

ALBERTA'S REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS ■■■

are partners for municipal success



IMPACT

- Province-wide network for sharing of library resources.
- Equitable access to library service for all Albertans.
- TAL card allows borrowing from the collections at post-secondary and special libraries across Alberta.
- TAL Online allows patrons to discover library resources across the province and to place interlibrary loan requests.
- Governance structure that enables public library boards to collaborate and effectively manage public library service.
- Collaboration on projects and IT services.

We're connected!

Alberta Municipal Affairs, Public Library Services Branch

- Provides annual operating grants to regional library systems and public libraries
- Advocates for libraries and interprets and monitors library legislation
- Delivers board orientation programs for public library trustees
- Subsidizes initial installations of SuperNet, funds monthly connection fees
- ME Libraries service enables borrowing at participating public libraries across Alberta melibraries.ca

TAL (The Alberta Library) www.thealbertalibrary.ca/ and www.talonline.ca

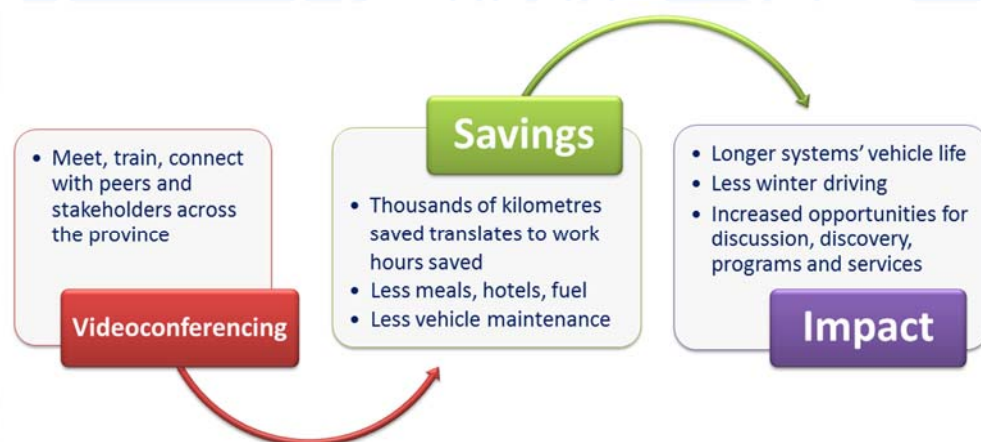
A consortium of public, academic and special libraries that work together to achieve collective goals. Services include:

- TAL card — provides borrowing privileges at all TAL Card participating libraries throughout Alberta
- TAL Online — facilitates access to a wide breadth of resources in a single search
- Negotiates and administers licensing agreements for electronic resources (databases) for members

RISE Network www.risenetwork.ca

Connecting people, Connecting libraries

- Videoconferencing allows Albertans to communicate with health care professionals, participate in distance education, attend meetings, learn new skills and more – from their local library where available.
- Regional library systems' headquarters staff can participate in regional and province-wide meetings and training without leaving headquarters.



LEADERS IN LIBRARY SERVICE & INNOVATION



ALBERTA'S REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS

working together for municipal success



- Information & recreation for Alberta's growing & diverse population
- Cost-effective principles to achieve excellence in public library service
- Balance traditional library service & technology
- Models for innovation, cooperation, collaboration & communication
- Partners for municipal success

Working
Together for
Municipal
Success

Alberta's Regional Library Systems

- Municipal partnerships created by System Agreements under the Libraries Act
- Cooperate to facilitate public library service development and delivery
- Enable interlibrary loan service and borrowing throughout the province

CHINOOK ARCH REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

2902 – 7 Avenue N.
Lethbridge, AB T1H 5C6
403–380–1500
www.chinookarch.ab.ca
Population served: 204,030

MARIGOLD LIBRARY SYSTEM

710 – 2nd Street
Strathmore, AB T1P 1K4
403–934–5334
www.marigold.ab.ca
Population served: 307,186

