

# EXPANDING HORIZONS

Edmonton Public Library Annual Report 2023

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# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD AND CEO

In this city of diverse stories, the Edmonton Public Library (EPL) is a vibrant intersection where lives connect, inspiration ignites and possibilities unfold. This Annual Report paints a captivating portrait of how our community-led approach unlocks potential and expands horizons, especially amidst economic uncertainty.

Beyond the numbers and charts lies the human impact. Imagine a child discovering the joy of reading for the very first time, a senior citizen accessing vital resources online, or a job seeker landing their dream position—these are just a few of the transformative journeys fuelled by the Library.

Throughout the year, EPL remained a steadfast community anchor, offering essential services during challenging times. Whether providing early literacy programs that open doors to lifelong learning and to future success in school and in life, or bridging the digital divide with innovative initiatives, our libraries were sanctuaries of resilience and growth.

Our commitment to expanding horizons shone as Sunday hours increased, our efforts to grow the Heritage Valley Branch were met with the approval from City Council and our programs sparked connections to the world beyond. These efforts stand as testaments to our dedication to opening doors and enriching lives.

As the horizon shifts, we move beyond 2023, energized by the collective achievements that guide us towards a brighter, boundlessly curious future.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The signature on the left is cursive and appears to read 'P. McIntyre'. The signature on the right is more stylized and appears to read 'K. H.'.

# THE BEST PLACE TO LEARN

Imagine a place where curiosity thrives, knowledge provokes imaginations, and creativity bursts forth. This isn't just a dream; it's the vibrant reality of the Edmonton Public Library.

EPL continues to be a welcoming and inclusive learning hub for people from all walks of life.

Thanks to our partnership with the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities, we successfully delivered 13 events to over 400 Edmontonians on the theme of diversity and inclusion, including human rights, freedom of expression, misinformation, Black/Queer filmmaking, hate crimes, affordable housing, harm reduction, colonialism in higher education, Indigenous land rights, and inclusive innovation.

Lifelong learning took center stage as we saw an influx of participants in our many classes that introduced people to new technologies and skillsets. From sewing to composting, these hands-on workshops nurtured hidden talents and sparked a passion for discovery. We delivered hundreds of Life Skills classes to over 2,800 customers on topics ranging from basic literacy/numeracy, financial literacy, natural hair care, gardening, sustainability, tax help, health and wellness, tenancy, legal education, and workforce development.

We continued the crucial work of bridging the digital divide, promoting online literacy through a wide variety of programs, including over 170 outreach sessions on computer skills, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math), robots, and other technology topics. Access to these important programs helped hundreds of people gain the expertise they need to effectively manage the online world. Over 3,200 individuals received Makerspace certifications, a staggering 38% increase over 2022! This surge reflects our growing digital culture, and how EPL equipped hundreds of curious minds with the essential skills to navigate the online world.

We are passionate about inspiring wonder and interest in visitors of all ages and backgrounds. Our partnership with the University of Alberta transformed “creepy crawlies” into a giant digital exhibit on The Wall, featuring Alberta’s backyard insects. We will continue our partnership with the U of A as we begin to work on our next significant Wall project—Mountains—which is expected to be completed in 2025.









Entrepreneurs are the lifeblood of this city, making up 95% of the companies in Edmonton<sup>1</sup>, and we are always on the lookout for new and compelling ways to support our community. This year we worked with Edmonton Unlimited to host Innovation U, a series of workshops and mentorship opportunities. These 16 workshops filled up quickly and fostered a culture of creative problem-solving, propelling Edmontonians towards a smarter and self-sufficient future.

Mentorship opportunities continued as aspiring Edmonton authors found their voice with the guidance of our Writer in Residence, Kate Boorman. During her residency, Kate worked one-on-one with 283 individuals and hosted 11 workshops for nearly 400 passionate budding and experienced writers.

Always seeking to ensure all Edmontonians feel a sense of belonging through our services, we added Ukrainian language resources and penpal kits to support cultural understanding and connection.

To the delight of our foodie population, EPL offered 150 programs in The Kitchen to almost 2,500 customers. We opened The Kitchen up as a rentable event space and hosted 27 private events, establishing this state-of-the-art facility as a vibrant hub for community gatherings and culinary exploration.

