



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

For immediate release: Monday December 8, 2014

# **Funds for consultation and programs money well spent**

**REGINA, SK** — Friends of the Regina Public Library are supporting the increase to the RPL budget for the upcoming year.

“The funds spent on public consultation are money well spent,” said Joanne Havelock, Chair of FRPL. “We were asking for many years for additional consultation on the decision regarding the Central Library upgrade, which has significant cost implications, so we are glad to see the additional public involvement.”

The update of the Service Plan will be important to guiding public expenditures in the future.

“When we talk about providing services, the library workers are the heart of the libraries and we need to ensure adequate funding for RPL staff and for ensuring good working conditions and a positive atmosphere.”

People will be glad to see that while funds are being spent on electronic versions of books and magazines, a significant amount is still being spent on books. New items such as the Makerspace Conference that was recently held and financial literacy training are a complementary addition to the programming already provided at the Branches, Dunlop Art Gallery and the Film Theatre.

“We hope that the provincial government also recognizes the importance of supporting services such as resources in multiple languages, Aboriginal resources and related programming, and services for people with disabilities”, said Havelock.

FRPL continues to support a plan of upgrading Central Library that reflects the public view that a building focused on library services that does not require a large budget necessitating public-private-partnership funding would be best.

Planning for the future will be important for ensuring that funds are available to meet the needs of residents of new neighbourhoods in Regina and FRPL would like to see more discussion of this topic by the RPL Board and at City Council.

FRPL will be making a presentation regarding the RPL budget to the City Council meeting on Monday December 8, 2014. The meeting starts at 5:30 pm.

### **For more information contact:**

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