NORTHERN LIGHTS LIBRARY SYSTEM

5615 - 48 Street
Postal Bag 8
Elk Point, AB T0A 1A0
780–724–2596
www.nlls.ab.ca
Population served: 173,038

PARKLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY

5404 – 56 Avenue
Lacombe, AB T4L 1G1
403–782–3850
www.prl.ab.ca
Population served: 218,348

PEACE LIBRARY SYSTEM

8301 – 110 Street
Grande Prairie, AB T8W 6T2
780–538–4656
www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca
Population served: 164,434

SHORTGRASS LIBRARY SYSTEM

2375 – 10 Avenue S.W.
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8G2
403–529–0550
www.shortgrass.ca
Population served: 107,349

YELLOWHEAD REGIONAL LIBRARY

433 King Street, Box 4270
Spruce Grove, AB T7X 3B4
780–962–2003
www.yrl.ab.ca
Population served: 294,391



Collectively, Alberta's seven Regional Library Systems have over 250+ years of experience in providing library service to member libraries in participating municipalities.

ALBERTA'S REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS ■■■

are models for innovation, cooperation,
collaboration & communication



Library service specialists

Regional library systems employ IT specialists, professional librarians, library technicians and other specially trained staff to provide expert consultation and advice to staff in member libraries.

- programs and promotion
- hardware and software advice
- planning for technology
- space planning
- procedures manuals
- in-person, telephone and videoconference consultation
- board development and orientation
- conferences and workshops for staff and board members
- webinars and video training
- HR, health & safety training and information
- budgeting
- purchasing
- community assessment and plan of service

Advocacy

Library system staff mentor and educate members about the political process, and support libraries making presentations to councils to highlight achievements in public library service delivery, programs and community partnerships.

Library system directors and boards collaborate with councils to advocate on behalf of libraries and to clarify the roles and identify the benefits of membership in a regional system.

IMPACT

- Strong public libraries enhance quality of life and mirror vibrant well-informed communities.
- Member library staff have opportunities to network, connect and share ideas with colleagues across Alberta and beyond.
- Well-resourced libraries have been identified as a factor in residents' decision to stay or re-locate.
- Libraries boost individual capacity as well as economic well-being in a community.

ALBERTA'S REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS ■ ■ ■



IT system support

Regional library systems provide member libraries with automation and IT support/troubleshooting, expert advice on computer installations and purchases, website templates, Wi-Fi, email, remote management of maintenance, technical support and videoconferencing.

Regional library systems provide member libraries with tools to promote services and programs and connect with their communities through social media.

Well-informed public library service

Library system consultants help library staff interpret standards, legal requirements and best practices in areas such as governance, technology, collaboration, collection management, resource sharing, plan of service, space planning, personnel and information services.

Continuing education and training are provided at the libraries or at a library system headquarters. This fosters informed decision making by the library manager and board.

Standards & Best Practices for Public Libraries in Alberta provide libraries with a point of reference for self-evaluation and a framework for future development.

IMPACT

- A well-supported and innovative public library elevates the quality of life in a community.
- Member libraries are able to respond to a rapidly changing and expanding information environment.
- Albertans in small communities and remote areas have access to the same resources as larger urban centres.
- Member library staff are confident and knowledgeable when teaching patrons how to search for information or use their devices and software applications.
- Member libraries are community centres that provide Wi-Fi, laptops, public computers, eReaders, programs, books, readers' advisory, safe meeting spaces and countless learning opportunities.
- Member libraries are well equipped to meet the needs of the next generation of patrons.
- Regional systems ensure print-disabled patrons have access to large-print, audiobooks and CNIB material.

What is a library system compared to a local library?

