

Media Release

For Immediate Release:

EPL CEO Linda Cook receives top awards Canadian Library Association and Library Association of Alberta honour Cook for distinguished service to librarianship

EDMONTON, AB, May 7, 2014 – The chief executive officer of the Edmonton Public Library has recently been honoured on both a provincial and national scale for her contributions to libraries.

Linda Cook was named recipient of the [Canadian Library Association \(CLA\) 2014 Outstanding Service to Librarianship Award](#) last month, along with being awarded the [Library Association of Alberta \(LAA\) 2014 President's Award](#).

"I'm extremely humbled and pleased to receive both of these awards," said Cook. "I'm grateful to work with the Board of Trustees, staff and volunteers, whose talent, willingness to learn and desire to be the best is key to EPL's success."

Cook was chosen for the Outstanding Service to Librarianship Award, the highest honour granted by the CLA, due to being recognized as a leader in the library community who has propelled librarianship and library services forward.

After obtaining her master's degree in library and information studies at the University of Alberta in 1987 and serving as Director of the Yellowhead Regional Library, Cook joined EPL as CEO in 1997.

During her time at EPL, the library has seen an evolution of its services, collections and programs – many of which have been recognized locally, nationally and internationally. Many library firsts in Canada and North America have been initiated at EPL under Cook, such as implementing self-checkouts, hiring an Aboriginal Services Librarian, opening a location at a university, hiring Community Librarians at each branch, installing lending machines at an LRT station and another university campus, and opening an outreach office in the downtown library.

EPL's *We Share* motto is fundamental to Cook when it comes to her knowledge, experience and expertise, as she is an Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Alberta and has also volunteered with many library associations, including the CLA, LAA, Canadian Urban Public Libraries Council and The Alberta Library, among involvement in many other local organizations.

Cook was presented with the LAA award April 25 at the Alberta Library Conference in Jasper, and will receive the CLA Award, sponsored by ProQuest, at the closing ceremonies of the CLA National Conference and Trade Show in Victoria on May 31.

Spread the words.

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About the Edmonton Public Library

From March 2013 to March 2014, the Edmonton Public Library (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 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. 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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