



2022 Report to the Community

Here for **YOU**. Here for **ALL**.

Our commitment to reconciliation

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St. Albert Public Library sits on Treaty 6 territory, traditional lands of First Nations and Métis peoples, near the sites of the Youville and Poundmaker residential schools. We acknowledge our role as a colonial institution and our responsibility to act on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

Messages from the Chairs and CEO



Colleen McClure & Deborah McTaggart-Baird, Co-Chairs

The Library entered 2022 with the goal of getting people back into library spaces. People needed to reconnect after the many pandemic-infused challenges of the past few years. That goal – bringing people back together to learn, to connect, and to play – comes from our understanding of the library's unique purpose: to serve citizens across every demographic and every life stage – all in the service of creating a healthy, resilient community. The Library continues to operate with less funding than in 2019, but we remain committed to supporting St. Albertans in their recovery from the pandemic.



Peter Bailey, CEO

The Library is about people. We saw that in 2022 as people came back together in library spaces. That focus on people also came through in the swell of community support we saw when library funding was at risk and people stepped up and showed their love for their library.



We deeply appreciate that support. As you will see in the stories, images, and statistics throughout this report, it has been a successful year. That is thanks to the tremendous work Library staff did to improve the lives of St. Albertans.

2022 was about deepening connections

The Library brought people back together in 2022. The return to in-person programming was crucial for the community; people came back into library spaces in near pre-pandemic numbers, rediscovering and strengthening their connections to learning, adventure, leisure pursuits, and to each other. The Library rang with the sounds of joy, of individuals reconnecting with materials, with opportunities, and with people.

The library is the beating heart of the fabulous city building. The fact that many generations of people use the place validates the importance in the whole of the community.

2022 also saw the library organization strengthening overarching community connections: year-round celebrations of diversity; increased partnerships with community groups; and a deep commitment to the ongoing evolution of library spaces, collections and services to meet the changing needs of St. Albertans.

Libraries save lives, and they are our only battlefield in a war of misinformation, inflation, and systemic underfunding of physical and mental health systems.



**Library cards
ARE FREE**
for St. Albert residents

 **1,017,841**
TOTAL VISITS
(in person & online)

Library programs brought St. Albertans face to face

2022 was all about supporting St. Albertans as they returned to the patterns and opportunities that help individuals and the community as a whole to thrive. It was exciting to be able to offer an uninterrupted year of in-person programs for patrons of all ages. Early literacy programs and storytimes are a core focus at both locations; these programs flourished in frequency and in attendance. Library staff also resumed visits to schools, daycares, and seniors' residences, where they were welcomed with open arms.



869 PROGRAMS
33,745 PEOPLE



296 CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS
21,855 ATTENDEES

167
storytimes 
Downtown & Jensen Lakes

STARFest returned to an in-person fall festival

St. Albert Readers Festival brings the community together for face-to-face conversations that inspire and engage.

STARFest reminds us why libraries are important. They gather the living; they honour the dead; they inspire the future.

— Giller Prize winner Ian Williams, 2022 festival author

STARFest returned to in-person events for its 12th season with a star-studded slate of authors over three weeks from October 13 to 28. The 2022 lineup featured eight incredible authors from across Canada, including Giller Prize-winning author Omar El Akkad.



Diversity and community connections

We nurtured and expanded community partnerships in 2022, with a focus on accessibility, diversity and celebrating the rich tapestry of voices in our community. Indigenous themed programs, collections and displays continued to build on the Library's focus on supporting all St. Albertans on their reconciliation journeys.



Indigenous programs with Rupertsland Institute and local Métis community builders and elders.



Black Film Watch parties with the African & African Descendants Friendship Club (AADFC).



2SLGBTQIAP+ allyship and support through family storytimes, teen hangouts, and Affirming Dads group with Outloud St. Albert.

The Community Outreach Team

The Community Outreach Team is out in the community with the Outreach Van every week, connecting with St. Albertans through pop-up libraries and storytimes, outdoor events and Trail Tales, daycare visits, and community events.

In 2022 the SAPL Community Outreach Team was awarded the Library Association of Alberta's Punch Jackson Award of Excellence for "multi-dimensional work (that) has had such an impact on your community, both during and beyond the pandemic."



PEOPLE SERVED



Early literacy is foundational at the Library

Year-round in-person learning was a theme of 2022. Supporting reading was more important than ever. Early literacy supports flourished with storytimes Downtown and at Jensen Lakes. Study spaces at both locations were filled with students. And Library staff took their messages and supports into schools and daycares, reaching thousands of children over the course of the year.

Reading Buddies mentorship program

The Reading Buddies mentorship program pairs struggling readers with teen mentors. Reading loss is real for our kids, and in response, we added a summer session of Reading Buddies. In 2022, 78 teens volunteered 495 hours to help 77 struggling readers.

I have seen a huge improvement in her attitude and willingness toward reading.

Summer Reading Game

The Summer Reading Game is another powerful and popular way to address the summer reading slide. In 2022, the games returned to in-person formats at both library locations and St. Albert children and teens were thrilled to be back.

The reading game is a huge hit! We've never seen them read so much.



