



Report Number: EC2025-0526

Meeting: Executive Committee

Meeting Date: 2025 May 13

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Increasing Funding for Alberta's Libraries

Sponsoring Member(s) of Council: Councillor Kourtney Penner

WHEREAS Libraries are community hubs that offer free resources, programming, education, and community gathering space, impacting all Albertans.

AND WHEREAS Libraries' ability to meet both basic and expanding range of needs for Alberta's growing population is increasingly constrained by outdated funding levels.

AND WHEREAS the annual per capita Public Library Operating Grant of \$5.60 per person has increased by only \$0.05 or under a one per cent increase since 2016, while inflation, according to Statistics Canada's Consumer Price Index in Alberta, has increased by 25 per cent.

AND WHEREAS if indexed to inflation alone, per capita funding in 2024 would have been \$6.94 per person.

AND WHEREAS the per capita funding grant for Alberta's libraries is currently based on 2019 population data. Alberta's population has grown by 15 per cent or over 635,000 people between 2019 to 2025.

AND WHEREAS a funding increase would directly strengthen Albertan libraries' ability to address the growing demand for job-seeking and language-learning services; assist newcomers to Alberta; improve digital access province-wide especially for remote and rural Albertans; create opportunities for Reconciliation and Indigenous learnings; and expand literacy and learning supports for children.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council second the Town of Stettler's accompanying resolution to be submitted for inclusion at the 2025 November annual Alberta Municipalities conference, requesting that:

"Alberta Municipalities advocate for the Government of Alberta to update the per capita rate to \$6.94 per person, an increase of \$1.34 per person to reflect inflationary increases and commit to indexing the population-based grant using the rate of inflation and the most recent population statistics of the Alberta Municipal Affairs Population Estimate List."

Attachment:

1 – Notice of Motion Checklist