Nearly 50 cooks across Alberta gained valuable cooking and food literacy skills thanks to training sessions facilitated through collaborations with key partners including: the Bissell Centre, the Edmonton Aboriginal Seniors Centre, Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton, the Italian Centre, the University of Alberta, NorQuest College, and Indigenous Services Canada.

These are just a few highlights of EPL's expansive journey in 2023. Through our diverse classes and events, innovative initiatives, and commitment to inclusivity, EPL has cemented its position as the best place to learn.



**PROGRAMS**  
OFFERED IN THE  
**KITCHEN**  
TO  
**2466**  
CUSTOMERS



**271**  
LIFE SKILLS  
CLASSES OFFERED  
TO  
**3383**  
PARTICIPANTS



**WRITER IN**  
**RESIDENCE**  
MENTORED  
MORE  
THAN  
**680**  
**ASPIRING**  
**WRITERS**



**170**  
**OUTREACH**  
**SESSIONS**  
BUILDING VARIOUS  
**DIGITAL**  
**LITERACIES**

<sup>1</sup> *Small Business and Employment in Edmonton*, Edmonton Vital Signs (Edmonton: Edmonton Community Foundation, 2020)





# Who is Share Day

- Executive Director, Customer Experience
- I have worked at Facebook for 14 years

## Worked as

Branch Manager  
Collection and Access  
Director of Collections  
Executive Director

# From Library Halls to Makerspace Walls: How EPL Transformed Learning for Fifth Graders

This year we partnered with Inquiring Minds to create a program that offers teachers the opportunity to move their classroom to a community site for a week of hands-on, multi-sensory learning.

When planning the pilot, we knew traditional classrooms wouldn't cut it. We leveraged our innovative Makerspaces at our Stanley A. Milner Library, creating a making and creating haven for two grade 5 classes.

For five days, the Milner Library buzzed with interactive learning. Children tinkered with 3D printers, upcycled clothing with Cricut machines, and even learned about our fleet of epl2go Literacy Vans. Beyond the tools, they connected with staff, explored PÎYÊSÎW WÂSKÂHIKAN (Thunderbird House) and spent time reflecting on their own family heritage.

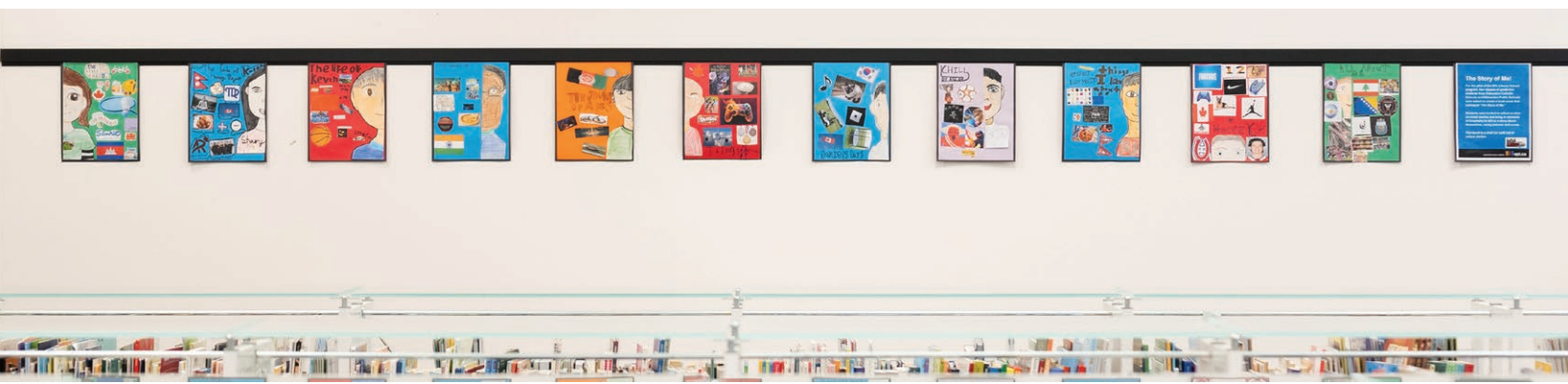
The impact was profound. A chronically absent student never missed a "library school" day, showering staff with warm embraces by the end of the class. Another student,

who was known for never smiling, beamed throughout the week, fist-bumping library staff and hugging everyone goodbye. A child with ADHD, often restless and focus challenged, was fully engaged and meticulously documented their experiences.