Local Public Library

- Space and staff for front-line library service
- Collection and programs to meet the specific needs of the community
- Promotes life-long learning and literacy skills
- Gateway for new residents, new Canadians
- Responsible for staff salaries and benefits, utilities, building occupation costs such as rent, upkeep and renovations, furniture and equipment
- People places – vibrant hubs of activity

Regional Library System

- A municipal membership collaborative providing cost-effective public library services and support for residents and member libraries in rural Alberta
- IT infrastructure and library products enabling local library capacity to provide excellent public library service
- Foundation for resource sharing by supporting interlibrary loan and reciprocal borrowing of materials in a variety of formats
- Expert consultation services
- Progressive and cost-effective public library services

Structure of Alberta Public Library Services

The Libraries Act sets out the governance structure for public library service. It provides for the establishment of municipal and community library boards at the local level and system boards at the regional level. These autonomous boards cooperate through provincial networks and resource sharing agreements to give access to public library resources to all Albertans.

Provincial Policy

Public Library Network Policy

- Government of Alberta policy that defines the cooperative network linking and serving Alberta public libraries and communities.

Resource Sharing Operational Policy for Public Libraries

- Defines rules for resource sharing between participating libraries, including interlibrary loan and the provision of Alberta-Wide Borrowing.

SuperNet Operational Policy

- Outlines the rules by which public libraries participating in the Public Library Network are connected to the SuperNet.

Funding Regional Library Systems

From the Province

- System Operating Grant of \$4.70 per capita — based on 2016 population.

Allows systems to provide library services to Albertans as outlined in Alberta's library legislation and in each regional library system's Agreement (signed by member municipal councils).

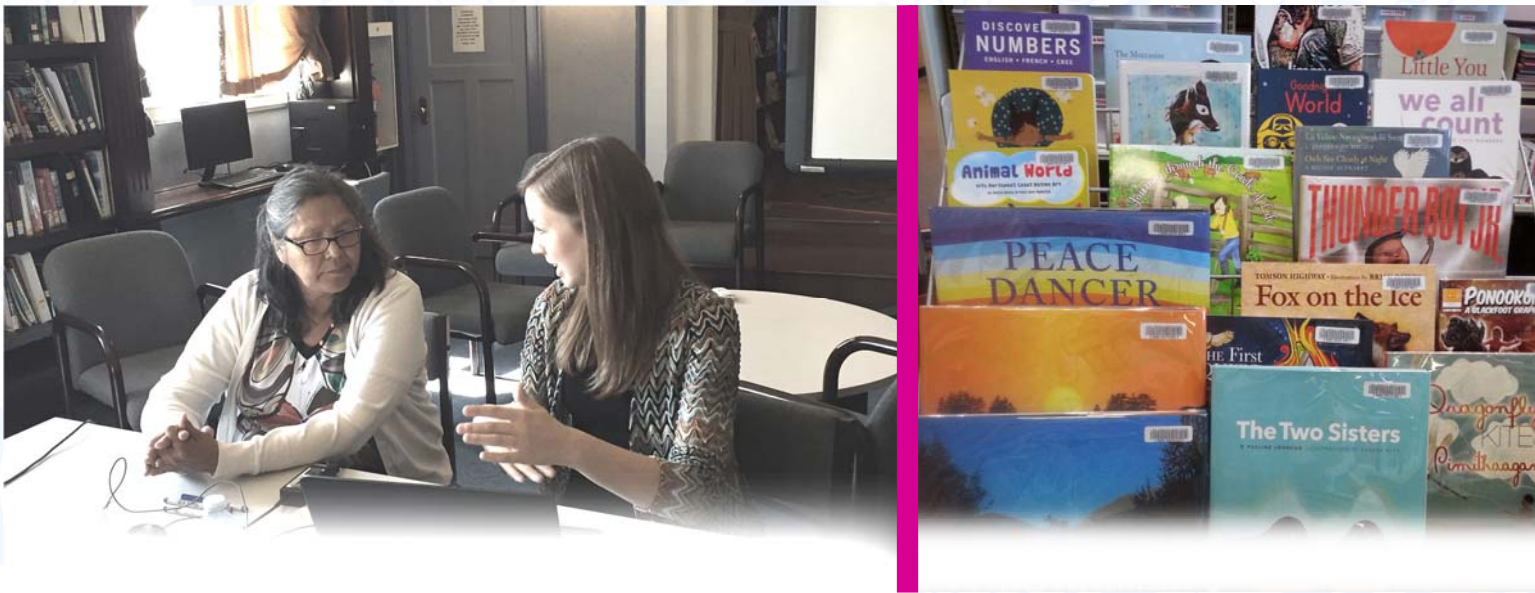
From Local Municipal and Board levies paid to library system

