



Why Libraries Matter

Libraries are excellent value for the taxpayer's dollar

Using a value calculator, libraries take every \$1 of taxpayer money and turn it into \$3 of value. Libraries provide resources that many people otherwise could not afford. A family that makes even just modest use of public library services (books, DVDs, ebooks, programs, digital materials, etc.) uses an estimated \$1100 worth of resources per year.

Libraries support literacy and lifelong learning

Libraries help people learn about technology and information skills. Children and adults strengthen their reading skills at libraries via story times, research, recreational reading, summer reading clubs, etc. Libraries answer questions, offer new interests and share ideas. Children who participate in a summer reading program at a public library enter the new school year more confident, have a positive attitude about reading and perceive reading as important.

Libraries help government succeed

Libraries provide an established and trusted network of local institutions that can deliver government programs and services to new, remote and/or marginalized populations. Libraries close gaps in access to information and help government better understand local information needs.

Libraries build community

Libraries bring people together physically and online. Libraries offer a space for people from all walks of life to learn and grow with each other. Libraries provide resources, facilities, programs and experiences that help us learn from our differences.

Libraries strengthen families

Libraries offer a safe, comfortable and welcoming space for families to learn, grow and play together. Teens will find a place to develop positive values, skills and relationships in a library.

Libraries get busier during economic downturns

During economic downturns people turn to public libraries for an affordable outing with children, for free access to recreational materials like books and DVDs, free internet and computer access, inexpensive printing and faxing services and job seeking assistance. "Libraries will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of no libraries" – Anne Herbert (author).

Libraries are equalizers

Libraries serve people of all ages, persuasions, genders, ethnicities, physical abilities, income levels, educational levels, etc. Libraries provide equal access to resources and experiences many people otherwise could not afford.

Libraries serve rural and remote communities

Public libraries maintain a presence in many rural and remote communities in the form of weekly delivery of new materials, a full service branch, or a community drop off point.

Libraries protect our right to know

Libraries defend our rights to learn, grow, speak freely, be educated and seek information.

Libraries empower the individual

Libraries offer instruction, support and access to resources to help people lead better lives.

Libraries strengthen our province and our country

Through resources and programming libraries support and defend a citizenry that is literate, informed and democratic.

Libraries preserve Saskatchewan's cultural heritage

Libraries collect, organize and make available unique and historical documents that helps us to better understand our past, present and future.

Libraries provide direct economic benefits to the local community

Libraries provide funding for operations, materials and especially wages that provide direct benefit to the economy. Libraries support and compliment the local economy, bolster the economic prosperity of the community and provide jobs in an automated and community focused environment.

Libraries are well used

4.8 million NHL hockey game attendees each year in Canada

100 million library visits per year in Canada

112 million movie goers each year in Canada

Libraries attract newcomers to our communities

The number one consideration for a person moving to rural Saskatchewan is the number of amenities in town. Libraries directly contribute towards the services offered in our communities. At a time of declining amenities, population, schools, services and resources in small town rural Saskatchewan, public libraries are committed to remaining in under populated and remote areas.

The library is one of the last free public spaces

Libraries offer one of the last free public spaces where people can simply "be" year round. Visitors to a public library can socialize, meet friends, make new friends, have a discussion, read the paper, access free WiFi, find relief from the heat or cold, or simply "hang out" for as long as the library is open with no expectation to purchase, donate or contribute to anything.

Southeast Regional Library

49 Bison Ave

Weyburn, SK

S4H 0H9

306-848-3100

library.srl@southeastlibrary.ca

www.southeastlibrary.ca