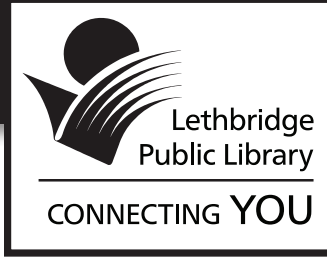


PRESS RELEASE



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Lethbridge Public Library plans for the Crossings Branch Expansion and Enhancement Project

Aimed at meeting the library service needs of the community now, and into the future, the Crossings Branch Expansion and Enhancement Project plans to expand the current Crossings Branch into approximately 2,500 square feet of unused space adjacent to the current facility.

“We here at the Crossings Branch are excited to be starting this expansion and enhancement project. The renovation will allow us to better serve our neighbours in the growing west side community” says Sarah Head, Manager: Branch Services. “Through the expansion and enhancement, we are able to maximize our current spaces by providing dedicated and improved areas specific to customer needs including the Indigenous community and youth. We are especially grateful to the Friends of the Library whose generosity has afforded us the ability to significantly improve the furnishings in our children’s area. We look forward to unveiling the new spaces to our community members and neighbours!”

The Crossings Branch expansion is funded by the City of Lethbridge Capital Improvement Program, the City of Lethbridge Library Board, and through a generous donation of the Friends of Lethbridge Public Library. The total project costs are \$1,050,000 with \$212,000 of that previously spent in 2018 to upgrade the Crossings Branch HVAC system.

“On behalf of Lethbridge City Council, I am pleased that the Crossings Branch Expansion and Enhancement Project is set to get underway,” says Deputy Mayor Ryan Parker. “This is great news for our community, as the designs will provide some additional space and upgrades to serve a growing population and need for services. Council is thrilled to support this through its Capital Improvement Program funding.”

The expansion and enhancement of the Crossings Branch will include:

- An expanded and re-located children’s area that includes programming space and easy access to washroom facilities and staff support
- An improved and re-located teen space that provides dedicated areas for different uses of the space with teen friendly amenities
- An Indigenous gathering space, which welcomes all visitors while honouring the traditional knowledge and occupants of the land the Library is on
- Additional public washrooms
- Additional staff working space, to accommodate the expanded staffing of the branch over the last several years
- A strategic redesign of the library interior to provide better access to washrooms and staff support
- Additional furniture and collections that meet the needs of the west Lethbridge population.

Project construction is slated to begin by the end of March, with completion anticipated by the end of 2023.