



ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
RED DEER LIBRARY BOARD
6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 30, 2016
Waskasoo-Kiwanis Meeting Room

AGENDA

Welcome & Chair's Remarks

1. Nomination of members for standing committees
 - a. Planning and Finance
 - b. Personnel and Administration
2. Determination of Cheque Signers

Adjournment



open for discovery

RED DEER LIBRARY BOARD
6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 30, 2016
Waskasoo-Kiwanis Meeting Room

AGENDA

Welcome & Chair's Remarks

Conflict of Interest Declaration

Approval of Consent Agenda

- 48. Approval of Agenda
- 49. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- 50. Report from the Planning & Finance Committee
 - a. Approval of Financial Statements of October 31, 2016
- 51. Report from the Personnel & Administration Committee
- 52. Friends of the Library report
- 53. Acceptance of the Managers' reports & Library statistics

Items for Decision

- 50. Planning and Finance Committee
- 51. Personnel and Administration Committee

Strategic Discussion and Board Development

Adjournment



RED DEER LIBRARY BOARD
6:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 26, 2016
G.H. Dawe Community Centre Board Room

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Tanya Handley, Jim Taylor, Colleen Nederlof, Mark Waters, Maggie MacLean, Vanessa Gilbertson, Judy Clark, Samuel Vroon and Christina Wilson (CEO)

Absent: Lionel Lustgarten

Regrets: Anita Thomas

Welcome & Chair's Remarks

Jim called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. Jim welcomed new board members, Judy Clark, Maggie MacLean and Samuel Vroon and introductions were made. Jim also provided a brief explanation of how the consent agenda works so that the new Board members would understand what was happening during this meeting but assured them that more detailed explanations and instructions would be provided during their orientation sessions with Christina.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

There were no conflicts of interest to declare.

MOTION: To accept the consent agenda
WATERS / GILBERTSON/ CARRIED

Approval of Consent Agenda

42. Approval of Agenda
43. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting
44. Report from the Planning & Finance Committee
 - a. Approval of Financial Statements of September 30, 2016
45. Report from the Personnel & Administration Committee
46. Friends of the Library report
47. Acceptance of the Managers' reports & Library statistics

A question was asked as to why the large print usage had increased and the children's collection had decreased. Christina explained that the large print collection is not a large collection and so any slight increase or decrease in usage appears substantial. In regards to the decrease in children's materials usage, this is indicative of the challenge that many libraries face in getting children to choose reading instead of other activities (such as video games, television etc.). In addition, parents will often bring their children to the library for programs or other

activities, but will not actually borrow materials, so although they are using library resources and reading while they are in the library, it is not shown in the usage because they are not actually taking the materials home.

Items for Decision

44. Planning and Finance Committee

Christina advised the Board that she recently changed how committee agendas and minutes appear on the Board Site as part of the Board meeting package so that all items under discussion are in one place for ease of access.

Christina explained to the new Board members that the financial statements will be explained in detail and this will be reviewed in detail during their orientations.

MOTION: To approve the September 30, 2016 financial statements.
GILBERTSON / WATERS / CARRIED

45. Personnel and Administration Committee

Two issues were addressed at the Personnel and Administration Committee; the CEO Evaluation policy and Policy 4.2 - Unattended Children. The CEO Evaluation policy (in draft form) has been posted to the Board site, and Jim asked Board Members to review the policy and be prepared to discuss it at the next Board meeting.

In response to the increasing occurrence of unattended children in the Library, Management proposed that Policy 4.2 – Unattended Children, be amended in order to provide a more conceptual notion to parents of what it means to be in sight of their children, as well as provide staff with the necessary backing and support to enforce the policy when required. The proposed “arm’s reach” terminology is commonly used in many community centres and pools, and will work well in the library environment. Once the changes to policy 4.2 have been made, it will be clearly posted at all Branches.

MOTION: To accept the recommendation from the Personnel and Administration Committee to revise paragraph 4.2.1.1 of Policy 4.2 – Unattended Children from “Children age eight and under must have a parent or caregiver stay with them in the same department in the Library...” to “Children age eight and under must be supervised within arm’s reach by a responsible caregiver 16 year of age or older...”.
HANDLEY / VROON / CARRIED

Strategic Discussion and Board Development

Alla Mysko-Henke, Manager, Adult Literacy Program gave a presentation on the Adult Literacy Program. Alla’s presentation focused on how the Adult Literacy Program supports the Library’s Plan of Service and Mission, and provided the Board with some background information about

the program. Alla explained that the Adult Literacy Program currently has 112 volunteers and 150 students who meet weekly. In addition to the individual sessions, the Adult Literacy Program also offers three classes per week that focus on different aspects of literacy for specific purposes. Monday's class teaches students about conversation, Tuesday's class focuses on speech, and Wednesday's class is designed to help prepare students to take the International English Language Testing System test which is a requirement for many Foreign Trained Professionals to get their Canadian credentials. Alla finished her presentation by having the Board members participate in an activity which involved Alla teaching the Board members some Ukrainian by using pictures, actions and repetition to form brief sentences.

