

Council Priority Funds – Application

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PRIORITY FUND INFORMATION – Completed by applicantOrganization name Friends of Strathcona County Library SocietyAddress c/o 401 Festival Lane
Street and number Subdivision if ruralCity or town Sherwood Park Province AB Postal code T8A 5P7Contact person Susan MihalievitchTelephone [REDACTED]Email address (optional) [REDACTED]Project type ☒ Event ☐ Project ☐ ExpenseAmount requested \$ 4,000Is the organization receiving other grant funding from Strathcona County? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If yes – attach details**Brief description of request**

The Friends of Strathcona County Library Society is marking its 30th anniversary with a celebration event on January 21, 2024. This event is an opportunity for past and present Friends volunteers to meet, mingle and receive recognition for their contributions over the years. In addition to Friends volunteers and members, community organizations and local dignitaries will be invited to attend. We are planning to hold this event at Festival Place with musical guests, delicious refreshments, literacy-themed family activities and more for everyone in the community to enjoy.

The pandemic was extremely hard on non-profits everywhere and it certainly impacted our organization. We are now in the process of rebuilding the Friends of Strathcona County Library Society while celebrating the past and honouring those who have been the builders of our organization over the past 30 years. This event will celebrate Friends' past while highlighting our vision for a bright future. We want to encourage people in attendance to get involved as members, donors or to volunteer their time and talents for Friends events. Your gift of Council Priority Funds will help us to highlight Friends' positive impact on the community and to achieve our goals for the event.

Susan Mihalievitch

Name

[REDACTED]
SignatureOctober 2, 2023

Date

Remember to attach a proposed budget and request letter to this request.Number of attached pages 5**Collection and use of personal information**

Personal information is collected under the authority of s. 33(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and will be used in the administration of your application for Council Priority Funds and for the management of the program. If you have any questions about the collection, use, or disclosure of this information, please contact the Elected Officials Assistant at 780-464-8098.

Friends of Strathcona County Library Society**Proposed Budget for 30th Anniversary Celebration event on January 21, 2024**

Budget Item	Amount Budgeted	Details
Venue rental	\$900	Festival Place
Entertainment	\$1,000	6 Minute Warning a capella group
Food/Refreshments	\$1,000	The Hat (Festival Place caterer), specialty cake
Advertising, Marketing, Invitations	\$400	Postage, posters, printing, social media ads
Tokens of Appreciation	\$400	Gifts for volunteers (quantity 125 to 200)
Miscellaneous	\$300	Décor, insurance, incidentals
TOTAL	\$4,000	



Friends of Strathcona County Library Society
401 Festival Lane
Sherwood Park, Alberta
T8A 5P7

www.friendsscl.ca

October 2, 2023

Strathcona County
Office of the Elected Officials
2001 Sherwood Drive
Sherwood Park, Alberta
T8A 3W7

Dear Mayor Rod Frank and Councillors,

RE: LETTER OF REQUEST FOR COUNCIL PRIORITY FUNDS

On behalf of the Friends of Strathcona County Library Society, I am applying for Council Priority Funds in the amount of \$4,000 to support the 30th anniversary event scheduled for January 21, 2024.

Thirty years ago, a small group of energetic and concerned individuals got together to establish a continuing source of extra funds for the Strathcona County Library to support programs and to purchase innovative equipment to be used by County residents of all ages. Over the years, the Friends of Strathcona County Library has advocated for and raised funds to support our wonderful library. With our dedicated donors and volunteers, we have raised over \$600,000 to enhance library collections, programs and equipment through fundraising, casinos, raffles, 50/50s and grant applications.

The pandemic was extremely hard on non-profits everywhere and it certainly impacted our organization. We are now in the process of rebuilding the Friends of Strathcona County Library Society while celebrating the past and honouring those who have been the builders of our organization over the past 30 years. We look forward to continuing the work and to expanding our outreach in the community.

We are planning a celebration for our 30th anniversary in January. This event will recognize volunteers who have contributed to our organization in the past and will also re-engage our current volunteers. It is an opportunity to get together, connect and plan for the future. It is also an opportunity for us to recognize the contributions of other organizations and community builders that helped us along the way.

We are planning to hold this event at Festival Place with musical guests, delicious refreshments, literacy-themed family activities and more for everyone to enjoy.

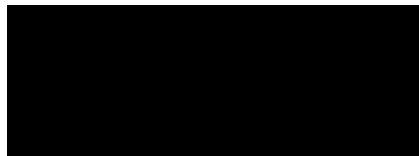
The following documents are enclosed:

- Completed Council Priority Funds Application
- Proposed Budget
- History of the Friends of Strathcona County Library Society

For more information on the Friends of Strathcona County Library Society, please visit our website www.friendsocl.ca. Thank you for considering our request for Council Priority Funds.

Sincerely,

Susan Mihalievitch
Membership Coordinator
Friends of Strathcona County Library Society



On behalf of

Wendy Saunders
President
Friends of Strathcona County Library Society

The Friends of Strathcona County Library Society

Our Vision

All residents of Strathcona County will have the opportunity to contribute to the continued development of the Strathcona County Library as an integral part of the community, enhancing the lives and well-being of everyone.

Our Mission

The Friends of Strathcona County Library shall be a society of persons interested in the welfare of the Strathcona County Library. The society shall raise funds to meet specific library needs, promote library services and advocate on behalf of the library.

History of the Friends of Strathcona County Library Society

In 1972, a group of Strathcona County residents decided the community of 26,000 should establish its own library and petitioned the County Council for legal sanction to appoint a library board. On February 14, 1977, the County of Strathcona Municipal Library welcomed the community to its home in the newly constructed County Hall in Sherwood Park.

In 1989, it became apparent that there was interest in forming a "Friends of the Library" group, as other public libraries have, to raise public awareness of Strathcona County Library and to raise funds to support library projects.

On July 7, 1992, a Proposal for the Formation of the Friends of Strathcona County Library was discussed by the Library Board along with interested community volunteers. The proposed primary focus was to be fundraising, public relations and advocacy. The timing was thought to be right because of the opening of the new library facility on the lower level of the Sherwood Park Mall (the library was previously located in the Strathcona County Hall). As well, in the mid-1990s, municipal funding from the Provincial Government was decreasing and there was a freeze on direct provincial funding to public libraries, identifying a need for alternative sources of revenue.

On April 21, 1993, an organizational meeting was held, where the Constitution and Bylaws of the Friends of the Strathcona County Library were adopted, and the election of officers took place.

On May 13, 1993, the Friends of Strathcona County Library Society was incorporated under the Alberta Societies Act. In the application to form the not-for-profit society, the objectives of the Society were laid out:

- Aid in providing funds to meet special library needs
- Promote library services
- Advocate on behalf of the County of Strathcona Municipal Library – the name of the municipality changed to Strathcona County in 1995

The Friends of Strathcona County Library is governed by a Board of volunteers of wide-ranging interests and backgrounds. The Board is composed of up to 15 Directors, including the President, Past-President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and a representative of the Library Board. In late 2019, the Friends of Strathcona County Library had over 100 committed supporters of all ages, from children to seniors. More than 40 supporters made the extra commitment by becoming full members, including 14 Board members. The rest are committed volunteers who help out at both Friends events and library events.

Since early 2020, COVID-19 restrictions caused a slowdown of Friends activities and events, as well as volunteer/member engagement. Without having enough volunteers who were willing to take on leadership roles, Friends was in danger of folding. As a result, Wendy Saunders (current President) agreed to head a Re-engagement Team and presented a slate of officers and coordinators who formed the current Board effective May 8, 2023.