- Each library system provides library services based on the unique needs of its members, as per capita levy rates defined in each library system's Agreement.

More at:
http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/alberta_libraries

ALBERTA'S REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS ■■■

support information & recreation needs of
Alberta's growing & diverse population



Alberta's vibrant culture thrives

Regional library system consultants work with member library managers to develop collection plans that meet the specific information and recreation needs of each member community.

Pronunciator language learning resource provides guided and self-directed instruction for 80 languages, and ESL for 51 non-English languages. Residents have access to a variety of tools (e.g., drills, quizzes, live online conversation classes, feature films, streaming music with lyrics, poetry, plays, culture notes, etc.) to provide “360-degree exposure” to a language within a safe, structured learning environment.

Library systems provide and promote eResources that help people discover their roots.

Library systems support writers by hosting writers-in-residence and providing author tours, book signing programs and presentations for their region.

Towns and remote communities stay alive and in touch

Pilot projects in videoconferencing bring programs, consultations and face-to-face meetings to communities across Alberta.

In some regions, patrons who live far from a library have

access to books and other materials by mail.

Regional library system websites are portals for links to resources.

IMPACT

- Member libraries partner with diverse organizations and community groups.
- Multiculturalism is supported through books and DVDs in other languages, as well as music and resources that contain newspapers from other countries.
- Residents have access to relevant and current content in print and online.

pronunciator:
language learning resource

press reader
newspapers from around the world

ancestry
library edition
explore the amazing history of you ... at your library

ALBERTA'S REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS ■■■

support cost-effective excellence in
public library service



Local economies supported

Collectively, all seven regional library systems spend over \$21 million per year on behalf of member libraries and Albertans who reside in library system areas. Most of these expenditures go directly back to member libraries in the form of new materials, programs, computers, software, supplies, videoconferencing, eResources, and professional development such as webinars, workshops and conferences.

Operating expenditures for all 270+ member libraries exceed \$38 million, largely spent in their communities.

Regional library systems employ 160+ staff in their headquarters community. Member libraries employ over 1400 staff and receive help from over 9,000 volunteers annually.

Resource sharing and delivery of materials optimized

Library systems enable resource sharing by supporting (with grants, supplies and training) interlibrary loan and reciprocal borrowing of materials in a variety of formats.

Patrons have access to *ME Libraries Alberta-wide borrowing*, a web-based service that allows patrons with a current library card from their home library to borrow from the physical collections at all other participating libraries across the province. Check out melibraries.ca

Van delivery services, combined with government courier and mail, provide timely, cost-effective delivery of materials between member libraries and library system headquarters. New materials arrive at the library shelf ready. Member library staff have more time to concentrate on front line services.

IMPACT

- Member libraries and their patrons have access to more resources and material than a local library could provide alone.
- Residents can borrow material from one library and return to another anywhere in Alberta.
- Central processing of materials reduces costs and duplication.
- Regional library system staff negotiate discounts for bulk purchasing of materials for member libraries — a substantial cost savings for municipalities and ratepayers is realized.
- Regional library systems and public libraries represent an important customer base for Alberta and Canadian booksellers, publishers and IT vendors.