Christina provided some additional information to the Board about the Adult Literacy program and explained that the funding for the program comes from Advanced Education, which is the same source of funding for colleges and universities. Most recently, the Adult Literacy Program also received additional funding in the form of a \$37,000.00 grant to provide support to Syrian refugees.

The Board was shown a copy of the book *The Little Chick* by John Lawrence which will be given out as a prize to children who complete the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program. The book was a donation from the Friends of the Red Deer Public Library which they received when they won the Gabriele Schreiber "Friends of the Year Award" earlier this year.

Adjournment

Mark motioned to adjourn at 7:27 p.m.

Approved: _____
Jim Taylor (Chair)

Society of the Friends of the Red Deer Public Library

November 2016 Report to the RDPL Board

Fall Book Sale

The Friends had a successful book sale in October raising \$2,118 for the library. Unsold books were donated to charity, a local church, Maskwacis and the Books on the Bus program. Book store sales remain steady averaging around \$1,300 each month. The Friends will be seeking an updated "wish list" from the library in the near future as the bank balance is growing.

Symphony Concert Display

The Friends and the Library are collaborating on a joint display at the RDC Arts Center during the January 14/17 Red Deer Symphony Concert.

Society Membership

There are currently 48 members of the Society of Friends of the Red Deer Public Library.

Submitted by:

Anita Thomas
RDPL Board Liaison to the Friends
November 15, 2016

CEO's Report: October 2016

Across Canada, libraries celebrated “National Library Month” in October. Red Deer Public Library's theme was “City of Readers” and our celebration was made more prominent by several unique reading activities and two high profile author visits, appealing to all audiences. The Olson Memorial Celebration of Books Tour 2016 brought Helaine Becker, author of over 70 childrens' fiction and nonfiction books to Red Deer to hundreds of avid readers in Red Deer over several days – no small feat! *The Outside Circle* author Patti LaBoucane-Benson and illustrator Kelly Mellings gave a moving and stimulating talk to a rapt audience of over 100 adults, teens and families at Red Deer College's WEC centre. Introduced to the audience by Her Worship, Mayor Veer, this final event of Red Deer Reads, our Community-wide Book Club was a night to remember. Ms. LaBoucane-Benson spoke powerfully on her motivation for creating the story and Kelly Mellings provided insights into his creative process of illustrating a graphic book. Above all, the audience was engaged and eager to share personal stories of truth and reconciliation regarding Canada's First Nations. Many other reading activities took place during October to connect readers with books, including the Downtown Branch's 5th Star Wars Reads event, the Dawe Branch's storytelling workshop with Edmonton master storyteller, Gail de Vos and Timberlands' “Books and Brews” event. More details of these are listed below, but they point out the “novel” ways in which Library staff work to connect Red Deerians to books, stories and their creators, often with surprising and rewarding results for staff and participants. Through our National Library Month activities, Red Deer library staff and program participants also achieve outcomes related to our Plan of Service responses: Create Young Readers, Satisfy Curiosity through lifelong learning and Stimulate Imagination by listening and reading for pleasure.

RDPL by the Numbers:

Overall circulation, visits (physical and virtual), reference questions and program attendance continue to be up over October, 2015 and Year to date (YTD). Use of public computers is slightly down in October, but up overall for the year. Inter library lending indicates that Red Deerians appreciate this service. We are borrowing more than lending. Borrowing is up significantly over last year although lending is up, too. Library memberships are down overall by 8%, continuing a trend that began earlier this year. Below is a snapshot of physical visits to the 3 branches, showing a drop this month in all locations, but overall increases for the year. By adding in the virtual visits, both the monthly and YTD figures are much higher. October, 2016 was uncharacteristically warm and lovely, perhaps keeping people outdoors longer and not indoors.

