

# Provincial Public Library Sector Plan 2022-2027

## Provincial Public Library Sector Plan

### Purpose

The provincial public library system is a key framework for cooperation in Saskatchewan and furthers the provincial interest in equitable access and lifelong learning.

With a public library sector plan, the 11 public library systems will work together to develop a provincial-level library system that is able to meet the needs of Saskatchewan residents, while considering shared values, supports and legislative requirements.

### Provincial Public Library System

The Provincial Public Library System is established by *The Public Libraries Act, 1996* and consists of more than 300 public library branches. These libraries are organized into 11 library systems that work together cooperatively. There are three different governance and funding models: municipal, regional and the north. The Provincial Library and Literacy Office (PLLO), a branch of the Ministry of Education, is considered a partner in the provincial public library system.

### How do Saskatchewan residents benefit from a sustainable provincial public library system?

- Access to print and digital resources from all 11 library systems
- Access to services in more than 300 library branches
- Community services and social infrastructure

### Why have a sector plan?

- Provincial government establishes the structure of the sector through legislation and is a substantial funding partner of the system.
- Saskatchewan Public Libraries are valued by Saskatchewan residents, who have indicated that they want and need seamless access to collections across the province and the excellent programs and services provided by public libraries that allow communities and individuals to thrive.
- To achieve this level of service, it takes efficiency, coordination and cooperation by the library systems.
- The provincial public library system (as defined by legislation) makes Saskatchewan unique and strengthens the ability of individual library systems to leverage their resources to provide the collections, programs and services that best serve their patrons.
- A library sector plan is an opportunity to reflect on past collaborations, explore the common areas of interest that will define what libraries of the future will be, and how libraries will continue to benefit Saskatchewan residents.
- In the sector plan, the library systems have identified the key actions that are needed in order to work together to meet the future recreational, educational, entrepreneurial and economic needs of Saskatchewan people in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The **Provincial Public Library Sector Plan** consists of five main priority areas. Actions stemming from **System Sustainability, Technology, Literacy and Reconciliation and Library Services** are expected to start in Year 1, while actions related **Infrastructure** are expected to start in Year 2.

**System Sustainability**

The public library is a transformational and transforming space that reflects the current and future needs and expectations of Saskatchewan residents for programs, resources and authoritative assistance. To continue to provide public library services requires that library systems in Saskatchewan are supported at a level sufficient to maintain current services as well as promote growth.

**Direction**

The provincial public library system will continue to provide quality public library services to Saskatchewan’s growing population by working together as independent, sustainably resourced partners.

Year 1 (2022-2023)	Year 2 (2023-2024)	Year 3 and beyond
<p>Complete jurisdictional analysis to compare funding levels for public libraries in Saskatchewan to other areas in Canada.</p> <p>Analyze the impact on the provincial library system of the variance in funding between library systems.</p> <p>Research alternative and innovative methods of collaboration and resourcing between public libraries.</p>	<p>Plan for future sustainability of regional systems by defining future resource needs of public library systems and services.</p> <p>Work with regional systems to determine strengths and weaknesses of current regional funding formula. This may include working on a new or revised formula.</p> <p>Pilot collaboration methods.</p>	<p>Work as the provincial public library system to identify future challenges and opportunities at a provincial level.</p> <p>Conduct a review of the <i>Public Libraries Act, 1996</i> with input from Boards and Library Directors.</p>

**Technology**

Public libraries are places where Saskatchewan residents can learn new technologies, catch a glimpse of emerging trends, and even try the latest and greatest innovations. Libraries can be the platform for new tech entrepreneurs and a doorway for Saskatchewan residents to join a thriving tech sector. Libraries link Saskatchewan residents with technologies that help shape their lives.

**Direction**

The provincial public library system maintains an effective and efficient system through the intelligent adoption of new technologies for staff.

Year 1 (2022-2023)	Year 2 (2023-2024)	Year 3 and beyond
Identify business technological resource needs in such areas as human resources, training, hardware, software and connectivity, as well as digital collections and services.	Explore and further enhance system-wide efficiencies, leveraging technology strengths.  Provide guidelines and best practices.	

**Reconciliation and Library Services**

Libraries serve as a safe, known, curated space for resources and discourse on public ideas and community ideals. Public libraries serve as partners in municipal reconciliation mandates, bring people together to work with Indigenous communities and promote equity.

Libraries can be empowering for families who want to educate themselves in a more culturally appropriate way.

**Direction**

The provincial public library system will continue to build and develop public library services and programs that work towards reconciliation in a number of ways, reflecting local priorities and needs.

Year 1 (2022-2023)	Year 2 (2023-2024)	Year 3 and beyond
<p>Determine what provincial supports may be needed for library systems to develop and deepen relationships with Indigenous partners and local organizations. This includes the role of the Saskatchewan Committee on Indigenous Library Services (SCILS) and PLLO.</p> <p>Support and facilitate the development of appropriate Indigenous Subject Headings, based on engagement with Indigenous communities.</p> <p>Work with Knowledge Keepers and Elders to identify priorities for reconciliation in Saskatchewan public libraries.</p> <p>Work with sector partners to increase their cultural safety and understanding of Indigenous Peoples and the issues they face to take an active role in reconciliation.</p>	<p>Implement changes to the Indigenous Subject Headings based on engagement with Indigenous communities.</p>	

**Literacy**

Literacy is central to the public library mission. Through print and digital collections, innovative platforms and tools, and flexible spaces for collaboration and learning activities, public libraries provide support for community-based organizations, municipal organizations, Kindergarten to Grade 12 and post-secondary education systems, and vulnerable populations.

**Direction**

All Saskatchewan people will be supported in acquiring and enhancing essential literacies necessary for active participation in society and the economy.

Year 1 (2022-2023)	Year 2 (2023-2024)	Year 3 and beyond
Investigate needs for all forms of literacy support work, related to COVID-19 disruption.	Research existing literacy programming and identify potential gaps in service provision within the provincial public library system.  Develop provincial outcomes for provincial public library system supports.	

**Infrastructure**

Libraries will be a place where communities can connect with the wider world, no matter where in Saskatchewan they live.

Municipal library systems are responsible for their libraries, while municipalities are responsible for facilities in regional library systems. In the North, partners in the federation are responsible for public facilities.

**Direction**

Public libraries will provide welcoming, accessible community spaces that meet the needs of Saskatchewan residents.

Year 1 (2022-2023)	Year 2 (2023-2024)	Year 3 and beyond
Start in Year 2	Identify and plan for potential impacts that provincial accessibility legislation may have on public libraries. This includes jurisdictional analysis and examination of best practices.	