Strathcona County Library

Mission
Reaching out across urban and rural Strathcona County, the Library promotes engagement, sparks imagination, and provides the tools for building skills and knowledge.

Vision
The heart of a connected, informed, and inspired community.

Families enjoy a "drive-in movie" library program.

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Library as Legal Entity

Public libraries are established and operated as not-for-profit legal corporations under the Alberta Libraries Act and Regulations.

Libraries must run at arm's length from municipalities and are governed by a Library Board of between 5-10 community members that are appointed by the municipality.

Strathcona County Library
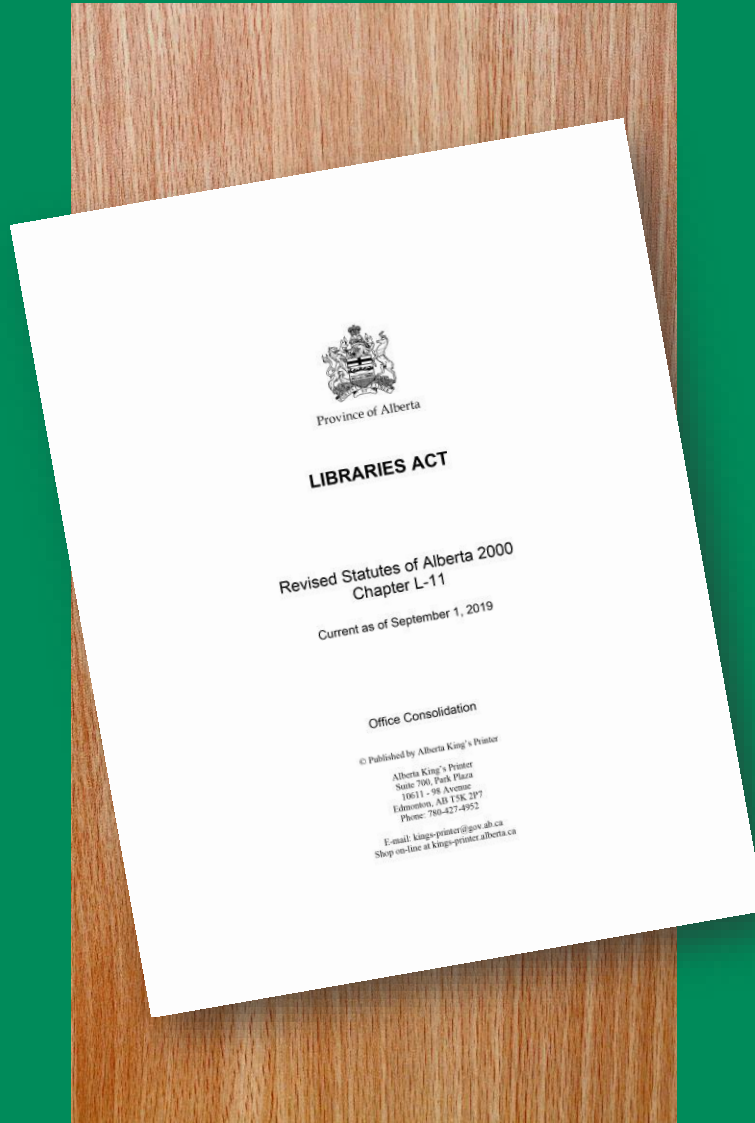- requested by community petition
- established by a 1974 bylaw
- opened February 1977

Library Board
- 10 community members
- Includes one Councillor
- all appointed by Council

