

## Media Release

# EPL opens new and expanded community space in Mill Woods

## Library rebuilt as open, inviting, dynamic social hub

For immediate release:

**EDMONTON, AB, June 8, 2015** – After serving southeast Edmonton from within Mill Woods Town Centre, the Edmonton Public Library (EPL) has moved out on its own in the city's southeast.

At 25,000 square feet, the new \$21.3 million Mill Woods Branch is only a block away from the previous location but almost double in size. The branch, which serves an area of over 91,300 citizens, was the second most visited in 2014 with over 500,000 visitors. The new library features a community program room, four study rooms, over 45 public computer stations, a mini makerspace, fireplace, 24-hour return slot, an enhanced children's area with an outdoor garden space and more. The library is on the main floor, while the second floor will be home to a seniors and multicultural centre complete with a large multipurpose room, games room, arts and crafts rooms and commercial kitchen.

“As one of EPL's busiest branches, the Mill Woods location was in need of significant upgrades and expanded space,” said Ellen Calabrese-Amrhein, Chair of the EPL Board of Trustees. “This new library will allow us to continue meeting identified needs in an area of Edmonton that only continues to grow.”

DUB Architects and Hughes Condon Marler Architects designed the new library, located at 2610 Hewes Way, to be an open and inviting facility that would distinguish itself from the surrounding area and, in the process, create a dynamic social hub. The exterior of the building is 60 per cent glass, which ensures natural lighting in all areas, and the landscaping includes trees, shrubs and grasses to replicate the Aspen parkland. As is required for all City of Edmonton buildings, the facility is targeting LEED Silver Certification.

“We know this library has been long anticipated by our customers and are so pleased to open such a comprehensive community space,” said Linda Cook, CEO of EPL. “We look forward to welcoming both longtime and new customers in this growing and diverse neighbourhood to learn and connect here.”

A cast iron mural commissioned for the 1967 opening of the Centennial Library, now the Stanley A. Milner Library, is out of storage and on display in the new Mill Woods Branch. The mural, done by well-known Montreal artist Jordi Bonet, weighs 1,100 pounds and measures 10 feet by 20 feet.

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Additionally, a double mirror installation called *Phant asien*, created by realities:united, creates an infinity effect and is loosely inspired by the Michael Ende novel *The Neverending Story*.

The new Mill Woods Branch is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

EPL has several approved building projects at various stages of planning, design and construction, including a new West Henday eplGO location opening soon. Schematic design for a new Calder branch has been completed and there are plans for a new Capilano facility, along with a revitalization of the Stanley A. Milner Library downtown. For more information, visit [epl.ca/building-projects](http://epl.ca/building-projects).

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#### **About the Edmonton Public Library**

The Edmonton Public Library (EPL) is proud to be [2014 Library of the Year!](#) From March 2013 to March 2014, EPL celebrated 100 years of service to our great city. We've come a long way since 1913 when books were all you could find on our shelves... and we're just getting started! Today, EPL carries everything you care about. We are Edmonton's largest lender of all manner of information and entertainment. Our professionally trained staff take you beyond Google with the knowledge, discernment and desire to help you navigate a universe of information. The second most visited place in Edmonton, every year we host over 14 million in-branch and online visits across our 17 branches and website. We deliver our incredible content to you everywhere – in the library, at home or on your handheld device. Unmatched access and unrivalled value – that is today's EPL. EPL is a registered charity and relies on donations to enhance services. Spread the words. [www.epl.ca/donate](http://www.epl.ca/donate).

#### **For more information, contact**

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