Visits:	Oct2016	2015		2016	2015	YTD %
Timberlands	5,469	5,548	-1.4%	47,731	40,673	17.4%
Downtown	26,224	26,828	-2.3%	264,817	222,287	19.1%
Dawe	13,117	13,488	-2.8%	133,052	1207,088	4.7%
Total Visits	39,341	40,316	-2.4%	1,112,367	845,252	31.6%

Community

This Thanksgiving, RDPL supported an independent community group who provide new and gently used books to the Central Alberta Womens' Emergency Shelter (CAWES) by providing 150 cloth library bags at a cut rate, gently used childrens' books (some are set aside by Youth

Services staff), promotion (Janet Pierce prepares and distributes a public service announcement) and program guides. The volunteers gather all materials, then sort and bag them into groups suitable for children up to age 12, Teens and Women. This year the effort resulted in 971 books sorted into 341 bags, donated to CAVES and met the group's worthy goal of 300 bags of between 800 and 1,000 books.

The Fall meeting of the Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC) was hosted by the CEO, Halifax Public Library and held in their beautiful new building allowing participants to tour this landmark library building. The meeting was well attended and featured discussions on the transition of CLA into a Federation of Associations, Canada 150 plans across the country, a status report on serving disabled readers through the Centre for Equitable Library Service (CELA) and an update from Libraries and Archives Canada on their digital strategy. These are valuable meetings, connecting Red Deer to national public library trends and issues. Cory Stier, Deputy Director attended the last day of meetings as part of his involvement in CULC's Public Library Leadership program, a unique professional development opportunity which began at this meeting in October and will continue into 2017.

As the Treasurer of The Alberta Library (TAL), I presented an outline of the 2017 budget at the Executive meeting in October, as preparation for presenting the final budget to the full TAL Board in November. TAL is embarking upon some exciting and positive initiatives to improve its service to members, such as a renewed TALOnline and a greater variety of database offerings to all library sectors.

As members of an advisory committee to the Public Library Services Branch (PLSB), Jim Taylor and I attended the "Nodes" in Edmonton for Board Chairs and Library Directors. Topics under discussion included provincial support for public libraries and regional library systems, digital offerings and plans to enhance services to First Nations, including a symposium on best practices. It was well attended and took place in the newly renovated Federal Building that overlooks the legislature.

Library Statistics - October 2016

	Oct 2016	Oct 2015	% Difference	2016 YTD	2015 YTD	% Difference
CIRCULATION						
Total Circulation	78,431	76,824	2.1%	778,242	726,501	7.1%
Adult Materials	39,153	37,526	4.3%	395,806	362,840	9.1%
Paperback	1,599	1,784	-10.4%	17,293	20,521	-15.7%
Fiction	5,173	6,090	-15.1%	53,946	56,312	-4.2%
Non-Fiction	3,814	3,228	18.2%	41,715	33,753	23.6%
Large Print	1,584	1,146	38.2%	13,768	12,056	14.2%
Teen	3,404	2,777	22.6%	30,614	28,800	6.3%
Audio-visual	18,247	17,866	2.1%	188,256	169,069	11.3%
Magazines	772	943	-18.1%	9,499	9,107	4.3%
Other Languages	13	24	-45.8%	393	213	84.5%
Daisy CDs	35	28	25.0%	916	629	45.6%
eBooks	4,317	3,640	18.6%	38,985	32,380	20.4%
Children's Materials	18,961	18,689	1.5%	186,877	191,745	-2.5%
Paperback	1,983	1,436	38.1%	17,215	17,240	-0.1%
Non-Fiction	1,412	1,389	1.7%	15,564	16,246	-4.2%
Other Languages	344	361	-4.7%	3,405	3,254	4.6%
Fiction	1,438	1,719	-16.3%	14,804	15,628	-5.3%
Easy	7,157	7,621	-6.1%	69,038	72,308	-4.5%
Audio-visual	5,872	5,526	6.3%	56,228	55,908	0.6%
Magazines + Comics	397	398	-0.3%	5,008	4,811	4.1%
eBooks	358	239	49.8%	5,615	6,350	-11.6%
Timberlands Circ	7,912	6,993	13.1%	67,038	50,212	33.5%
Dawe Circulation	12,405	13,616	-8.9%	128,521	121,704	5.6%
Visits-Timberlands	5,469	5,548	-1.4%	47,731	40,673	17.4%
Downtown	26,224	26,828	-2.3%	264,817	222,287	19.1%
Dawe	13,117	13,488	-2.8%	133,052	127,088	4.7%
Website Visits	73,025	57,986	25.9%	714,498	475,001	50.4%
Total Visits	112,366	98,302	14.3%	1,112,367	845,252	31.6%
Interlibrary Loans						
ILL In	420	306	37.3%	4,325	3,247	33.2%
ILL Out	195	255	-23.5%	2,328	2,116	10.0%
Total	615	561	9.6%	6,653	5,363	24.1%
New Memberships	637	731	-12.9%	8,373	9,036	-7.3%
Renewals	141	187	-24.6%	1,705	1,929	-11.6%
Total	778	918	-15.3%	10,078	10,965	-8.1%