Strathcona County Library
BUDGET PRESENTATION 2023
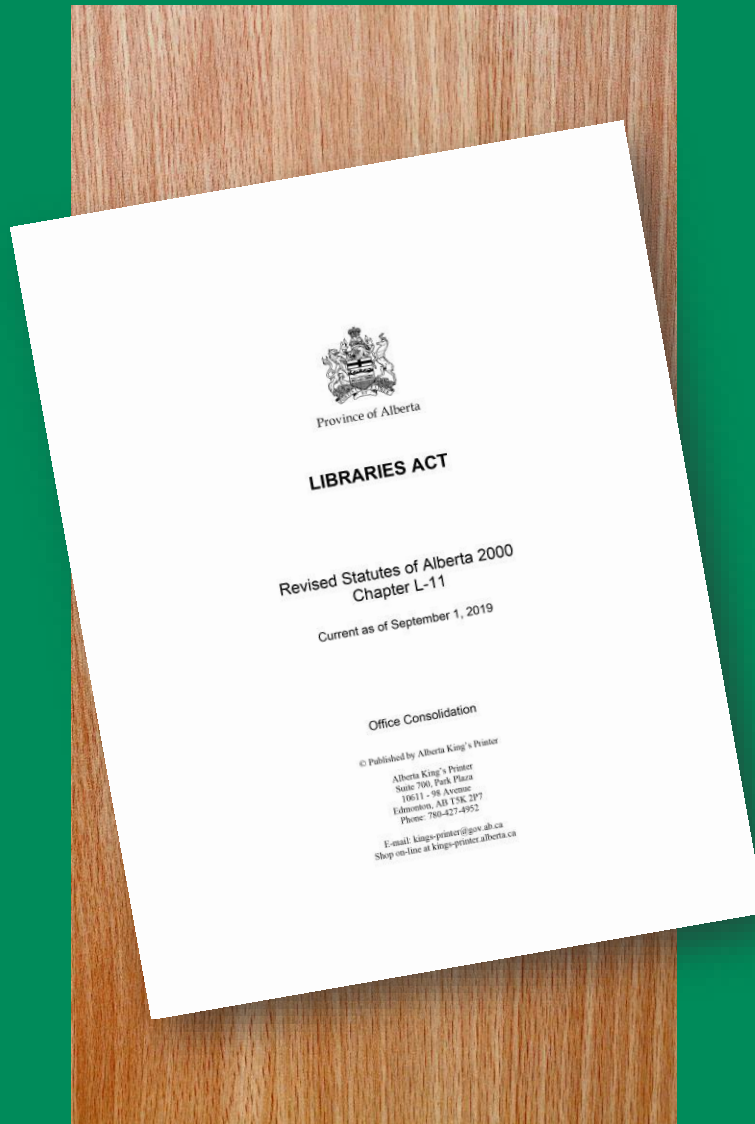
Library Board & County Council

Library Boards are governance boards, fully responsible for ensuring that their libraries provide comprehensive and efficient services.

- Council approves the library's budget estimate
- Council receives the library's audited financial statements and annual report
- Council has a say in the library's choice of financial auditors

The Library Board has full control and management of Strathcona County Library and its budget.

The Library Board presents to Council its budget estimate, audited financial statements and annual report.

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The Library and County are partners in providing shared and essential services from the Strathcona County Community Centre.

The Library collaborates with many County Departments, but works most closely with those in the Community Services Division.

Together, we also provide community service, build social capital, and increase community wellbeing.

The library is a key partner in the County's Social Framework.

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Plan of Service

Alberta public libraries report to the Public Library Services Branch (PLSB) of Alberta Municipal Affairs.

Libraries are required to assess community needs every three to five years, to ensure they continue to offer relevant services.

Libraries must develop a Plan of Service detailing how they will respond to community needs and file a copy with PLSB.

Our library completed a Community Needs Assessment in the fall of 2020.

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Community Needs Assessment

Research

Compiled results from recent public engagement projects on community needs.

Interviews

Interviewed library stakeholders and partners about community needs.

Surveys

Surveyed residents through County's SCOOP system and the library website.

Top Community Needs

⭐ 1. Educational Challenges
⭐ 2. Mental Health Challenges
3. Financial Challenges
⭐ 4. Technology Access, Digital Literacy
5. Public Spaces
6. Recreation
7. Diversity & Inclusion

⭐ Ranked as highest priority for the library to address.

Library Priority Areas

Support for Education and Lifelong Learning

Support for Community Connection and Engagement

Support for Technology Access and Digital Literacy

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Plan of Service

Strathcona County LIBRARY

Goal 1 ✓
Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents

Goal 2
Manage, invest and plan for sustainable municipal infrastructure

Goal 3
Cultivate economic diversification, within the petro-chemical industry and beyond, through a business-friendly environment

Goal 4
Ensure effective stewardship of water, land, air and energy resources

Goal 5 ✓
Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships

Goal 6 ✓
Provide facilities and services that are available and accessible to residents

Goal 7 ✓
Provide opportunities for public engagement and communication

Goal 8 ✓
Foster an environment for safe communities

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Plan of Service

Goal 1
Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents

A strong community is comprised of community members, who support the fundamental needs of individuals and families, while promoting livable and inclusive neighbourhoods. Strathcona County considers important both individual and community health and well-being, and how we relate to and care for one another. In short, it's about fostering a positive lifestyle for our residents, by partnering with other governments and community agencies to ease economic and social disparities. We strengthen the self-sustaining capacity of individuals, families and communities by promoting healthy and active lifestyles. We continue to ensure the fundamental needs of our community (e.g. affordable housing and a sense of belonging) are met.

