

MARIGOLD LIBRARY SYSTEM

Schedule C Fact Sheet

2012 – 2014



- Marigold serves over 235,000 residents in 41 municipalities located in South Central Alberta, which includes:
 - 35 public libraries
 - 14 paperback deposits
 - Paperbacks-By-Mail service
 - online access to 3 million circulating items and services on the TRAC¹ online catalogue
 - universal library card for everyone in the Marigold area to access all Marigold libraries and TRAC

- Marigold's service population has grown by 33.4% from 2007 to present.

- Schedule C Levy rates have not increased since 2006.

- To keep up with increased public service demands, Marigold has added and expanded services including:
 - downloadable e-books
 - increased IT² infrastructure and support
 - high definition videoconferencing equipment in every library
 - programming modules for member libraries
 - expanded delivery system

- *Value of Your Investment Reports* for every member library show that the value of Marigold services exceeds the investment from each municipality and library board.

¹ TRAC: The Regional Automation Consortium, involving 156 libraries in Marigold, Yellowhead, Northern Lights and Peace library systems.

² IT: Information Technology – infrastructure planning, implementation and ongoing support for the integrated library system (Polaris), Marigold telecommunications, computer hardware and software, and RISE videoconference system.

- Costs for external resources have increased:
 - fuel for deliveries
 - computer hardware and software
 - electronic resources
 - TRAC and TAL³ levies
 - staff benefits

- Costs have been contained with the implementation of a high definition videoconferencing network to save staff time and travel costs. Marigold also negotiates discounts with volume purchases of materials and supplies.

- Marigold assists with expenses incurred by member libraries for resource sharing by providing grants and transfer payments. In 2010, the total service grants to member libraries exceeded \$450,000. The grant assists with supplies and costs for postage to share library materials for all libraries in TRAC.

- Marigold purchases \$700,000 worth of materials each year for all member libraries.

- Marigold has just completed an intense four-month strategic planning process involving stakeholders from all the Marigold member communities. *Vision 2015* has identified priorities to provide efficient and cost effective services and support for member libraries. Priorities include:
 - more technical support
 - Programming
 - training for member library staff
 - downloadable e-books

- How does Marigold compare to other Alberta regional library systems? All are implementing levy increases for 2012 and beyond.

- Marigold has the lowest levy of all the regional library systems for municipalities without library boards. In all other library systems, the levies for municipalities with and without library boards are the same because all residents have access to library services and the cost of acquiring external library services for Marigold residents are charged on a per capita basis. That is why the levies for municipalities without library boards are increasing at a higher rate than municipalities with library boards.

³ TAL: The Alberta Library, which provides support for electronic resources, training and advocacy for all member libraries in Alberta.