	Oct 2016	Oct 2015	% Difference	2016 YTD	2015 YTD	% Difference
REFERENCE						
Adult Total	6,563	5,318	23.4%	67,946	62,104	9.4%
Juv Total	1,482	1,600	-7.4%	17,786	17,648	0.8%
Timberlands Total	648	601	7.8%	6,426	5,470	17.5%
Dawe Total	1,196	1,477	-19.0%	11,305	12,482	-9.4%
Total Ref Questions	9,889	8,996	9.9%	103,463	97,704	5.9%
Database Queries	2,081	1,281	62.5%	19,196	17,583	9.2%
Total Questions	11,970	10,277	16.5%	122,359	115,287	6.1%
PROGRAMS						
Adult Programs	12	17		160	161	
Attendance	288	381		2,186	2,230	
Youth Programs	59	46		458	446	
Attendance	1,892	1,125		13,775	11,767	
TL Programs	131	125	0	782	664	
Dawe Programs *	82	86		797	631	
Attendance	1,541	1,632		16,368	13,365	
TL Attendance	2,503	2,640		15,885	13,551	
Library Programs	284	274	3.6%	2,197	1,902	15.5%
Attendance	6,224	5,778	7.7%	48,214	40,913	17.8%
VOLUNTEER HOURS						
Friends	90	124		464	549	
Library *	814	811		8,074	6,484	
Library Board	31	54		441	499	
Total	935	989	-5.5%	8,979	7,532	19.2%
PUBLIC INTERNET						
Timberlands	310	406		3,143	3,121	
Adult Sessions	2,709	2,998		28,114	27,399	
Youth Sessions	532	641		4,714	3,317	
Dawe Sessions	1,146	1,291		11,398	11,942	
Total Sessions	4,697	5,336	-12.0%	47,369	45,779	3.5%
* Includes						
Adult Literacy Stats						
Tutors	152	98	55.1%			
Hours	760	747	1.7%	6,919	5,792	19.5%
Students	270	130	107.7%			
Hours	880	558	57.7%	7,158	5,410	32.3%

Red Deer Public Library Managers Reports - October 2016

I. Create Young Readers: Early Literacy

RDPL Activity / Outcome for this period:

- A pre-kindergarten class from Joseph Welsh School came to the Timberlands Branch in October for a storytime, where the children and their parents learned more about what the library has to offer. Thirteen of the children attending the storytime were also registered for the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program; as noted by the students' teacher, "I love the idea of this program and believe it would help to develop some great reading habits for our families."
- Adventures in Books, an outreach program for Family Services of Central Alberta's Parent Link branch, saw its highest attendance to date in October with a total of 30 participants. The program is run once a month at Parkland Mall by Rachelle McComb, Children's Services Assistant and Timberlands Branch Assistant, and includes stories, songs, and puppet shows, as well as information for parents about literacy and what the library has to offer.
- The Olson Memorial Celebration of Books Tour 2016 was a great success. Helaine Becker, author of more than 70 books of fiction and nonfiction for children, presented to over 800 people including school children from Grades 2 to 5 at both branches, a number of schools who came to the Downtown Branch on a field trip to see her, Grade 5 classes in St. Albert, as well as a public reading at the Downtown Branch for all ages.. She encouraged literacy by presenting, making her books available to all through the library collection, selling her books through Sunworks, and giving books away as prizes. The Olson was designed to bring high profile Canadian children / young adult authors to Red Deer, to children who would otherwise not have a chance to see them. This year's tour was planned and executed by Children's Services Coordinator Deb Isbister, with funding from the Friends of the Red Deer Public Library, the Community Initiatives Program of the Alberta Government, and of course the Olson Memorial Fund. From Helaine: *"A super cyberhug to thank you for everything you did to make my visit to Alberta so outstanding. There are not enough words, and from me, that's really saying something, since I have all the words in profusion."*

2. Express Creativity: Create and Share Content

RDPL Activity / Outcome for this period:

- A participant of the Quilting Club that was facilitated in September by Millie Watson, a master-quilter, reached out to the Dawe Branch to share the fact that she completed the quilt, she also expressed her gratitude for the library for bringing such a master-crafter to facilitate a program at the library.