Seeing their "Story of Me" artwork publicly displayed in the Shelley Milner Children's Library was met with gasps of excitement and delight, followed by requests for selfies next to their masterpiece.

As they begged to return to the library, we knew the pilot program had made a lasting impact, piqued curiosities and nurtured a passion for knowledge.

By offering non-traditional, engaging experiences, EPL isn't just a library, it's a learning destination fostering creativity and knowledge for people of all ages and abilities.



Pictured above: Students' "Story of Me" artwork on display.



# THE BEST PLACE TO CREATE

EPL is a vibrant tapestry of experiences, a launchpad for imagination, and a beacon for creative expression.

In 2023, we awakened Edmonton's creative spirit, helping individuals feel empowered to explore, express, and collaborate by connecting them to diverse initiatives.

Our Making and Creating classes exploded in popularity, attracting 46% more participants than ever before. These workshops transformed into hubs of innovation, where aspiring inventors experimented with 3D printing, laser-cutting and more, turning their ideas into tangible creations. Our suite of class offerings expanded to over 3,200 different certifications, including the addition of studio lab and soldering.

Edmonton's own Ezeada, aka Adaeze Hubbard, a nominee for a national rising leader award, recorded her acclaimed R&B album in the recording studios at our Stanley A. Milner Library. This is an incredible example of how EPL supports and nurtures local talent.

Edmonton's music scene vibed thanks to EPL's Capital City Records. Partnering with the JUNO Awards, we hosted JUNOFest, featuring over 50 artists and together developed our new Musician in Residence program. This program is a platform for local talent to flourish, promoting collaboration and enriching the community.

Capital City Press fuelled the literary fire with Volume 3 of their anthology, celebrating 34 local authors and captivating readers across the city. This initiative showcased Edmonton's diverse voices and fostered a strong sense of community among writers.

By providing a platform for expression, collaboration and learning, we've made EPL the beating heart of our community, where creativity blossoms and connections thrive.



**CUSTOM**  
**3D** PRINTING  
BOOKINGS



**3204**  
**MAKERSPACE**  
CERTIFICATIONS  
DELIVERED



**VINYL**  
CUTTING HOURS



# CAPITAL RECORDS EDMONTON

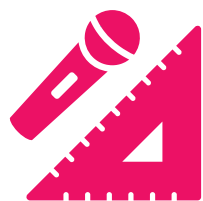
CELEBRATING  
LOCAL MUSIC SCENE

CapitalCity

ER  
DOV  
LOCAL LEGENDS  
MUSIC VIDEOS







**444**

**MAKING**

AND

**CREATING**

CLASSES + EVENTS  
OFFERED



— MORE THAN —

**3500**

**STREAMS**

ON

CAPITAL CITY  
RECORDS

**6978**

**STUDIO**

**HOURS**



Pictured right: Mallory Chipman.



## The Melody of Mentorship: How EPL's Musician in Residence Program Composed a Community of Musicians

Our spaces hummed with a new melody this year, one composed from inspiration and community. Mallory Chipman, a powerhouse of talent as singer-songwriter, producer, and educator, stepped into the inaugural Musician in Residence (MIR) program role.

Backed by the 2023 JUNOS Host Committee, Mallory was more than a resident; she became a catalyst. Over 95 musicians found a home in Mallory's mentorship program. As their dreams echoed through the library, a community bloomed, each note a connection between them.

EPL's commitment to music wasn't new. Capital City Records, a longstanding initiative, had already championed 253 artists with 298 albums available in this innovative streaming collection. But the MIR program added a personal touch; a guiding hand from someone who is living their dreams.

The Makerspace studios vibrated with the hum of amplifiers and the tap-tap-tap of drumming fingers. Nearly 7,000 hours of music production filled the air; a testament to Mallory's creative guidance and support.

