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From the Chair of the Board and Director of Libraries

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Chair, Board of Trustees

Linda C. Cook
Director of Libraries

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■ The Board of Trustees officially adopted a five-year strategy document (2006-2010) titled “Working People’s Lives.” It was the culmination of an exhaustive and consultative information-gathering process that included a major public survey, focus groups, plus analysis of demographic projections, lifestyle trends, and developments in the library field. The information was distilled into a vision for the Library’s future and concrete strategies to achieve that vision.

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■ In September the Library began implementing radio-frequency identification (RFID) to manage its large collections – demonstrating once again why EPL is regarded as a leader in public library services. Items were tagged with special electronic markers that will allow customers to check out their own library materials with speed and ease. Freed-up library staff will be able to make better use of their expertise, whether it’s spending time helping customers or providing more programs. EPL is the first major library in Canada to adopt RFID technology system-wide.

■ October saw the Strathcona Branch, a designated municipal and provincial historical resource, officially reopen amid much fanfare after its major restoration and expansion. EPL succeeded in preserving the 94-year-old building’s character while making many improvements. The branch is now wheelchair and stroller-accessible. With the extra space, there is now a bright, cheerful children’s area, a teen area (Rotary Teen Zone) and a large program room (Crystal Glass Community Meeting Room).

■ Edmonton Public Library • 2006 Annual Report

Building... for the Future

Quick Facts

■ 5,413,008 visits were made to the Library’s 16 locations

■ 1,751,218 questions were answered

■ 147,484 people attended 4,734 programs

■ 398 volunteers with Friends of the Library and the Library Access Division donated 8,450 hours to three fundraising book sales, and to provide Library Access service to customers unable to use traditional library services

■ 104,299 paperbacks were added

■ 65,161 AV materials were added

■ 36,974 periodicals were added

■ 5,031 reference books were added

■ 5,031 items were borrowed

■ 108 teen volunteers participated in Teen Advisory Groups

■ 149,879 adult and children’s books were added to the collections

■ 5,666,487 visits were made to epl.ca

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In an ongoing quest to instill a love of reading in young people, the Library once again offered winter and summer reading programs:

- There were nearly 12,000 participants in the 2006 TD Summer Reading Club for children, which had as its theme, Quest for Heroes. The online Winter Reading Club for kids logged about 4,700 visits.
- Teen Survivor Online invited youths to read selected books over the summer and eliminate one title each week until only the winner remained. More than 3,700 visits were logged on the Teen Survivor website.
- The Big Chill online winter reading club for adults was also popular. There were more than 7,300 visits to the Big Chill website.

READ IN Week, the big literacy event of the year, takes place each October. As a key partner in this community-wide celebration of books and reading, EPL was involved in a variety of activities. The 2006 theme was *Reading Crosses Cultures*.

EPL and the Edmonton Transit System co-sponsored an adult literacy awards initiative called “Get Caught Reading.” Once a month, a “Reading Reconnaisance Team” of library and ETS staff members looked for adults they could “catch” reading on buses, the LRT or at transit centres, and rewarded those passengers with books and prizes. The Library developed a Get Caught Reading website to support the initiative.

The Library wishes to help foster reading – a fundamental skill in a knowledge-based society.
The Edmonton Public Library belongs to the community it serves. One of the Library’s priorities is to forge additional ties with people and organizations.

- EPL has always had a strong relationship with Edmonton Public Schools and in 2006 the two knowledge institutions formalized their partnership with a Memorandum of Understanding. They have a mutual goal – to promote reading, literacy and lifelong learning. During a successful pilot project to put more public library cards in the hands of students, more than 1,500 signed up for a card. The two partners also shared information and best practices in promoting literacy.

- One of the Library’s goals has been to further develop its leadership capacity and to continue to strive for administrative excellence. Many staff members play an active role in library organizations, giving the Edmonton Public Library a high profile in the field, both locally and nationally. In 2006, Linda Cook, EPL’s Director of Libraries, was honoured by her profession by being chosen as the president of the Canadian Library Association, which carries a one-year term.

- One of several elaborate cakes created for the Books2Eat fundraising gala.

- The culinary arts and literary themes came together in a delightful way at the unique Books2Eat gala, organized by the Library to raise funds for the Strathcona Branch restoration. Local chefs created elaborate, imaginative cakes based on or inspired by books. About 250 guests were invited to bid on the marvellous creations and dozens of other items in a silent auction.
Relationships within the Community

- EPL’s Writer in Residence, Linda Goyette, completed a special project for the Library, which was to catalogue and edit the *Edmonton: A City Called Home* online collection – a rich resource of citizens’ stories, interviews and photographs. For another special project, Goyette has been collecting immigrants’ stories in their first language for a new anthology, *The Story That Brought Me Here*. Goyette also helped many emerging writers with their manuscripts, edited three other books and organized monthly writers’ workshops at the Library.

- Responding to popular demand, EPL hosted the Teen Gamers Palace program for a second year. With funding from Child Friendly Edmonton, the Library held these evening events at five selected branches. Supervised by library staff, the teens had the branch to themselves as they ate pizza and amused themselves with video games and board games or surfed the Internet. Altogether, about 160 young people participated, and their feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

- EPL partnered with radio station “91.7 The Bounce” in a promotion aimed at raising the Library’s profile with teens – the Back to Cool contest. The Bounce promoted the contest on air, directing listeners to enter on the Library’s website. The contest was a resounding success with more than 500 entries. Five winners each received a pair of concert tickets, plus a party for their school featuring DJs and pizza.

- As a major institution in the heart of the city, the Library is an active member of the downtown community. Up against stiff competition from major hotels and eateries, EPL was thrilled to win second prize for its entry in the 16th Annual Chili Cook Off, organized by the Downtown Business Association to kick off Canadian Finals Rodeo week in November.

