

Media Release

EPL opens first storefront library location

West Henday eplGO first in a series of small, temporary branches for Edmonton

For immediate release:

EDMONTON, AB, July 2, 2015 – Library services have been extended at a greater convenience to residents in the west edge of Edmonton through a new satellite branch of the Edmonton Public Library (EPL).

The West Henday eplGO Branch, featuring a sampling of EPL's core services, is the first storefront library model in Edmonton. One of EPL's goals is to reduce barriers to accessing library services, which includes the design of new eplGO spaces with a greater focus on digital literacy services for underserved communities.

"Edmonton is growing rapidly and there is an increasing demand for library services," said Ellen Calabrese-Amrhein, Chair of the EPL Board of Trustees. "It is important for EPL to keep pace with our growing population and it is fantastic to be able to do so in such an innovative way."

At 2,138 square feet, the small-footprint location will provide basic library services in order to mitigate community demand until a full service branch can be constructed. The new library, located at 818 Webber Greens Drive, includes a mini makerspace, public computer stations, unlimited Wi-Fi, a collection of best-sellers, magazines, music, movies and video games, programs such as Sing, Sign Laugh and Learn, Baby Lap Time, Family Story Time and Summer Reading Club, a printer and photocopier, holds pick up and a 24-hour return chute.

"It is imperative we find ways to serve our customers who live in communities without bricks and mortar branches," said Pilar Martinez, incoming Chief Executive Officer of EPL. "Between our epl2go literacy van and this first eplGO location, we are doing just that."

As Edmonton continues to grow, EPL continues to look for fast and cost-effective ways to bring library services to new neighbourhoods currently without easy access to public library service. With one eplGO location established, plans are underway for future sites in the Pilot Sound-McConachie and Rutherford-Allard communities.

The new West Henday eplGO Branch is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 1 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays.

EPL has several approved building projects at various stages of planning, design and construction.

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.

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About the Edmonton Public Library

The Edmonton Public Library (EPL) is proud to be [2014 Library of the Year!](#) 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 EPL hosts over 14 million in-branch and online visits across our 19 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.

For more information, contact

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