Strategic results

▶ Opportunities for meaningful connections within communities

▶ Diverse and inclusive communities

▶ Appropriate access to the social service system through partnerships

▶ Affordable basic municipal services

▶ Programming meets the changing needs of residents

▶ Opportunities to be healthy and active

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Meeting Needs in 2022

Support for Education and Lifelong Learning

Support for Community Connection and Engagement

Support for Technology Access and Digital Literacy

- ❖ New parent welcome sessions
- ❖ Homeschool STEM classes
- ❖ Employment support

- ❖ Programs: Better U, Making Adult Friends, Teen Life Hacks
- ❖ Community outreach in the library

- ❖ Tech training for families
- ❖ Device training at seniors' lodges
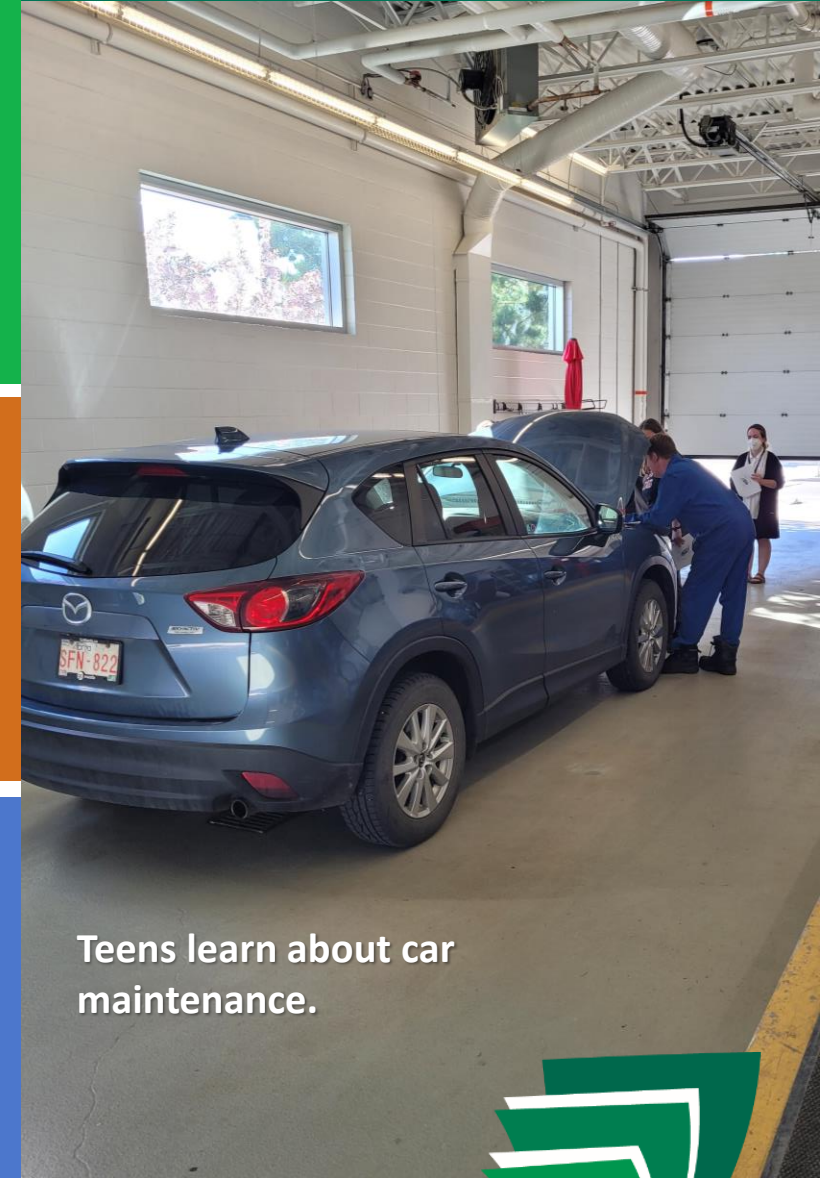
Teens learn about car maintenance.

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Planned for 2023

Support for Education and Lifelong Learning

- ❖ Homework help and K-12 tutoring
- ❖ Exam preparation and study space
- ❖ Support for career upgrading

Support for Community Connection and Engagement

- ❖ Program attendance choices
- ❖ More diverse collections
- ❖ Community seed exchange
- ❖ New Writer in Residence

Support for Technology Access and Digital Literacy

- ❖ Easier tech appointment booking
- ❖ A "privacy pod" on the 2nd floor

Privacy in a public space.

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Operating Budget
(in thousands)

	2023 Budget	2024 Forecast	2025 Forecast	2026 Forecast
Revenue	11,599	11,725	11,900	12,166
Expense	(10,964)	(11,142)	(11,356)	(11,581)
Non-Operating Revenue/(Expense)	(1,809)	(1,825)	(1,779)	(1,850)
Non-Cash Adjustment (Amortization)	1, 215	1,242	1,266	1,266
Total	0	0	0	0

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Capital Budget
(in thousands)

Project	2023 Budget	2024 Plan	2025 Plan	2026 Plan	2027 Plan
Library Collection Replacement	545	545	545	545	545
IT Infrastructure Replacement	72	91	67	88	65
Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Equipment Replacement	50	-	-	-	-
Book Return Bin Replacement	-	11	-	-	-
Purchase Study Pod	15	-	-	-	-
Total	**681**	**647**	**612**	**633**	**610**

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Indigenous educator Chantelle Gray with the Bookmobile at the ARAS Farmers' Market.

Thank You!

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