

Media Release

For Immediate Release:

A gathering place to enrich, educate and entertain Spectacular new library opens in Jasper Place

Edmonton, February 25, 2013 – Two years after demolition of the old building, the Edmonton Public Library (EPL) welcomed its first customers to the new Jasper Place branch.

Overlooking the main floor, the \$14 million building's mezzanine level has stairs at each end, which can double as reading spaces or amphitheatre seating during special events. Other features include 19 public computers, computers reserved for children, a quiet study space, a community program room, a freshwater aquarium and an outdoor terrace. The large windows take advantage of solar exposure and bathe the interior in natural light. The expanses of glass blend the outdoor and indoor spaces to create a welcoming place that entices people to come inside and enjoy the library's rich resources and excellent services.

"In response to changing community needs and customer demand, we are providing a sustainable and vibrant space where people can enrich their lives," said Ellen Calabrese-Amrhein, EPL Board Chair. "Libraries are community hubs and essential contributors to the vitality of our city."

The iconic 15,000-square-foot building located at 9010-156 Street NW features an undulating concrete roof with no support pillars inside. Designed by Dub Architects and Hughes Condon Marler Architects as a flexible, open space that can adapt to future needs, all of the ductwork and wiring is under the raised floor to allow easy reconfigurations of the space.

"We are fortunate to have project partners who helped us achieve our vision of a new library for the 21st century that continues to meet evolving community needs," said Linda Cook, EPL CEO. "The new Jasper Place Library will continue to be a cornerstone of this community, as it has been since it first opened in 1961."

The last major renovation to the Jasper Place branch was in 1988 and the building was in need of extensive repairs. Repurposed from the original 1961 building are the wood panels on the walls of the program room. The glued laminated panels, called glulam, were made from the original roof beams in the 1961 structure. When the library was renovated in 1988, the beams were concealed by the new ceiling.

As required for all City of Edmonton buildings, the facility is rated LEED Silver. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a voluntary program that provides third-party verification of green buildings. However, EPL is optimistic the building will be awarded a LEED Gold certification because of features like an electric vehicle fueling station, ample bicycle parking, nearby public transit, water use reduction and a high efficiency heating and ventilation system.

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Additionally, over 75 percent of all construction waste was diverted from entering the landfill. As part of the LEED certification, EPL and its contractors followed a construction indoor air quality management plan to protect the health of the building and that of library staff and customers. This involved simple things like covering all duct work during construction to prevent dust and debris from infiltrating the heating and ventilation system. The library has future plans for a public education component so people can learn about the building's energy-efficient design.

The new Jasper Place Library 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. It is one of five building projects underway at EPL. The replacement Highlands branch is scheduled to open this fall. New branches in the Clareview and Meadows recreation centres are expected to open in 2014, then the Mill Woods branch after that. The last new library built in Edmonton was the Lois Hole Library in 2008, which replaced the Lessard branch. The Abbottsfield-Penny McKee branch was relocated in 2010. For more information, visit www.epl.ca/building-projects.

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About the Edmonton Public Library

In 2013 the Edmonton Public Library celebrates 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 welcome almost 14 million in-branch and online visitors 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

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