



*2375 – 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.W., Medicine Hat, AB., T1A 8G2*  
*Phone: 403-529-0550 Fax: 403-528-2473*

### **Press Release**

**MEDICINE HAT, Canada. (October 9th, 2015)** Shortgrass Library System is pleased to announce the installation of the largest rooftop solar PV system to generate electricity in southeastern Alberta, on their building in the light industrial area of Medicine Hat.

Working with ENMAX's solar leasing program, the regional library system has installed 198 solar modules on the roof, which should generate approximately 65,000 kWh of energy each year. The Kw generated by the solar panels are expected to offset about 75% of the building's overall electricity needs, with the possibility of sending some back to the grid on lower consumption days. The solar system will also offset approximately 45 tonnes of carbon annually, which is the equivalent of planting 200 trees per year.

Shortgrass Library System staff and board members are excited to be utilizing this renewable energy source, as well as reducing their carbon footprint, by taking full advantage of their location in the sunniest corner of Alberta.

"We are fortunate to be governed by a very forward-thinking Board of Trustees that sees the value in a long-term investment such as this one," said Shortgrass CEO Petra Mauerhoff.

Shortgrass Board Chair, Dwight Kilpatrick said, "The 15-year lease option provided by ENMAX made the system affordable for our organization. The installation of the system is aligned with our "Green" Building Operations Policy, which outlines that Shortgrass will, as much as possible, implement sustainable practices for our facility."

The Solar by ENMAX program is the only one of its kind in Alberta to lease the equipment and system components. Supported in part by a contribution from Climate Change and Emissions Management Corporation (CCEMC), it relieves customers of large upfront costs associated with outright purchase. In addition to making the system affordable, there are also extended warranty options during the lease period. Also, while the long-term need for system maintenance or repairs is considered low, ENMAX includes this in the price – there is no additional cost to the customer.

"ENMAX's program is an easy and affordable solution for home or business owners who are interested in solar," said Jason Atkinson, Director of Photovoltaic Operations. "We've installed

about 30 per cent of all the grid-connected solar in the province and that number has been growing rapidly over the last year – in fact we tripled our customer base in 2014.”

This means Shortgrass Library System can focus on providing quality library support services to its 11 member municipalities and 14 member libraries across southeastern Alberta, while participating in creating long-term benefits for the environment. Said Kilpatrick, “By utilizing our sunny location to the greatest advantage possible, we hope to bring long-term stability to the services we offer, while positively impacting our planet, especially for the long term.”

For more information please contact Petra Mauerhoff, CEO, Shortgrass Library System at 403-529-0550 Ext 101 or [petra@shortgrass.ca](mailto:petra@shortgrass.ca)