- *More Than Cobwebs and Dust*, written by local author and former staff member Laural Grimes, was nominated for a Red Deer Heritage Recognition Award in the category of Heritage Advocacy, Education and Awareness. Laural and her illustrator Lorlei Vuori attended the ceremony and were honoured to have been recognized among the Heritage projects in the City and County.
- Jessica Dinan, Teen Services Library Assistant, organized a highly successful Graphic Novel Storyboarding program, as part of the Red Deer Reads Program roster. Illustrator of *The Outside Circle*, Kelly Mellings, taught an enthusiastic group of 20 teens and adults the fundamentals of graphic novel design.

3. Satisfy Curiosity: Lifelong Learning

RDPL Activity / Outcome for this period:

- In the month of October, the Adult Literacy Program registered 16 new learners and 2 new tutors. The program matched 16 pairs. Many of the tutors were willing to take another learner to help reduce the waitlist, and their dedication to lifelong learning was amply demonstrated by the record number of matches we have made this month.
- In October, Adult Literacy started a Speechcraft class in collaboration with Toastmasters. This class is different from a typical language learning course because it focuses on fluency rather than accuracy and helps learners fight the fear of speaking and build confidence. The class runs once a week for 7 weeks and has 7 learners.
- Adult Literacy held a Tutor Training session on Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLBs) which was attended by 21 tutors. These numbers show our tutors' commitment as well as their willingness to get training related to skills for tutoring learners of different ages and levels.

4. Stimulate Imagination: Reading, Viewing, and Listening for Pleasure

RDPL Activity / Outcome for this period:

- Wade Courtice Reading Pal collection for emerging readers made an appearance at the Dawe Branch. We received a very generous donation to the Reading Pals program and were able to create a special collection for reluctant and emerging readers. A number of high interest books and reading kits can be found in Bibliocommons under Featured Collections:
[https://rdpl.bibliocommons.com/search?custom_query=no%3A\(%22Wade+Courtice+Reading+Pals+collection%22\)&suppress=true&custom_edit=true](https://rdpl.bibliocommons.com/search?custom_query=no%3A(%22Wade+Courtice+Reading+Pals+collection%22)&suppress=true&custom_edit=true)
- Star Wars Reads Day promotes both library and bookstore Star Wars collections. Displays were mounted around the Library system to promote the collections, and culminated in our fifth annual Star Wars Reads Day program in early October. The 501st Badlands Garrison dressed in full Star Wars costume and visited us again this year, sending the following comment: *“Thank-you again for requesting the Badlands Garrison for Star Wars Reads Day. Our troops report that they had a wonderful time and had the opportunity to meet some great kids. We hope your event was a success and that our attendance added a little something special. We hope to work with you again in the future.”*

This is a great partnership with a group who clears their calendar every year and comes from Calgary for this event.

- Teen Services hosted a very well-attended mezz Halloween program, during which 14 teens enjoyed a spooky movie (on the smart TV, right in the mezz) while competing in a potion brewing contest. The same week our youth LGBTQ+ PRIDE Halloween program brought 18 teens to the mezz for a Halloween dance-off and costume makeup contest. Jake, a Halloween Party attendee said, “How did I not know I could do all this sweet stuff at the library before now?”

5. Visit a Comfortable Space

RDPL Activity / Outcome for this period:

- Our mezz entry is much more spacious (which has been noted by a teen patron in a motorized wheelchair), as our young adult CD collection has been integrated into the adult CD collection. Teen Services staff are focusing on promoting our electronic music collections to teens as part of our effort to update the image of our collection and services.
- Amy has implemented a much stricter age policy in the mezz and worked closely with Commissionaires to increase safety of youth in the downtown branch (particularly in the mezz), and is now connected to a much broader range of youth emergency services to whom teens who visit the library in a state of crisis can be referred.

