



# Libraries **VALUE BEYOND** words

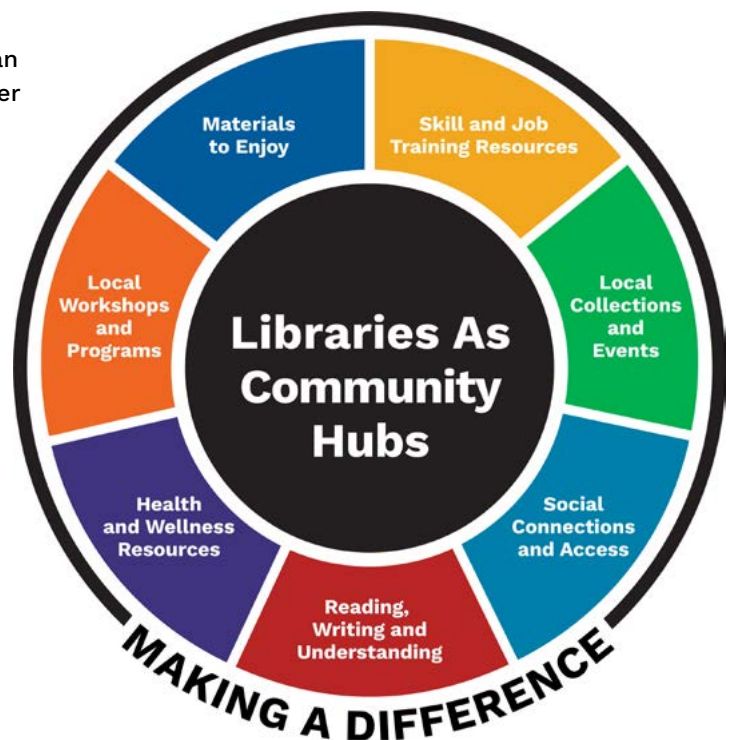


In a typical year, public libraries in Alberta are visited more than 20 million times, circulate more than 35 million items, and offer tens of thousands of programs for all ages. Public libraries are welcoming community hubs that connect, inform, and inspire people of all ages. Libraries help to build a stronger province by creating opportunities for all.

## Libraries Deliver Value Beyond Words

Libraries are one of the most effective and impactful uses of public funding. Strong libraries equal strong communities. Libraries help ensure that all Albertans have access to broad band internet, authoritative information, technology, tools, and services needed to help our province thrive. Equitable access to resources and materials provided by libraries 'levels the playing field,' and enables all Albertans to learn, grow and flourish.

**Libraries are the heart of rural communities across Alberta.**



# Libraries **VALUE BEYOND** words



## **Economic Development**

Businesses locate in communities with libraries. They value libraries as an essential quality-of-life amenity for their employees and families. Libraries support economic development by providing resources for people to start a business, upgrade skills, or learn about career options.



## **Education**

Libraries encourage literacy for people of all ages, help newcomers who have English as a second language and connect people and the world. Free internet access is a critical educational support for families and people living in poverty.



## **Credible Information**

Librarians are available to help people find evidence-based resources credible and reliable. In times of misinformation, falsehoods and conjecture, Libraries can be a force for objectivity and truth.



## **Health**

Libraries bring people together, which is a significant factor in mental well-being. For example, moms and toddlers can enjoy story time, providing socialization and literacy support. Isolated seniors can play cards; teens can make friends during game night. The library is a safe, enjoyable community hub that supports mental health through social connection.

Libraries can also provide peer-reviewed, evidence-based resources on health matters, making access to reliable information easy for everyone.



## **Environment**

Libraries help reduce waste and over-consumption by lending books, movies, materials and resources time and time again. This is the 'original' recycling program! Library circulation gets the longest life out of each material by enabling as many people to use it as possible.



Can we count on your support?