The library became a stage, a studio, and a launchpad for dreams. It's where community thrives, where aspirations take flight and where Mallory Chipman's melody became an anthem for a city buzzing with creative energy. And this was just the beginning. With the first chord struck, and its Musician in Residence at the helm, EPL was ready to compose a symphony of success for its local music scene.

# THE BEST PLACE TO BE

## Edmonton Public Library: Where Your Heart Feels at Home

Over the past year, EPL was a haven for meaningful experiences—so meaningful that our customers asked for more!

In March 2023, we expanded our Sunday branch hours, a scheduling change that resulted in a seismic shift in attendance. By offering three extra hours of library time on Sundays, we welcomed more than 150,000 extra visitors into our branches—a 56% increase from last year! This growth is evidence of the joy our customers find in our libraries and our ability to meet their evolving needs.

**This is awesome! Extended Sunday hours is exactly what the EPL needed ♥**

**BRITT.STRACHAN ON INSTAGRAM**

Edmonton has notoriously short summers, but we made every minute count! We were delighted to return to in-person promotional school visits in support of Summer Starts at EPL, our annual program to encourage children to keep reading all summer long. Library staff delivered 267 school presentations reaching 23,803 students. And their hard work proved to be well worth the effort:

the Summer Starts program experienced tremendous demand, clocking a grand total of 128,478 reading hours; a 10% increase from last year.

Explore Edmonton became one of our newest partners, and together we launched the Read and Win campaign where children received a bookmark ribbon and two free general admission tickets to K-Days upon registration. Approximately 10,000 bookmarks and 20,000 general admission tickets were distributed to Edmonton families.

The summer fun continued with our Summer Programmers providing weekly visits to Boys and Girls Club and Big Brothers Big Sisters summer camps across the city, reaching 695 campers. More than 400 of those happy campers registered in Summer Reads and logged nearly 1,700 hours.

We encouraged customers to explore new ideas through our events and experiences. Our Forward Thinking Speaker Series inspired people to consider topics such as the importance of mental health, promoting intellectual freedom, challenging personal biases and being the voice for historically marginalized groups. Unforgettable evenings sparkled under the stars at Milner After Dark and the EPL Gala events, while Sounds from the Valley painted the city with vibrant music and poetry for more than 900 Edmontonians.









During the wildfires in the Northwest Territories and B.C., Edmonton embraced evacuees seeking refuge. We joined the City's response by offering temporary memberships, granting seamless access to our vast collection of resources and services. In times of stress and displacement, the Library became a place of comfort and support for evacuees, offering connection, information, and a sense of normalcy.

Through our partnership with TELUS, we launched our Hotspot Lending Pilot, an initiative that provides Wi-Fi access to newcomers and refugees who lack internet subsidies and individuals transitioning away from unsafe situations. We selected four Edmonton agencies to work as the connector between the pilot program and their clients, and together we helped to bridge the digital divide, breaking down barriers to crucial services and promoting equity in our community.

Experiential learning took root with epl2go's Land-Connected Pilot. Partnering with nature and culture, it nurtured deeper connections and a sense of wonder in hearts of all ages.

The past year has been a whirlwind of success at EPL. From selling out events to launching new pilot programs, we've provided unique spaces where people can connect, explore ideas, and discover a strong sense of belonging.

Even after many years as a public library patron,  
it still feels miraculous that I can walk into any  
branch and leave with whole new worlds of stories.

KAREN SPAFFORD-FITZ ON TWITTER / X

**207%**

INCREASE IN  
**CUSTOMERS**

----- IN -----



**SPRING BREAK  
PROGRAMS**  
OVER 2022

NEARLY

**5000  
PEOPLE**

----- ATTENDED THE -----

**FORWARD THINKING  
SPEAKER SERIES**



**18,998**

SUMMER STARTS  
REGISTRANTS

**19.8%**

INCREASE  
OVER 2022

## The Heritage Valley Expansion Story: From Bustling Branch to Community Hub

Our Heritage Valley Branch expansion is a testament to the power of community growth and unwavering support for libraries. As the area surrounding Heritage Valley flourished and its population skyrocketed, this charming storefront branch faced a critical challenge: it could no longer keep pace with the needs of its growing community.