**KIDS & TEENS
READ FOR
542,160
minutes**



**1,860 players &
10,316 plays**



**Adult SRG:
110 players &
396 plays**

Career supports & tech training

The Career Resource Centre (CRC) at the Library helped people find jobs and develop new skill sets through our free Résumé Tutor Service, computer access, free printing, and many other supports.

I just felt so overwhelmed by the kindness all of the staff have shown me here with the help with my résumé. Everyone has been so amazing.



3,488
people supported



1,096
CRC computer uses

121
Résumé Tutor
Appointments

People of all ages got their tech on

Tech programs and pop-ups

Digital literacy is a fundamental piece of our literacy supports. Our popular afterschool STEAM programs run monthly at both locations with activities from slime to raft-building to robots. We gave out 70 Makerspace kits to teens, and even took the tech into the skate park so teens could make vinyl decals for their boards. Our brain-stretching Virtual Escape Rooms are as popular as ever for teens and adults. And in fall of 2022, the Library ramped up adult tech training, one on one and group, with a focus on seniors.



34
digital literacy
programs

1,464
PLAYS
Virtual Escape Rooms

5 TEEN
MAKERSPACES
66 teens

The community embraced Jensen Lakes Library

Jensen Lakes Library (JLL) is proving itself to be an increasingly important service for St. Albertans, especially those living on the north side of the city. In 2022 JLL ran its first Spring, Summer and Fall Reading games, and the second Christmas Around the World. Visits, loans and program attendance continue to grow every month and families have expressed their appreciation for having storytimes and afterschool programs at Jensen Lakes.

Since the Jensen Lakes library opened, I have read more books from the library than at any other time in my life. I order online and pick up. The staff is very pleasant and friendly, and go out of their way to accommodate. Due to my poor mobility, I find this branch more accessible than the downtown branch.



JLL introduced two new clubs in January: LEGO and Storytelling. These and the previously established afterschool programs were often filled, with waiting lists. In response to community requests, library staff also added family craft programs to the schedule.

Families love Jensen Lakes Library: from board books to graphic novels, chapter books and picture books, families took out 37,098 juvenile fiction titles in 2022!



Refreshing and preserving a space for all

Consistently wonderful staff ❤️ You have been such a big part of our kids' childhood, and we so appreciate the time and thought you put into making the library accessible and fun for all kids.

Our goal is to create spaces that will invite St. Albertans to stay, and to play. To that end, in 2022, we received funding through the federal Canada Community Revitalization Fund to refresh key spaces in the Downtown Library to be more accessible, more inviting, and more interactive. The work occurred throughout 2022 and continues into 2023, with fun new elements arriving weekly.

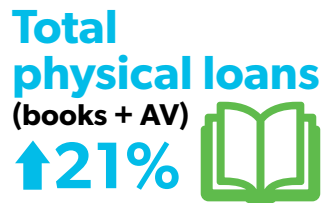
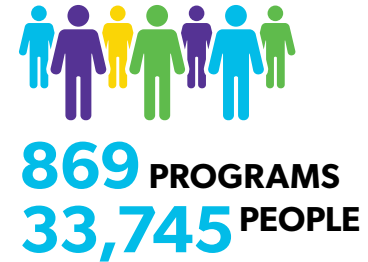
I like that no matter what space I need to use in the library, there IS one to fit my needs, no matter what my needs at the time may be.

In the fall, the Library faced funding uncertainty. We called on our community to help us avert potential deep funding cuts, and you responded with heart and support. We thank the 700+ St. Albertans who wrote letters and spoke on behalf of the library, and we thank St. Albert City Council for supporting us in continuing to provide stellar library services. The Library continues to operate at reduced funding for the third year; we're operating with fewer staff while facing increased community needs.

I just wanted to express a huge thanks to the St. Albert Public Library (both locations), not only are the books and games we borrow so amazing to have access to! Every trip to the library is so much fun and the staff do an incredible job of making it that way, so thank you so much!



2022 highlights



Thanks to our partners and supporters

St. Albert Public Library is a municipal service funded primarily by the City of St. Albert. We thank the City for its ongoing support of Library collections, programs and services.



The Province of Alberta supports St. Albert Public Library and other public libraries across Alberta, including annual grant funding and support of shared provincial resources. In addition, we thank the Province for support of the Library's Career Resource Centre.

The Government of Canada supports St. Albert Public Library through Canada Summer Jobs and, in 2022-23, through the Canada Community Revitalization Fund.



We thank the McCoy Foundation for their financial support of the Summer Reading Game. More thanks to the Friends of St. Albert Public Library for their ongoing support of STARFest and the Summer Reading Game, and to the Optimist Club of St. Albert for their annual sponsorship of the Rooney and Punyi Reading Show. And our gratitude to the many individuals whose donations support free Library memberships, STARFest and Library collections.



The logo for St. Albert Public Library, featuring the text "St. Albert Public Library" in a white, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in three lines: "St. Albert" on the top line, "Public" on the middle line, and "Library" on the bottom line. A white horizontal line is positioned below the word "Library".

St. Albert
Public
Library

St. Albert Place | 5 St. Anne Street | St. Albert, AB | T8N 3Z9 | 780-459-1530
Jensen Lakes Library | #1010 880 St. Albert Trail | St. Albert, AB | T8N 7V2 | 780-544-0444

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