

Media Release

For Immediate Release:

Edmonton Public Library named 2014 Library of the Year EPL first Canadian library to capture top prize

EDMONTON, AB, June 11, 2014 – To the library world it's the Nobel Prize or Stanley Cup, and the Edmonton Public Library (EPL) has won it.

EPL has been named [2014 Library of the Year](#) by *Library Journal* magazine and Gale, a leading publisher of research and education resources for libraries, schools and businesses and part of Cengage Learning. This is the highest honour that can be bestowed upon a library, and the first time a library outside of the U.S. has received the award.

“We are thrilled to be named 2014 Library of the Year,” said Linda Cook, CEO of EPL. “The significance of not only being named Library of the Year, but being the first Canadian library to receive this recognition means a great deal to everyone at EPL.”

The award celebrates the library that most profoundly demonstrates service to the community; creativity and innovation in developing specific community programs or a dramatic increase in library usage; and leadership in creating programs that can be emulated by other libraries.

For the last 101 years, EPL has been a place that galvanizes communities, connects people and expands minds. It is a library known nationally and internationally for service innovation, risk taking and library “firsts.” The community librarians at each branch who connect with community members, the social work program developed due to an identified need, the new makerspace that spurs creativity and imagination, and the cheeky brand that challenges stereotypical perceptions of what the modern library is are a few elements highlighted in EPL’s award-winning application.

“The editors of *Library Journal* are so excited to be giving the 2014 award to the Edmonton Public Library – which sets the tone for others with its evolving and responsive innovation, and its deep focus on community needs. EPL does important work every day, but it also knows how to make the library a fun, vibrant place for people of all ages to discover new things and learn what’s next to make their lives better,” said Rebecca T. Miller, Editorial Director of *Library Journal* and *School Library Journal*. “The library’s innovation is not just skin deep, either. It is also incorporated into the very fabric of its approach to engaged staff development and an organizational structure that supports team integration. This award – with special thanks to Gale – aims to find the library everyone should watch. This year, building on the work of many years, that is EPL.”

The prestigious recognition comes with a \$10,000 prize as well as a [cover story in the June 15 edition of *Library Journal* magazine](#), along with international recognition for Edmonton and Alberta for having one of the top libraries in the world.

Spread the words.

“Edmontonians know we have an amazing public library system in our city,” said Mayor Don Iveson. “We know the Edmonton Public Library provides vital services, resources and public spaces – and has done so for over one hundred years. International recognition of this magnitude is both wonderful and well-deserved. As a library user, I am proud of what the Edmonton Public Library has built here and that the world is seeing it too.”

“Public libraries help build strong communities, and the Edmonton Public Library continues to make noteworthy contributions to our province’s library sector,” said Greg Weadick, Alberta’s Minister of Municipal Affairs. “Congratulations on this special honour. I commend all EPL management and staff for your ongoing commitment to innovation and excellence, and through your service, enhancing Albertans’ quality of life.”

The 2014 Library of the Year award will be presented at the American Library Association Annual Conference in Las Vegas on June 29.

This latest accolade adds to a winning year for EPL. The library’s new Jasper Place Branch received an Award of Merit for architecture at both the 2013 Edmonton Urban Design Awards and 2014 Prairie Design Awards. EPL’s creation of the technology behind the new ME Libraries service was named an American Library Association 2014 Cutting Edge Service, and won both the 2014 Public Library Association Polaris Innovation in Technology John Iliff Award and a 2014 Minister’s Award for Excellence and Innovation in Public Library Service. CEO Linda Cook was also honoured in 2014, winning the Canadian Library Association’s Outstanding Service to Librarianship Award and the Library Association of Alberta President’s Award. EPL’s marketing department also brought home some hardware, receiving a 2014 Ad Club of Edmonton (ACE) Distinction Award for the centennial timeline video, three Summitt International Creative Awards for the timeline video, outdoor advertising and centennial marketing campaign, as well as the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Edmonton Award of Excellence for the centennial marketing campaign.

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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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