Imagine students huddled on the floor, unable to find space for their projects, waitlists overflowing for beloved programs like Sing, Sign, Laugh and Learn (SSL) and queues forming to access the limited number of public computers. These are daily realities at our Heritage Valley Branch, highlighting the urgent need for expansion.

Recognizing this, City Council voted decisively in favour of our funding request. This was a remarkable achievement in a financially constrained environment where City Council's focus was on minimizing property tax increases.

Notably, EPL's reputation for responsible stewardship of public funds played a key role in earning their trust and their support for this expansion.

This success was also about more than numbers. Heartfelt testimonies from Councillors sharing personal connections to the library added a powerful human dimension to the proposal. We received touching messages on social media, where people expressed their love for the library, which further charged this momentum. Ultimately, funding for the Heritage Valley Branch expansion is a milestone not just for EPL, but for the entire community.

With plans to open the expanded branch in 2025, we look forward to continuing our mission as a steadfast guiding light for learning, connection, and community engagement, thanks to the unwavering support of EPL staff, customers, donors, volunteers, and advocates.







# THE BEST PLACE TO WORK

## Cultivating Growth, Inspiring Innovation: Celebrating Staff and their Professional Development

We aren't just supporters of lifelong learning, we are also participants! Throughout 2023, we made significant progress in strengthening digital equity by investing in staff training and resources. This commitment addressed two key areas: bridging workforce training gaps and fostering a love of learning from a young age. A prime example is our revamped SSLL training, developed collaboratively with Alberta Health Services Early Childhood Intervention Program. To ensure we can both teach and do, we also developed an improved suite of Making and Creating training options.

Dozens of staff eagerly embraced the new system-wide feedback tool, Ideas Hub, sparking enthusiastic submissions to the Senior Leadership Team. These ingenious ideas created 14 projects that focused on improved communication, enhanced customer experiences and improved accessibility, such as adding closed captioning to virtual meetings and making French language membership brochures available to the public.

This year, EPL's commitment to being a learning organization flourished through our Leader in Residence program, a professional development opportunity that connects staff with diverse subject matter experts, sparking discussions and fresh perspectives on crucial topics like leadership, innovation, and community development.

Two exceptional individuals left their mark this year. Dr. Emily Knox, an authority on intellectual freedom and freedom of expression in libraries, challenged us to further diversify our collections and better reflect the voices of our local community. Award-winning urbanist Tommi Laitio, through his work on *Convivencia*, encouraged us to see "friction" in library spaces not as a hindrance, but as an opportunity to encourage belonging, beauty, and joy.



**PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT**  
COURSES OFFERED



**8153**  
**STAFF  
TRAINING  
HOURS**







As we nurture continuous learning, we also recognize the incredible dedication of our staff. We honoured our 2023 EPL Knowledge Keepers, 13 individuals who have dedicated 20 to 40 years of service to the Library! Our Staff Appreciation Celebration, held at the Art Gallery of Alberta, brought together 374 staff and guests. It was a night to celebrate achievements, forge connections, and enjoy local art, trivia, and delicious treats.

Together, we created memories, cultivated connections, and encouraged a stronger community. Our passion, innovation, and dedicated commitment empower each and every staff member to build a lasting legacy—One library. One community. One unforgettable experience.

# 2023 KNOWLEDGE KEEPERS

## 40 years of service

**Carol Keay-Friesen**  
Interlibrary Loans  
Assistant

**Marlice Annett**  
Page

## 35 years of service

**Susanna Smallwood**  
Library Assistant

## 30 years of service

**Susan Cartier**  
Library Assistant

## 25 years of service

**Bob Ruetch**  
Circulation Assistant

**Belinda DeCap**  
Circulation Assistant

**Grazyna Rozycki**  
Library Assistant

## 20 years of service

**Jake Lysecki**  
Library Services  
Coordinator

**Elan Allen**  
Library Assistant

**Thea Marineo**  
Page

**Cherry Cipywnyk**  
Circulation Assistant

**Gerry Planinshek**  
Page

**Ivy Lai**  
Page

# 2023 WAS THE YEAR OF EARLY LITERACY

## Sprouting Seeds of Imagination: Nurturing Early Literacy in Edmonton

Picture tiny hands wrapped around a new library book. Wide eyes sparkle with curiosity as they begin a captivating adventure through the world of words. At EPL, we champion these little bookworms, empowering a love of reading that will blossom throughout their lives.

