

Valleyview Municipal Library
Plan of Service
2024—2026



VALLEYVIEW
MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

Land Acknowledgement

The Valleyview Municipal Library is located in Treaty 8 Territory, which encompasses a large portion of Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories on the traditional and ancestral land of the Cree, Dene and Metis people, and home to the people of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation.

The Town of Valleyview Library Board acknowledges and respects the histories, languages and cultures of the Cree, Dene and Metis and other Indigenous people who call this land home, and we gratefully acknowledge those whose territory we reside on today.

As part of our intention to honour the Treaty and work towards reconciliation, the Town of Valleyview Library Board has made the following commitments:

- To engage with and build partnerships with Indigenous individuals and organizations to ensure that Indigenous voices and needs are represented in library programs and services.
- To develop and expand collections of books, movies and other resources by Indigenous creators to showcase the diversity of their cultures, experiences and knowledge.
- Provide educational resources about the history of Indigenous people to help raise awareness and build understanding of the impacts of colonization and residential schools.



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Message from the Library Board

It is great to see the library continue to grow and be a central part of community life for people in the Valleyview area.

As a Board, we aspire to have the library be a part of the community's day-to-day life. Not that everyone will come in everyday, but that when resources or connections are needed, our community knows that the library is the place to go.

Thanks to the ongoing engagement and passion of library staff, we are seeing our vision for the library be fulfilled. Comments like, "Ask at the library, they'll know," are so telling and rewarding to hear.

This year, I had the luxury of visiting a lot of libraries in a lot of different places and found it fascinating to see what they were up to. A common theme was the effort to provide services and resources to the community for them to learn, explore and grow.

The Valleyview Municipal Library is using this Plan of Service to set out some goals for the coming years. I am excited to see the faces that will be at the library in the coming years and how the library can continue to be a hub in this community.

Adam Norris, Chair



Statement of Accountability

This strategic plan for the three years commencing January 1, 2024, was prepared under the direction of the Town of Valleyview Library Board in accordance with the Alberta Libraries Regulation (AR 141/98).

The Library Board and staff of the Valleyview Municipal Library are committed to achieving the goals outlined in this plan.

For libraries in Alberta, planning is mandated under the Libraries Regulation, Section 13, which states:

- (1) In managing and controlling a municipal library, a municipal board shall: a) within three years of being established, develop and file a Plan of Service with a Mission Statement; goals and objectives based on a needs assessment of the municipality, and b) Annually review its Plan of Service.
- (2) A municipal board shall file with the Minister a copy of its current Plan of Service with goals and objectives not less frequently than every five years following the date on which the plan was previously filed with the Minister.

Source: AR 141/93, S13; 193/2003; 172/2007

Approval:

“Town of Valleyview Library Board Trustee Scott Biggin, made a Motion to adopt this Plan of Service for the years 2024 to 2026. Motion seconded by Kelli Reimer. All in favour. Motion carried.” Approved at Library Board Meeting held on November 15, 2023.



Our Vision:

To be a dynamic social, cultural, learning and information centre for our community.

Our Mission:

To provide access for all community members to library resources as a source of information, learning and literacy, inspiration, enrichment, cultural awareness and entertainment.

Our Values:

The Town of Valleyview Library Board and Valleyview Municipal Library support the following principles for equitable public library service:

Accountability

Barrier-free access

Celebrating diversity

Commitment

Innovation

Integrity

Our Commitment:

To be a gateway to the world for our community, providing highly-responsive service which reflects the needs of our community.

Prompt, courteous and efficient service .

A diverse and balanced collection reflecting current community interests and needs.

Careful stewardship and efficient use of funding.

Library Profile

Our History:

The Town of Valleyview Library Board was formed on October 5, 1970, through Bylaw # 21-70, by the Town of Valleyview Council. The Valleyview Municipal Library celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2020.

Over the past five decades, the library has been housed in a few locations, and now features prominently on Main Street. The library has seen many changes to library services and technology and we continue to adapt to the benefit of the communities we serve.

Governance:

The Valleyview Municipal Library is governed under the Libraries Act by the Town of Valleyview Library Board consisting of trustees appointed by Town of Valleyview Council.

Community:

The Valleyview Municipal Library serves the communities of the Town of Valleyview, Municipal District of Greenview #16 and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation.

Programs & Services:

The Valleyview Municipal Library offers a wide variety of services and programs of interest to the communities it serves.

Programs have included: Summer Reading Club; Youth Dungeons & Dragons; Lego Club; Early Literacy; STEAM programs; crafting; book club, and more.

In partnership with the Valleyview Community Learning Council (VCLC), the Library provides space for programs like Rhyme Time; BOOKS; Books for Babies, Literacy & Parenting Skills (LAPS), drivers permit preparation, and ELL/ESL classes.

The library also partners with other community organizations like Greenview FCSS by sharing space and library resources for programs like Safe Space GSA.

There are four free public computer stations and free wi-fi available, as well as affordable printing, faxing, emailing.

Community Needs Assessment

Evidence-based needs assessment is a critical part of determining community priorities to base Library Plan of Service areas of focus.

The Library Board circulated a Community Survey to get input from individuals and organizations in the community. The survey was administered online, at the library and distributed via local schools between May 1 to June 30, 2023. Input was also gathered via discussions with community stakeholders, individuals, library staff and trustees.

