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New Central Library a must for downtown Regina

The best way to renew Central Library is to construct a new building at the same location.

This was the message delivered by Sean Quinlan, Chair, RPL Board of Directors, at a presentation to City Council's Executive Committee today. The library was asked to provide an update to Executive Committee on its plans to renew Central Library.

After years of assessments and study on the current building, and numerous public consultations, a decision to build new will be put to the RPL Board at its September 27 public meeting.

"Regina's Central Library has been part of downtown for over 100 years, providing countless individuals and families with fond memories and appreciation for the library," Quinlan said. "We're proud of what we bring to our community and our customers. We are growing and successful, but we can't meet current and expected need without more resources and space."

The role of libraries has changed since the current building was constructed in 1962 for a population of 110,000. "The library's purpose is to provide community services, spaces, collections, and technologies to inspire discovery, learning, and connection," Quinlan said. "A new Central Library will offer Regina a beautifully designed, sustainable building with room for gatherings, cultural celebrations, workspaces, programs, and of course a wide collection of books and resources."

A new build offers opportunity to apply best practice in library space design, and to construct a sustainable building that aligns with the City's *Energy and Sustainability Framework*. And it offers opportunity to be completely accessible from the outset—something the current building is not.

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For more information:

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Central Library fact sheet

Current Central Library use

- Hub for the entire library system and houses a large portion of the RPL collection, centralized services, and core administrative functions.
- Most used location in the system averaging 470,000 visits per year.
- Offers unique services including a state-of-the-art digital A/V recording studio, a musical instrument lending library, RPL Film Theatre, Dunlop Art Gallery, a digitization station (digitizes VHS, film, negatives, slides, etc.) and more.
- Offers programs and events such as regular appearances by the Regina Symphony Chamber Players, Small Business Week workshops, National Indigenous History Month speakers and events, and access to community offerings such as Pro Bono Law, AIDS Program South Saskatchewan, Thrive Counselling, and more.
- Offers meeting room space at a minimal cost (free for non-profits) with access to A/V equipment.

Current building issues

- Constructed in 1962 for a population of 110,000.
- Over the past decade, RPL has spent \$3.2M on necessary building maintenance to keep the building safe and open for business.
- RPL addresses building issues as they arise to the extent possible, however some aren't fixable without considerable costs, time, and effects on service delivery.
- Does not meet the accessibility requirements of the *Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act* or City of Regina policy.
- Building systems are at, or beyond, expected usefulness and costs for repairs continue to increase.
- Current space does not have the flexible design required to provide modern library services to the public.

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