

Media Release

EPL brings iconic new community gathering space to Highlands

Bold new library rebuilt on 118 Avenue

For immediate release:

EDMONTON, AB, Oct. 7, 2014 – Nearly three years in the making, the Edmonton Public Library (EPL) has opened its doors to the highly anticipated new Highlands branch.

At 11,800 square feet over two floors, the new \$9.2 million library is 2,200 square feet larger than the prior one and holds 30,000 more items available for borrowing – roughly 18,500 more than before. Other features include 18 public computer stations, a larger children’s area, a bigger program room, expanded reading areas for adults, a dedicated teen space, a quiet study and reading area, a second floor mezzanine, new technologies and devices to promote making and creation in branch, and two 24-hour return chutes.

“As Edmonton continues to grow, EPL is attempting to keep pace. New libraries, renovations and expansions ensure that our public libraries are the most accessible and functional public spaces,” said Ellen Calabrese-Amrhein, Chair of the EPL Board of Trustees. “This new Highlands branch exhibits all of those qualities and is also a distinctive landmark.”

Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects and Marshall Tittlemore Architects designed the new library, located at 6710 118 Avenue, to convey the idea of democracy and openness. The sleek architecture is enhanced by aluminum paneling, while the inside is an open pavilion to both show off the collection and take advantage of natural light.

“EPL has been a part of the Highlands community for over 50 years, and has always been a free space, a place to learn, a place to meet and a place to be,” said Linda Cook, CEO of EPL. “This district has seen a lot of change over the years, and we are so pleased the library has served as an anchor for the last five decades. With this great new building, we look forward to many more.”

EPL began serving the Highlands, Montrose and Bellevue communities in 1962 with a storefront location. In 1963, the branch moved into a cottage on 118 Avenue and was known as the “Little House Library.” The most recent branch was 46 years old and in need of significant repairs and upgrades; it closed in November of 2011 and a temporary location opened up one block east while the new branch was rebuilt.

As is required for all City of Edmonton buildings, the facility is targeting LEED Silver Certification

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and recently passed the LEED Indoor Air Quality Test as per Canada Green Building Council Standards for New Construction.

The new Highlands branch 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. EPL has several approved building projects at various stages of planning, design and construction including new branches in the Clareview and Meadows recreation centres set to open later this year, as well as a new Mill Woods library to follow in 2015. Schematic design for a new Calder branch has also been completed and there are plans for a new Capilano facility, as well. EPL's most recent beautiful new space prior to Highlands is the award-winning Jasper Place Library, which opened in 2013. Prior to that, the last new library built in Edmonton was the Lois Hole Library in 2008. For more information, visit epl.ca/building-projects.

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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 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.

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