

Media Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Giving people what they want Edmonton Public Library open Sundays year-round

EDMONTON, AB, May 15, 2012 – Responding to a recurring theme in customer requests, Edmontonians can now visit public libraries on Sundays throughout the year.

Previously only open Sundays from September to May, the Edmonton Public Library (EPL) has expanded public hours to include Sunday afternoons from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. during the summer months. The change in hours of operation applies to 14 branches, excluding eplGO inside Cameron Library at the University of Alberta, and the temporary Jasper Place and Highlands locations. When those <u>building projects</u> are completed and permanent locations open in Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 respectively, they too will offer Sunday hours.

"As a result of the operational review we undertook last year, we were able to reallocate positions to provide staffing for expanded hours within our existing budget," said Pilar Martinez, Executive Director of Public Services with EPL. "Our community-led service philosophy guides our decisions and is based on community needs. Opening on Sundays year-round provides daily access to our educational and entertainment resources and gives the 15,000 kids in our Summer Reading Club a better chance of avoiding summer learning loss and cultivating a love of reading."

On average, Edmonton Public Library branches are 127% busier on Sundays than Saturdays. Opening Sundays at all permanent locations is just one step the Library is taking to improve access to programs and services. Last year, EPL established consistent hours across branches and is building two new branches and replacing three others to meet the growing needs of our city.

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About the Edmonton Public Library (EPL)

The Edmonton Public Library 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. 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. Spread the words. www.epl.ca.

For more information contact:

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