

Media Release

Meadows library and recreation centre open to the public First collaboration between EPL and the City of Edmonton opens in the southeast

For immediate release:

EDMONTON, AB, Dec. 6, 2014 – Literature, leisure and much more have come together in a new community hub in southeast Edmonton.

The Meadows Community Recreation Centre and Meadows Library is now open, offering a vibrant space where people can learn, be active and connect with others. This is the first collaboration between the Edmonton Public Library (EPL) and the City of Edmonton to bring together a public library and a recreation centre under one roof.

“There has been much anticipation for this dynamic and innovative project,” said Ellen Calabrese-Amrhein, Chair of the EPL Board of Trustees. “It is thrilling to see the Edmonton Public Library and the City of Edmonton come together to create this accessible, functional, beautiful and much needed space.”

At 15,000 square feet, the new Meadows Library faces the street, with windows branded in EPL colours. The branch holds 53,000 items available for borrowing, and features an outdoor culture bowl and reading garden, as well as 18 public computer stations with internet access, unlimited Wi-Fi, a community program room, a quiet study room, children, teen and adult reading areas, a freshwater aquarium and fireplace, Makerspace technologies such as Makey Makey and Lego Robotics Kits, programs including Sing, Sign, Laugh & Learn, Baby Laptime, Tech Help and more, along with two 24-hour return chutes.

“It is truly exciting to be able to not only meet the increase in demand for library service in this fast growing area of our city, but to partner with the City of Edmonton to create an inclusive community gathering space,” said Linda Cook, CEO of EPL.

Aside from the library, the centre includes aquatics and fitness facilities, a gymnasium, multi-purpose rooms, arenas, a district park and outdoor sport fields. Public transit is accessible outside and there is ample parking on site.

Group2 Architecture Engineering Ltd. and Perkins + Will Canada designed the new \$113.1 million facility, located at 2704 17 Street. The environmentally friendly project is targeting LEED Silver certification, and includes sustainable features such as green roofs, efficient mechanical systems,

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efficient pool filtration systems, daylight harvesting and reduced water consumption.

“The new Meadows Library is a perfect example of integrating services to meet the needs of residents,” said Mayor Don Iveson. “Ready access to the Edmonton Public Library, as well as recreational opportunities, reflects our commitment to creating an open and active facility contributing to a high quality of life for the residents in southeast Edmonton.”

The new Meadows 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 a new branch in the Clareview Community Recreation Centre set to open later this month, 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 Meadows was the iconic and bold Highlands branch, which opened in July. Prior to that, the last new libraries built in Edmonton were the Jasper Place Library in 2013 and 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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