The Library’s own “James Bond and the Chili Chicks” celebrate their second-place finish at the Chili Cook Off held during Canadian Finals Rodeo Week.
In 2006, the Library made great progress in implementing many of the recommendations of an EPL task force which conducted a major study evaluating public library services to Aboriginal people in Canada and abroad. EPL allocated resources to build on current services and programs, and to enhance the Library’s collection of materials of interest to the Aboriginal community, such as Cree-language materials, and books and music by Aboriginal artists.

EPL maintains its commitment to serving Edmonton’s many citizens from other countries through its services, including materials and databases in languages other than English. The Library was pleased to add an important new database, Rosetta Stone, to its website (epl.ca) for people learning English as a second language. As well, EPL introduced Dragon Source, a database with the full text of 100 Chinese-language magazines, which has a devoted segment of users.

The Chinese-language book collection received a boost when Dr. Fu-Mei Chang, minister of Taiwan’s Overseas Compatriot Affairs Commission, presented the Library with a gift of books and reference materials from her country.

Dr. Sheila Bertram, Chair of the EPL Board, and Dr. Fu-Mei Chang, minister of Taiwan’s Overseas Compatriot Affairs Commission. Dr. Chang presented the Library with a gift of books and reference materials from her country.
Customers who wish to create professional-looking documents but do not have access to a computer can now come to any of the Library’s 16 branches. Word-processing stations were set up in all EPL locations after a successful pilot project at four branches.

The Library entered into a partnership with the City to improve low-income residents’ access to services. Coupons for a free annual adult library card are included with information the City gives out about its Leisure Access Program to those in need.

Flicks and Tunes To Go was introduced as an extension to the popular book service Bestsellers To Go. Customers can choose from a selection of the latest DVDs and CDs without waiting in the request queue and may borrow items for one week. It is one of the most popular services the Library offers.

EPL added 13 new databases to its already-extensive virtual library in 2006, including popular websites such as Price It Antiques and Collectibles, and a comprehensive new resource for bird lovers, the BNA Online database (Birds of North America). The eAudiobooks NetLibrary allows library members to download and listen to unabridged audiobooks.
# Statement of Revenue and Expense

For the year ended December 31, 2006 with comparative figures for 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grants</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Edmonton</td>
<td>$25,917,179</td>
<td>$24,757,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Province of Alberta</td>
<td>3,056,157</td>
<td>2,857,586</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Registration Fees</td>
<td>723,790</td>
<td>726,210</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fines and Charges</td>
<td>904,697</td>
<td>831,965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>391,952</td>
<td>283,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$30,993,775</td>
<td>$29,455,834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and Benefits</td>
<td>$19,110,271</td>
<td>$18,039,654</td>
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<tr>
<td>Books and Library Materials</td>
<td>5,204,162</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>2,111,535</td>
<td>2,296,014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance of Properties</td>
<td>2,992,851</td>
<td>2,179,623</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property and Equipment Rentals</td>
<td>1,529,629</td>
<td>1,634,553</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$30,948,448</td>
<td>$29,149,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Excess of Revenue Over Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$45,327</td>
<td>$305,990</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Collections and Services

For the year ended December 31, 2006 with comparative figures for 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Visits to Library</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Person</td>
<td>5,413,008</td>
<td>5,364,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website Visits*</td>
<td>5,666,487</td>
<td>4,395,593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>11,079,495</td>
<td>9,759,922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Items Borrowed</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>5,085,344</td>
<td>5,067,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile</td>
<td>2,895,775</td>
<td>2,657,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web Renewals</td>
<td>1,447,748</td>
<td>1,236,007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone Renewals</td>
<td>79,318</td>
<td>77,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>9,508,185</td>
<td>9,037,826</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>In-house Collections Use</strong></td>
<td>1,723,550</td>
<td>1,643,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public Internet Use</strong></td>
<td>1,003,835</td>
<td>947,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Questions Answered</strong></td>
<td>1,751,218</td>
<td>1,811,075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programs Presented</strong></td>
<td>4,734</td>
<td>4,369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program Attendance</strong></td>
<td>147,484</td>
<td>150,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Items Purchased</strong></td>
<td>363,822</td>
<td>344,359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Magazine Subscriptions</strong></td>
<td>1,235</td>
<td>1,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Collection</strong></td>
<td>1,607,290</td>
<td>1,926,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Databases</strong></td>
<td>77</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population of Edmonton</strong></td>
<td>712,391</td>
<td>712,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Libraries</strong></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 84 per cent are visits to epl.ca from computers outside EPL branches
** Municipal Census 2005
2006
Board of Trustees

Dr. Sheila Bertram, Chair
Mr. Nashir Karmali, Vice-Chair
Mr. Roger R. Breault
Dr. Diana Davidson
Mr. Tim Haysom
Ms. Karen Lynch
Dr. Austin Mardon

Mr. Colin W. J. Minor
Mrs. Joan Welch
Councillor Michael Phair

New Trustees in 2007
Mr. Brent McDonough
Dr. Carol Suddards

1. From Left: Pat Jobb, EPL’s Associate Director of Public Services; Linda C. Cook, Director of Libraries; Ian E. Wilson, Librarian and Archivist of Canada; Jody Crilly, chair of EPL’s Aboriginal Services team. Mr. Wilson paid EPL a visit to learn about the Library’s work in providing services to Edmonton’s Aboriginal community.

2. Students at Ottewell Junior High School check out the Library’s booth at the Back to Cool pizza party, one of five such events held at schools across Edmonton.

3. EPL Teen Services Librarian Wendy Grønnestad-Damur is ready for the Capital Ex Parade.
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Chair, Board of Trustees
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