This year, the Welcome Baby program continued across Edmonton health centres, gifting over 11,000 precious newborns with their very first book during their first immunization, forming the cornerstone of their home library. With each tiny book, we hint at the promise of countless adventures yet to unfold.

Our Ready. Set. READ! program stretched to all corners of the city, reaching into 120 neighbourhoods and delivering 38,170 books to eager young minds. We witnessed the joy in their faces as they turned the pages and discovered new worlds. And in September 2023, a landmark moment arrived—our first graduating class of Ready. Set. READ! Over 400 little readers, proudly holding their badges and certificates, embarked on the next chapter of their literacy journey.

Understanding how critical the first few years of literacy are, we expanded our Sing, Sign, Laugh and Learn (SSL) program. No longer confined by walls, we reached out to families facing barriers to using our services, bringing 678 sessions of interactive learning to 14 branches and 12 outreach sites. Over 13,000 participants joined the laughter and the songs, their faces lighting up as they explored the world of language. Thanks to this expansion, both in-branch and off-site classes had more than 92,000 people singing, signing, laughing, and learning; a 102% increase from 2022!



**11,340**

**WELCOME BABY  
KITS DELIVERED**



**MOBILE SING,  
SIGN, LAUGH +  
LEARN SESSIONS  
FACILITATED**





Picture Books









To ensure our work reached even farther, we strapped on our seatbelts and hit the road in our epl2go Literacy Vans—EPL’s mobile learning centres. These vibrant vans, brimming with early literacy resources and fun learning activities reduced barriers, ensuring children had access and opportunity to learn and grow.

The feedback echoed with joy and appreciation, a tribute to the impact of EPL’s early literacy programs. It is more than adding books to a bookshelf; we are building a community of readers, promoting a love of learning that will bloom for years to come.

**READY, SET,  
READ!**  
SUCCESSSES:

EXPANDED  
★★ TO ★★  
**5000**  
REGISTERED  
CHILDREN

OVER  
**400**  
GRADUATES



**38,170**  
  
MAILED OUT



# THE BEST PLACE TO SUPPORT

## From Pages to Purpose: Fuelling Literacy Through Community Support

We believe that every story holds the power to transform. The story of 2023 starts with community and passionate individuals who share our love for literacy, discovery, and learning.

Edmonton's generosity flowed through our annual Books2Buy sales where donated treasures found new homes. Our Stanley A. Milner Library hosted four bustling sales, joined by our Whitemud Crossing Branch, raising a combined \$123,389 to fuel our Ready. Set. READ! program. Each story sold and each page turned was a contribution to nurturing young minds and encouraging a love of reading.

But the spirit of giving didn't stop there. After four years, the EPL Gala returned. With a sold-out crowd of 350 literacy enthusiasts, the evening was a celebration of community; a heartwarming reunion where laughter, delicious food, and enthusiastic support for Ready. Set. READ! intertwined.

Thanks to the remarkable generosity of attendees, donors and sponsors, we raised a staggering \$298,760! These funds translate into countless opportunities for Edmonton's youngest readers, opening worlds of imagination and shaping their future journeys.

The evening ignited a spark of inspiration thanks to actor and comedian Rainn Wilson. Our keynote speaker delivered a passionate message about the transformative power of storytelling and the importance of mental well-being. His words resonated, reminding us of the profound impact we can make together.

The spirit of collaboration shone brightly at the EPL Gala. From dedicated staff to enthusiastic volunteers, the event was an affirmation of our "One Team" philosophy. Every hand raised, every smile shared, contributed to the magic of this unforgettable evening.