After the results of the surveys and conversations was compiled and evaluated, the following priority service areas were identified as the focus of the 2024—2026 Plan of Service, as follows:

- **Visit a comfortable space**
- **Stimulate Imagination and satisfy curiosity**
- **Information fluency and making informed decisions**
- **Literacy and life skills for children and youth**
- **Celebrate diversity**



Plan of Service

Areas of Focus

The following pages contain the components of the Plan of Service, including priority Service Response areas with descriptions, target audience determinations, goals/outcomes, strategies and pertinent action plan elements.

The Plan of Service shall be reviewed annually and may be modified to adapt to situational changes, or to take advantage of new opportunities or strategic alliances.

Detailed action plans and short-term strategies at the operational level are the purview of the Library Manager, with approval from the Library Board, and are by necessity adaptive, and therefore not included in this document.



"We all have responsibilities as parents, as librarians, as educators, as politicians, and as citizens to instill in our children a love of reading so that we can give them a chance to fulfill their dreams."

Barack Obama

Service Response #1

Visit a comfortable space

Service Response Description	Residents will have a safe and welcoming place to meet and interact with others and access library services and programs.
Target Audience	All community members living in Valleyview and surrounding communities in the MD of Greenview #16 and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation.
Goal	Maintain the Library space to meet the needs of our users, programs and services.
Outcome/Measures	Community members find the Library a welcoming, inclusive space. Feedback will be received from community members regarding the facility.

Objectives	Strategies	Timeframe
The Library is a welcoming, safe, accessible and inclusive space for all community members	Ongoing evaluation of effectiveness and usage of library spaces for reading, collaboration, relaxation, etc.	Ongoing
The Library will be a vibrant hub for community members and groups.	Maintain an inventory of furnishings and implement a plan to add to or replace to ensure that furnishings remain functional, comfortable and attractive.	Ongoing

“One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn’t as individuals. When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people, even those in deep distress, and perhaps help them find self-confidence and inner healing.”

Jean Vanier

Service Response #2

Stimulate imagination and satisfy curiosity

Service Response	Provide resources, programs and services to enhance leisure time and help community residents explore topics of personal interest.
Target Audience	All community members living in Valleyview and surrounding communities in the MD of Greenview #16 and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation.
Goal	To provide resources, programs and services which target the interests and needs of the community.
Outcome	Community residents see the library as the 'go-to' source for enhancing their quality of life.



Strategies	Measures	Timeframe
Continue using Collection development policy to acquire resources that meet the needs of the community.	Local collection will continue to see steady or increased usage by the community and through interlibrary loan. Feedback will be received from community members regarding available resources.	Ongoing
Continue offering programs for all ages which cover a wide area of interests.	Programs will be well-attended with positive feedback from participants.	Ongoing

"Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life."

Sidney Sheldon

Service Response #3

Information fluency and making informed decisions

Service Response Description	Information fluency and making informed decisions
Target Audience	Community members in Valleyview, MD of Greenview #16 and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation.
Goal	To assist community residents with finding, accessing and evaluating information.
Outcome/Measures	Residents can access information and have the skills required to evaluate the information to make informed decisions.

Objectives	Strategies	Timeframe
Provide a platform for sharing timely, accurate information in the community.	Maintain Valleyview Online Community and Events Facebook Page to share community events, news, election information, etc.	Ongoing
Ensure that library staff stay up to date on search methods and locating reliable sources of information with training sessions, webinars and professional development to better assist library users.	Plan professional development sessions to be held on a quarterly basis. Plan/Budget for sending staff and trustees to regional and provincial conferences as available.	Ongoing Annually

"If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you."

Zig Ziglar



Service Response #4

Literacy & Life Skills for Children & Youth

Service Response Description	Programs and services that will help build Literacy and Life Skills for children and youth.
Target Audience	Community children and youth, parents, family members/caregivers in Valleyview, MD of Greenview #16 and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation.
Goal	To develop and implement programs and services to help children and youth build literacy and life skills.
Outcome/Measures	Increased capacity in children and youth to help them succeed in school and in life.

Objectives	Targets	Measures	Timeframe
Design programs targeted at youth/teens to enhance life skills.	Run 4-6 programs annually focusing on life skills	Aim for 5-10 youth/teens to participate.	Ongoing
Foster a love of reading and creativity	Run two six-week sessions of after school programs between October and June.	Aim for 5-10 children to attend programs	Ongoing
Offer programs to help kids maintain literacy skills throughout the summer.	Run Summer Reading Program for ages 7-12 in July and August.	Aim for 10-20 children participating in programs throughout the summer.	July/August Annually

Service Response #5

Celebrate Diversity

Service Response Description	Celebrating diversity means to raise awareness of the lives and experiences of everyone in our communities, and celebrating those differences.
Target Audience	Community members in Valleyview, MD of Greenview #16 and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation.
Goal	Foster an atmosphere of belonging and connection to help diverse and/or marginalized people feel seen, accepted and welcomed.
Outcome/Measures	Diverse audiences feeling welcome and attending programs and using library services. Community members will better understand their neighbours.

Objectives	Strategies	Timeframe
Ensure that our collection reflects the diversity of our community and our world.	Monitor our collection and identify areas to develop or update. Purchase materials covering a wide variety of content,	Ongoing
Indigenous Programs & Outreach	Work in partnership with Peace Library System and the Provincial Government to continue offering programs and services to Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation.	Ongoing
Provide opportunities, events and programs for community residents to appreciate and celebrate diversity in all its forms.	Plan events and programs that celebrate diversity and inclusion, such as: Culture Days; Pride; Differently abled persons awareness (vision, hearing, mental health, etc.)	Ongoing

