Peace Library System

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1 December 2021

James Verquin, Mayor
Village of Rycroft
P.O. Box 360
RYCROFT AB T0H 3A0

Dear Mayor Verquin:

Re: Peace Library System 2022 Budget

As required by Peace Library System's Master Agreement with your municipality, a copy of the 2022 Operating Budget is enclosed along with the budget projections for 2023-2024. The 2022 Budget was approved by the System's Board of Directors on 30 November 2021. Please note that the municipal local appropriation for 2022 remains unchanged at $6.37 per capita.

The Peace Library System's new 2022-2024 Plan of Service is available on the System's website at www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca and hard copies will be sent under different cover. The Peace Library Board uses the Plan of Service goals as the basis for its 2022 budget by focusing on priority service areas identified by member libraries. Peace Library System will support the region's public libraries through training and professional development, advocacy, marketing, IT and program support, and resource access.

2022 Operating Budget

The 2022 budget allows Peace Library System to continue to provide basic services such as ordering and cataloguing, automated circulation, IT support, interlibrary loan services and support from professional librarians. However, some special services are continuing and new services have been added to support member libraries and provincial initiatives. Following are some budget highlights:

- Special provincial funding will assist PLS and its member libraries in continuing to expand library services to Indigenous communities cross the region. This is part of a province-wide initiatives to take public library services to Indigenous people where they live.
- Access to a wide range of digital resources – newspapers, magazines, audio books, genealogy information and children's books online – will continue.
- Extra funds have been allocated to e-book and other databases to maintain access and make room to purchase new ones.

- When libraries are able to do group programming again, the "programs in a box" have been expanded to include more current video and table top games, as well as various maker projects such as a button maker.
- Storytime kits continue to be updated and refurbished to include Indigenous content, and French story time kits continue to be developed.
- Technology training will help library staff assist patrons with digital resources, devices and downloading.
- Onboarding training and documentation for Polaris will be updated and streamlined for easier integration for new staff.
- Relevant rural-focused training will be provided through conference training and webinars for the library managers.
- Participate in an operational review of services and activities for relevancy, currency and necessity, with an eye to creating efficiencies where possible and improving service delivery.

Present and Future Financial Planning

At the end of 2021, PLS will be able to add about $83,000 to its capital reserves to meet future building, technology and vehicle needs, $47,000 planned and $41,000 from savings realised from COVID restrictions on activities. Based on current membership and current provincial support, a full range of regional library services within balanced budgets will continue through 2023.

Successful Municipal Partnership

Thank you for your continuing support of the Peace Library System. This partnership of 37 municipalities and one Métis Settlement, along with provincial library partnerships, means that residents receive a broad range of library services. It also means that libraries in the region are well-connected regionally and provincially, and able to share resources and expertise with hundreds of other public libraries. We are truly stronger when we work together.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the 2022 Operating Budget or Peace Library System services.

Sincerely,

Louisa Robison, CEO
Peace Library System

Enclosure