**I fully support and value public libraries. Just made a donation to Ready. Set. READ!  
I've been reading to my daughter every day since I brought her home from the hospital.  
Every child and home needs books!**

**CINDY LIEU ON TWITTER / X**

We are so grateful for our champions on City Council! Their support secured funding that significantly improved accessibility to our Library's resources and services, further creating welcoming environments where people feel they can create, belong, and thrive.

Their visionary investment allowed us to expand Sunday hours at our branches, increase the reach of our mobile Sing, Sign, Laugh and Learn classes and begin the move to a larger Heritage Valley Branch. This exciting space, opening in 2025, will fulfill a critical need for the rapidly growing community.

Our heartfelt thanks also goes to our board of trustees. Their commitment to strong governance, leadership, and unwavering support makes an incredible difference in the lives of Edmontonians.

**292**

**VOLUNTEERS**



**CONTRIBUTED**

**4309  
HOURS**



Pictured above: EPL CEO Pilar Martinez (center) posed with donors Jim and Sharon Brown (left and right) at the 2023 EPL Gala.

# GRATITUDE REPORT

Building a stronger community takes a village, and this year, the generosity and passion for lifelong learning from our donors, funders, ambassadors, and customers truly shone. Customers, staff and both former and current Library Trustees have all stepped up with generous donations, together raising more than \$1.3 million.

These gifts make a real difference, empowering EPL to continue our vital work of helping communities thrive. Every contribution, big or small, fuels our mission.

♥ - Current and Past EPL Staff

♥ - Current and Past Trustees

## \$10,000–\$99,999

Anonymous donors (2)

Estate of Ursula J. Ball

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Shelley Milner Fund at  
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## \$5,000–\$9,999

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Stanley A. Milner Library  
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## \$1,000–\$4,999

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**\$500–\$999**

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Leanne McGeachy

Madeleine Mercier

Martha Miller

Charmaine Milner

John Milner

Lisa Milner

Dan Mirau ♥

Ms. Agnes Mitchell

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**Libraries & all who work in and volunteer  
there make the world a richer, kinder,  
smarter place. Thank you!**

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Edmonton Community  
 Foundation  
 City of Edmonton  
 Meet Me Downtown Grant

## Gifts in Kind

Mansur Bitar ♥  
 Edmonton International  
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 Kin Keepers  
 Londonderry Mall  
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Soulflame Creative  
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 Rose and Alexander Markoff  
 Ruth Patrouch  
 Spencer Logan  
 Ted Bailey  
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 Wieslaw Rajski

## Gifts in Honour Of

Al  
 Arthur Currie  
 Catharine and Jason Goudreau  
 Cathy and Doug Pettapiece  
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 EPL Librarian's and Working Staff ♥  
 Erik Forseth  
 Family Of Light Xmas Donation  
 Gail Reichert  
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 Jenny Penrose, a TA working with special needs children  
 Jessica Pang  
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 John, Janice, Laura and Colin Young  
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 Michelle Lajeunesse  
 Mike and Maren's Wedding  
 Mirion Dyer  
 Mona Rosenberg  
 Neil Kirkpatrick  
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 Our children Amanda-Lynn and Christopher and our grandkids Alexandra, Ethan and Jackson

Patricia Heights School  
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 To All Parents Who Share the Love Of Reading  
 Ukrainian Refugees  
 Wendy Rudzitis  
 Zachary, Gregory and Charlie

**Amazing to see so much support in #yeg for early literacy and the fabulous work of EPL.**

**RAKHI PANCHOLI ON TWITTER / X**

Every effort has been made to compile an accurate list of donors. If you have an update for our recognition, please contact us at [give@epl.ca](mailto:give@epl.ca) or 587-588-9034.

# EXPANDING

2023 marked a year of collective growth at the Edmonton Public Library. As pillars within our communities, we remain deeply embedded in the lives of Edmontonians, adapting continuously to meet their evolving needs and embracing the latest technologies and innovations shaping their world.

We cultivate a welcoming environment for everyone, guided by our Community-Led Service Philosophy. This commitment translates into actively breaking down barriers and ensuring equitable access to the vast resources and information we offer.

