

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOIN *me*, SHOW *me*, FREE *me* CHANGE YOUR CARD TO A *me* CARD

October is Canadian Library Month and libraries in the Metro Edmonton area have come together to offer an amazing opportunity for library customers.

Anyone who is a member of the Edmonton, St. Albert, Strathcona County or Fort Saskatchewan libraries can now apply for a free upgrade to their existing library card, which entitles them to borrow items from any of these libraries.

The ME Card opens up a world of possibility, providing access to the combined physical collections of the Metro Edmonton Federation libraries – over 3 million items – and a simple online registration process is all that’s required.

“We are pleased and excited to share EPL content with library users beyond Edmonton,” said Linda Cook, CEO of the Edmonton Public Library. “The ME Card offers convenience and choice in both collection and location, and with over 3 million items in our libraries, the options are endless.”

Due to licensing restrictions, eBooks and other digital content cannot be part of the new borrowing privileges, but those who sign up for a ME Card will be able to access physical collections and programs offered at each of the participating libraries.

“There is no better way to celebrate our Centennial than offer library customers in the Greater Edmonton area the ability to use whichever library is most convenient for them on a particular day,” said Cook.

Library cards can be upgraded at www.melibraries.ca.

Notes to editors:

- Customers under 18 are able to have a 'me' card, but due to the need for an adult to act as guarantor, children and teens cannot register for a 'me' card online.
- The Metro Edmonton Federation of Libraries consists of: Edmonton Public Library, St. Albert Public Library, Fort Saskatchewan Public Library and Strathcona County Library. Libraries in the federation collaborate on programs, projects and events, share methods to help customers learn to use eReaders and download eBooks, and support the Edmonton International Literary Festival (LitFest) by contributing ideas and hosting events at their venues.

About Edmonton Public Library: The Edmonton Public Library (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-person 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. Spread the words. www.epl.ca

About Fort Saskatchewan Public Library: Fort Saskatchewan Public Library serves the rapidly growing community of Fort Saskatchewan (pop. 21,795) through print and electronic collections and a wide range of programming. Currently undergoing an important transformation as work continues on City Centre Square, the library includes a 6,400 square foot expansion with an expected opening date in fall 2013. This additional space will help create the library our community deserves with larger collections, more public access computers, larger study areas, and more comfortable reading and social areas for library users of all ages. Together, we are "Building a Better Future."
www.fspl.ca

About St. Albert Public Library: St. Albert Public Library is a vital part of the community, consistently rated as one of the key strengths of the city. It is a place where people learn, meet and share ideas, and enjoy leisure time. Community is at the core of St. Albert Public Library, working to improve citizens' lives through core services focused on learning, leisure and community life — the Library cultivates community, as important for what it *does*, as for what it *has*. About 330,000 people visit in-person each year and even more visit our website. It is one of the busiest mid-sized libraries in Canada, and the most visited place in downtown St. Albert. Patrons borrow over 946,000 items annually and attend over 1,000 programs. www.sapl.ca

About Strathcona County Library: Strathcona County Library is located in the heart of Sherwood Park but serves the entire Strathcona County, an area of 1,265 square kilometres, through the services of a Bookmobile and a partnership with Fort Saskatchewan Public Library. In November 2010, we opened the doors to our newest home in the Strathcona County Community Centre. Spread out over 64,000 square feet on two floors, our main branch houses a 200,000+ collection that includes books, eBooks, audiobooks, DVDs, CDs, newspapers, magazines and databases. We also host several hundred programs each year, ranging from early literacy development with infants to travel insurance for seniors. Strathcona County Library – your place for literacy, learning and leisure.
www.sclibrary.ab.ca

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