

SERVICES TO PERSONS WITH LIBRARY ACCESS NEEDS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide facilities and services to all residents of the city and those who live in surrounding communities served by Chinook Arch Regional Library System (“Chinook Arch”). This policy is in accordance with the Province of Alberta *Libraries Regulation* regarding provision of library resources to persons unable to use conventional print resources.

PERSONS AFFECTED

Board/Library employees and volunteers/city Library Users

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board provides library resources to all residents of the city and surrounding communities served by Chinook Arch. The Board believes all library users should have full access to library services, programs and facilities.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Services to library users with disabilities and other unique access needs will be incorporated into library service and facilities planning and be treated as essential during the budgeting process.
2. The Library maintains collections in a wide variety of formats to ensure resources are available to all members irrespective of their needs. Materials supported by the CNIB have restricted access to those people with print impairments or learning disabilities.
3. The Library maintains software and equipment in order to increase accessibility to print and electronic resources.
4. The Board will work with or use the resources of other local, regional, provincial, and national organizations to provide services to persons with access needs, including but not limited to: the regional library system, Public Library Services Branch, Local community services organizations (e.g. Alberta Health Services, schools, social services), Regional or national organizations (e.g. Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA), Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), National Network for Equitable Library Service (NNELS)), and other organizations as required.
5. The Board will periodically review Library service to ensure that the Library is continuing to serve the needs of the city of Lethbridge.

REFERENCES

- Province of Alberta *Libraries Regulation*

REVISION HISTORY

- March 12, 2014: New policy
- May 9, 2018: Amended
- September 5, 2019: Amended
- May 10, 2023: Revised
- October 9, 2024: Revised