**Here is a glimpse into how Edmontonians expanded their horizons with the endless learning possibilities:**

69,871

New  
members.

||||| epl.ca

4.5  
MILLION

  
IN-PERSON  
VISITORS

# HORIZONS

**11.2**  
MILLION



ITEMS  
BORROWED

**9.2**  
MILLION



..... VISITS TO .....  
**epl.ca**

**5.8**

MILLION

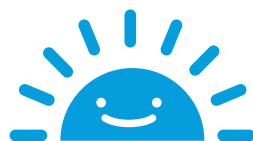
eResources  
DOWNLOADED



**456,196**  
PEOPLE  
— ATTENDED —



**EPL**  
CLASSES  
(IN PERSON + ONLINE)



LONGER  
SUNDAYS

DREW IN  
**150,000**  
ADDITIONAL  
VISITORS

**1.1 MILLION**  
QUESTIONS  
ANSWERED



**162%** INCREASE FROM 2022



# COLLECTIONS AND SERVICES

	2023	Change	2022
In-Person Visits	4,520,865	30%	3,479,257
Website Visits	9,285,940	38%	6,731,079
<b>Total Visits</b>	<b>13,806,805</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>10,210,336</b>
Adult	1,954,682	1%	1,926,380
Juvenile (includes Teen)	2,174,096	1%	2,148,840
Renewals	1,265,379	-2%	1,294,965
Other Checkouts	10,177	1%	10,123
<b>Total Physical Circulation</b>	<b>5,404,334</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>5,380,308</b>
eBooks (includes eComics)	1,609,378	-2%	1,648,223
eNewspapers & Magazines	1,408,755	16%	1,219,156
eAudiobooks	1,074,356	13%	949,645
eVideos	218,128	20%	181,205
eMusic	77,230	-19%	95,002
eLearning Programs	658,156	-5%	690,560
Databases	747,660	3%	724,157
<b>Total eUsage</b>	<b>5,793,663</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>5,507,948</b>
<b>Total Items Borrowed</b>	<b>11,197,997</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>10,888,256</b>



	2023	Change	2022
In-House Computer Usage (Hours)	619,732	26%	492,337
Questions Answered	1,128,259	162%	431,138
Outreach Service Encounters with Clients	2,468	21%	2,047
Physical Items Purchased (Print and Non-Print)	176,726	6%	167,068
Physical Collections	1,038,348	-2%	1,063,835
Digital Collections	6,539,387	6%	6,135,754
<b>Total Physical &amp; Digital Collections</b>	<b>7,577,735</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>7,217,589</b>
In-Person Classes & Events Presented	12,889	84%	6,990
In-Person Classes & Events Attendance	203,381	115%	94,452
Online Live Classes & Events Presented	742	-53%	1,594
Views of Online Live Classes & Events	10,174	-77%	44,837
Online Recorded Classes & Events Presented	1,028	9%	946
Views of Online Recorded Classes & Events	242,641	-15%	286,990
New Memberships	69,871	19%	58,505
<b>Active Memberships</b>	<b>296,062</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>262,351</b>
Number of Branches	21	0%	21

# STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

Revenue	2023	2022 (restated)
City of Edmonton	53,467,973	48,048,118
Provincial government	5,651,803	5,251,222
Funding for Capital Projects <sup>1</sup>	7,190,922	10,804,307
Fines and charges	119,793	110,623
Other <sup>2</sup>	3,968,600	1,911,643
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>70,399,091</b>	<b>66,125,913</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Salaries, wages and benefits	43,046,342	39,896,440
Books and library materials <sup>3</sup>	8,833,878	9,001,686
Vehicles, machinery and equipment	1,527,374	4,441,143
Building operations	4,054,981	4,367,086
Utilities and other	3,898,382	3,792,361
Material goods and supplies	2,519,104	2,027,573
Services	3,231,629	1,792,229
Carryforwards	679,701	465,797
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>67,791,391</b>	<b>65,784,314</b>
<b>Revenue in excess of expenditures</b>	<b>2,607,700</b>	<b>341,599</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes capital funding from grants and contributions

<sup>2</sup> Includes room rentals, leases, interest earned, donations, photocopying, and proceeds from sale of capital assets.

<sup>3</sup> Includes salaries, wages, and benefits for Collection, Management, and Access staff.







