home parents and learners:
 - hundreds of "selfie buttons" created for teachers;
 - face shields being 3D-printed for teachers;
 - new digital databases for educators and learners;
 - Trail Tales outdoor storytime kits can now be borrowed by teachers;
 - new Educators newsletter launched;
 - in-person study spaces reintroduced in September, one of the first in Alberta;
 - virtual Rooney & Punyi Reading Show reached 61 classrooms and 1400 students.



JENSEN LAKES LIBRARY AND SPACE CHALLENGES

Thanks to the City for funding the Storefront Access Project, which opened in January 2020 as Jensen Lakes Library. During its first months of operation, Jensen Lakes Library provided a welcome new place for St. Albertans in the north of the city to gather and to learn.

The pandemic meant a rapid closure of both locations, followed by a careful redesign of library spaces and services to ensure that the reopening of the library was safe for everyone.

- Outreach Van staff developed a variety of safe activities for out of doors, including scavenger hunts, Trail Tales and distanced programs;
- Jensen Lakes Library used for curbside pickup service in Phase I (June);
- Jensen Lakes Library offers designated hours every open day for at-risk patrons.

2021 LIBRARY BUDGET REQUEST

St. Albert Public Library shares and supports the City of St. Albert's immediate goals to manage the financial impact of COVID. In keeping with the operational realities of City departments, Library services will also continue to look different in 2021.

In 2020, the Library's 7% budget reduction came primarily from these areas:

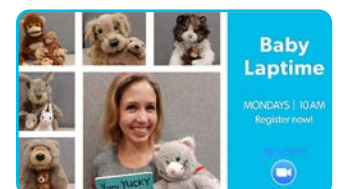
1. Temporary layoffs of 60% of staff;
2. No hiring of summer students through cancellation of traditional Summer Reading Game;
3. Freeze on merit increases and salary adjustments.

In 2021, the 7% reduction to the Library budget request comes 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.

Within these constraints, SAPL continues to support the City's longer terms goals:

- Fostering economic growth through online learning and other supports to small business owners;
- Supporting employment opportunities through the Career Resource Centre (free career workshops, Résumé Tutor Service);
- Making life better for St. Albertans (programs, collections, services, eLibrary).



Throughout the lockdown and reopening phases, St. Albert Public Library has continued to positively impact St. Albertans from all walks of life in lasting ways. We're focused on helping educators, parents and caregivers to support the life-long love of learning in children, inspiring students to be successful at school and beyond, supporting job seekers on their path to employment, and providing tools for small business owners to reach their dreams.