

## Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### Library CEO Linda Cook receives Jubilee Medal

**Edmonton, November 15, 2012** – The woman who is credited with establishing the Edmonton Public Library as a leader on the Canadian library scene was honoured for her contributions by Premier Alison Redford.

Linda Cook, Chief Executive Officer of the Edmonton Public Library (EPL) since 1996, was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal at a ceremony celebrating the outstanding service of Capital region leaders. The Diamond Jubilee Medal recognizes dedicated citizens who have made real and lasting contributions to the quality of life in Alberta and Canada.

“I am very humbled to have been chosen for this award, but it really belongs to EPL’s board of trustees, staff and volunteers,” Cook said. “It is a privilege to work with such dedicated and passionate people, and be part of an organization that touches the lives of thousands of Edmontonians every day.”

After obtaining her master’s degree in library and information studies at the University of Alberta in 1987, Cook continued to serve as Director of the Yellowhead Regional Library before moving to her current position with EPL. During Cook’s tenure, EPL has seen an incredible evolution of its services, collections and programs, which have been recognized locally, nationally and internationally. Two recent awards highlighted EPL’s services for Aboriginal peoples and its early childhood literacy initiative *Read. Talk. Play. Share.*

From launching North America’s first bookmobile in 1941 to Canada’s first iPhone app in 2010, EPL has proven itself to be a leader among public libraries. It was the first public library in Canada to hire an Aboriginal services librarian in 2007 and the first to hire community librarians in 2009, who bring library programs and services to people who need them beyond the walls of the library. In 2011 EPL became the first library in Canada with social workers on staff in their community outreach program.

EPL branches are bustling community hubs and one of the last public places where everyone is welcome. Under Linda Cook’s leadership and with strong support from the provincial and municipal governments, EPL is replacing branches across the city, making EPL the envy of library systems in North America.

Much has changed since EPL first opened its doors in 1913. To set the course for its second century, EPL is focused on accessibility – making sure all Edmontonians have convenient access to library services and resources by exploring flexible service delivery models and expanding partnerships.



**About the Edmonton Public Library**

The Edmonton Public Library (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. Spread the words. [www.epl.ca](http://www.epl.ca).

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**Spread the words.**