

REPORT

To: Saskatchewan Library Trustees' Association

Date: January 2020

Programs, Services & Facilities

- City council voted in favour of a borrowing request that will allow SPL to move forward with a new central library project. While it is still very early in the process, it is anticipated a new central library in downtown Saskatoon will open in 2026.
- RFID self-checkouts were implemented system-wide.
- We are in the process of developing a new public website to launch in 2020.
- The Rusty Macdonald Branch underwent a comprehensive renovation and reopened in October 2019. While renovations were ongoing, a pop-up library operated out of the branch's auditorium.
- Renovations to the teen area at Frances Morrison Library were completed in February, thanks to a \$30,000 donation from Friends of the Library.
- Our popular "Blind Date with a Book" promotion was held for another year, Feb 1-14.
- We hosted a wide range of events throughout February to celebrate Aboriginal Storytelling Month and are preparing for another full month of events again in 2020.
- We began external promotion of the Program Guide through an agreement with Special Eyes Distribution. The Guide is now available at more than 200 free publication stands that are located in businesses throughout the city.
- Work began on renovations to the basement of the J.S. Wood Branch. These renovations were still ongoing at the end of 2019.
- Partnership agreements were signed with the YMCA, Remai Modern and Western Development Museum to begin borrowing admission passes in 2020 via SPL. Dubbed "Discovery Pass," SPL will begin loaning these passes to patrons in mid-January.
- Our second annual holiday campaign, Season's Readings, was successful. Patrons decorated Christmas trees at every location with ornaments containing the titles of their favourite books. We also held another Instagram contest where, every day between Dec 1 and 24, we highlighted one of 2019's most popular books and gave it away.
- The third annual Knowlympics, our all-ages summer learning challenge, was held at over the summer of 2019. There were 2,996 registrations compared to 2,480 in 2018.
- SPL hosted the kickoff of the One eRead Canada campaign with a live-streamed Q&A featuring author Dawn Dumont in June.
- We are expanding our collection of Role Playing Games (RPGs) and make them a holdable item in our catalogue.
- SPL again hosted eight citizenship ceremonies throughout 2019.
- We changed our Book Club in a Bag service to make it easier for patrons to use by making the kits available in the catalogue.

Governance

- The new central library business case was completed and made public: www.saskatooncentrallibrary.ca.
- A new collective agreement was ratified by the SPL and the CUPE 2669 union in early 2020.
- Many new procedures and policies were approved and work in this area remain ongoing as we look to modernize—and, in some cases, create from scratch—a wide range of documents that aim to standardize and improve internal understandings of various procedures and policies.
- Board Chair Lisa Erickson’s term expired at the end of 2019 after serving her maximum term of six years on the board.
- Brett Bradshaw has been elected the Chair of the Board, and John Thronberg has been elected Vice-Chair.

Leadership & Staff

- Work continues on the development of SPL’s Community-Inspired Service Philosophy. Employee feedback was gathered during our staff day in late September and is being incorporated into the document, which we plan to finalize and make public in 2020.
- The training program for library service associates remains underway, and employees are completing their course work.
- We offered Mental Health First Aid training to all employees.
- Active Shooter training was provided at every location.