

Media Release

Pilar Martinez named EPL's new Chief Executive Officer Deputy CEO has national and international reputation as a leader in the library world

For immediate release:

EDMONTON, AB, June 15, 2015 – Following an exhaustive North American search, the Edmonton Public Library (EPL) is thrilled to announce the appointment of one of our own as Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Pilar Martinez, current Deputy Chief Executive Officer, joined EPL in 2000. She will take on her new role effective July 4, 2015.

"I am honoured to assume the role of Chief Executive Officer of such an innovative and engaged library system," said Martinez. "I am elated to take on this new role working closely with EPL's dedicated trustees, amazing staff, incredibly supportive City Council and numerous partners to serve the needs of our community.

"I look forward to continuing EPL's innovation and risk-taking history to help ensure we remain a leader among libraries around the world."

Led by Conroy Ross Partners, the search for our new CEO produced many excellent candidates, but none brought to the table Martinez's extensive knowledge, experience and connection to Edmonton.

With a MLIS from the University of Alberta and a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in English from Acadia University, Martinez was Manager of Public Services with Yellowhead Regional Library before serving as District Manager and then Executive Director at EPL. She was named Deputy Chief Executive Officer in January 2013. Her broad base of experience in library leadership includes advocacy, collective bargaining, strategic and business planning, recruitment and change leadership.

"Pilar has played an integral and important role in EPL's many successes," said Ellen Calabrese-Amrhein, Chair of the EPL Board of Trustees. "She was heavily involved in EPL becoming the first Canadian library to be named Library of the Year in 2014, introduced our community-led service, and has a national and international reputation as a leader in the library world."

Martinez will step into her new role as CEO following the retirement of Linda Cook, who is leaving EPL July 3, 2015 after leading the way for nearly two decades.

“There isn’t a better choice for the next Chief Executive Officer of the Edmonton Public Library,” said Mayor Don Iveson. “Pilar’s passion and advocacy for Edmonton’s public library system, renowned leadership and knack for turning ideas into action have helped shape the Edmonton Public Library. I look forward to working with her in her new role.”

Over the last 102 years, EPL has become an integral part of the lives of Edmontonians by not only growing and changing to adapt to customer needs, but also by anticipating and even paving the way for library innovation and excellence on both a national and international scale.

“We look forward to Pilar leading as we continue to deliver excellent services to the citizens of Edmonton and continue to be one of, if not the best, library in Canada and North America,” said Calabrese-Amrhein.

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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 18 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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