6. Other

- Following a meeting with Briana Ehnes, Manager, Adult Services, Trish Klein, Adult Services Coordinator, Alexis Olinek, Member Services Assistant and Kareena Fulton, Manager, Member Services, some small changes have been made to the processing of Interlibrary Loan requests. As you will see from the August and September stats, ILL's have increased substantially and gave us an opportunity to see where we could streamline some things. Adult Services staff will provide all follow-up on items that we are not able to supply, which will save ILL staff a few hours per week and should see a more timely resolution for customer requests. Some wording changes for the website in how to best request an item will provide better service to the customers and alleviate some unnecessary processing by the ILL staff.
- Alla Mysko-Henke, Manager, Adult Literacy, attended the Urban Aboriginal Voices Society (UAVS) Action meeting. A connection was made, and the Adult Literacy program is looking forward to possible collaboration with the UAVS as well as the Red Deer Native Friendship Centre.
- The new Innovation Lab, a collaborative project between Ecole Barrie Wilson School and the Timberlands Branch, officially opened with a grand opening on October 13 at the Timberlands Branch. The Innovation Lab, a project developed in part by Ben Smeets, Digital Literacy Coordinator, and Candice Putnam, Manager, Timberlands Branch, will allow students and the public the opportunity to learn, create, and play using robotics and coding. While one challenge will be to educate the public and set guidelines for the

use of this new space, we are excited to offer this new creative learning space to the public.

- Amy Desjarlais, Manager, Teen Services, chaired two meetings of a newly-formed Red Deer Emergency Youth Drug Reduction Strategy Committee, wherein RCMP, school administration, local youth shelters and Family Services developed a collaborative outreach plan to better protect and empower Red Deer's most vulnerable, marginalized youth.
- Claire Brown, Timberlands Branch Library Assistant, teamed up with local business Troubled Monk Brewery to offer a unique program, "Books and Brews with a Tour at Troubled Monk." Almost 40 people attended this program and had the opportunity to tour the brewery, discuss books, and make new connections.

- Red Deer Reads 2016 was a resounding success, with over 15 programs offered across the city. The program officially ran starting in early 2016, and wrapped up with our Red Deer Reads Author Event on Friday October 28, 2016. Through this program, over 400 copies of *The Outside Circle* were shared with the community, and over 250 people attended our programs, interacted with us online, and checked out the 150 copies of the book we had circulating in the collection between all three branches. Mayor Veer attended two events, announcing our winning title on July 6 at the Downtown Branch, and introducing our winning author and illustrator on October 28. The Red Deer Reads Launch Party alone



was a huge success, bringing over 80 people to the Timberlands Branch for an Alberta Culture Days sponsored event. Many of these people were visiting the Timberlands Branch for the first time, and were delighted to see such a fresh, inviting space that they could visit. The party kicked off with a welcome from Christina Wilson (CEO, RDPL) and Library Board Chair, Jim Taylor. This was followed by a blessing and a smudge from an elder in our community. This was a really powerful moment, because everyone at the party participated in the smudge circle – which took over the entire centre of the library. It was a moment of simplicity, of beauty, of cultural awareness and education, and of acceptance. In that moment everyone was included in the ritual regardless of their background or personal beliefs, and there was such respect and reverence by everyone in the circle. For some, it was the first smudge ceremony they had ever



participated in. The smudge circle was followed by traditional Aboriginal drumming and singing by members of Big Voice, which wrapped up the formal part of the evening's program. Guests were then welcomed to enjoy homemade bannock, locally smoked meat from Red Boar, and locally brewed beer from The Troubled Monk. Red Deer Reads 2016 truly brought together members from our community, especially members from our Aboriginal community. One comment from a

customer was that the community felt so lucky to have an Aboriginal story chosen as the Red Deer Reads novel, and they were so excited that Red Deer Public Library was including them in programming, our celebrations, and the wider community conversation. All customer comments received on our event evaluations were positive and complimentary. The impact of a community-wide book club like Red Deer Reads is that it provides the opportunity and the platform to bring all members of our community together, and celebrate not only amazing novels, but promote literacy, provide entertainment, support and develop local culture, and encourage some fantastic community conversations, in a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere. Finally, we owe many thanks to all the partners that made Red Deer Reads 2016 possible, especially our wonderful Friends of the Library. Your support was truly appreciated, and was vital to the program's success! We truly couldn't have run such a successful program without you! Thank you also to Red Deer College, the Government of Alberta, the Native Friendship Centre, Sunworks, Classic Tattoos, Pulp Studios, Avatar Brand Management, Red Deer Museum & Art Gallery, Culture Services, Red Deer Council for the Arts, the HUB on Ross, Chapters, Kerry Wood Nature Centre, the Soundhouse, Gail Arlene de Vos, and the Red Deer Downtown Business Association.

