



**City of Lloydminster  
Request for Decision (RFD)**

**Subject Matter: Lloydminster Public Library Municipal Library Model**

**Department: Community Development Services**

Presented By: Tracy Simpson

**Council Meeting Date: June 24, 2024**

**Recommendation:**

That Council direct Administration to proceed with transitioning the Lloydminster Public Library from a regional library to a municipal library, as per applicable legislation.

That Council approve to fund the library transition with \$30,000 from the Recreation and Culture Operating Reserve No. 1-700-740-34170 and to be paid out of the Library Operating Budget No. 76000-0001-52100.

**Issue:** The Lloydminster Public Library and City Administration have investigated the process of transitioning to a Municipal Library of the province of Saskatchewan as laid out in *The Saskatchewan Public Libraries Act*.

**Background:** At the May 13, 2024, Regular Council Meeting, Council directed Administration to explore the option of the Lloydminster Public Library (LPL) becoming a Municipal Library in Saskatchewan. The LPL has been a part of the Lakeland Library Region (Lakeland) for several decades. In recent years, the LPL has seen significant growth in utilization and participation numbers in the new location within LloydMall. With continued and rapid growth, comes growing pains that have created challenges with an urban bi-provincial library operating within the current regional library system of Saskatchewan.

As the attached report explains, *The Lloydminster Charter* is silent on libraries; therefore, the physical location of the LPL was used to determine which province the LPL follows. The LPL currently follows the *Alberta Libraries Act* as per the City of Lloydminster's Library Bylaw 22-2020.

The boundaries set out in the *Saskatchewan Public Libraries Act* considers the Saskatchewan portion of Lloydminster to be a part of the Lakeland Library Region. The Act identifies the definition of a municipality as including "that portion of the City of Lloydminster located in Saskatchewan" (Section 2(j)).

Due to this unique situation, LPL follows the *Alberta Libraries Act*, but the Lakeland region follows only the *Saskatchewan Public Libraries Act* and Saskatchewan legislation. This has created unique partnership challenges for the two parties and has required a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be in place annually that identifies how the two parties will work together within this unique framework.

In 2022, the LPL moved from the Atrium Centre downtown to the current location within the LloydMall. This modern and welcoming library has seen a resurgence in library utilization and residents of Lloydminster are actively and frequently utilizing this new space. In 2023, the

LPL saw over 90,000 visits, 120,000 physical resources circulated, 50,000 e-resources borrowed, and 30,000 resources from Lloydminster lent to other patrons in Saskatchewan. The Lloydminster Public Library usage equates to approximately 32% of the total utilization in the Lakeland region. This significant portion of the regional business occurring in Lloydminster does impose challenges on Lakeland in supporting the smaller branch libraries. The 2024 MOU is still currently in negotiations with assistance from the Provincial Librarian. Challenges around the Alberta Legislation impacts, and management of the Lloydminster Public Library are ongoing discussion points.

The Municipal Library model, as detailed in the *Saskatchewan Public Libraries Act* would provide the board of the Lloydminster Public Library to operate autonomously from the Lakeland region while continuing to participate in the provincial borrowing system. The Municipal Library model within the Saskatchewan legislation provides a comparable model to the Alberta model, where the board is established by City Council, which is currently our practice under the Alberta Legislation. Outside of the two major cities in the province (Regina and Saskatoon), Prince Albert is the only community who has changed their regional boundaries and become a municipal library under the current legislation.

LPL representatives and City Administration explored the legislative requirements of both Alberta and Saskatchewan Acts, budgetary and operational impacts, the Alberta library system model vs. the Saskatchewan library system model, and the potential changes to the LPL board should the Lloydminster Public Library become a municipal library. The findings are provided in the attached report. Administration is recommending proceeding with the transition process of LPL becoming a municipal library based on the findings.

**Options:**

1. That Council approve all motions as indicated in the Recommendation above.
2. That Council does not approve Administration to proceed with transitioning the Lloydminster Public Library to a municipal library.
3. That Council request further information and that the item be brought forward to a future Regular Council Meeting for decision.

**Alignment with Strategic Plan:** This item is in alignment with the following strategic area: Delivering Good Governance. The City of Lloydminster and its partners strive to ensure that all parties are following all appropriate legislation.

**Legal Review:** Legal review has been completed of both Alberta and Saskatchewan legislation for this matter through City legal counsel.

**Governance Implications:** The Lloydminster Public Library Board Bylaw No. 22-2020 will need to be reviewed if the ministry approves of LPL becoming a municipal library to reflect the legislative changes of the board.

**Budget/Financial Implications:** There will be cost implications to making the Lloydminster Public Library a municipal library; both capital and operating costs. These costs are further

outlined within the report in the appendices section. The funds being requested today are to cover the transition (legislated notices, advertisements, and public meeting).

**Environmental Implications:** N/A



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**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	Lloydminster Public Library Municipal Library Model.docx
Attachments:	- Report to Council RE Municipal Library.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jun 18, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Tracy Simpson

Marilyn Lavoie

Dion Pollard