

Our Story Begins in 1915

The Medicine Hat Public Library opened its doors 104 years ago. Hatters realized the importance of library services so they worked together to lobby for a public library. This led to the birth of the Medicine Hat Public Library as two rented rooms in the Huckvale Block in 1915.

The Library grew quickly and by 1964 had moved to a new location overlooking the river. Continued growth had the Library Board considering expansion in the 1980's but a lack of funding held the project over until it was finally completed in 1993. The Library reopened with nearly double the space, leaving the original 1960's building intact.

In 1988 MHPL joined other libraries to form the Shortgrass Library System. Under this partnership, our library welcomed the electronic age by offering public internet access and electronic resources.



The Next 100 Years

Public libraries will remain relevant long into the future.

It's hard to look 100 years ahead but we know that libraries provide these fundamental, enduring social benefits:

- » They build community and bring people together.
- » They provide public space for the use and enjoyment of all.
- » They build various types of literacy (print, computer, etc) which are increasingly critical for personal and career success.
- » They help people navigate their lives with the information and knowledge they need.
- » They prepare children for school, improving scholastic outcomes.
- » They allow the community to efficiently share resources.

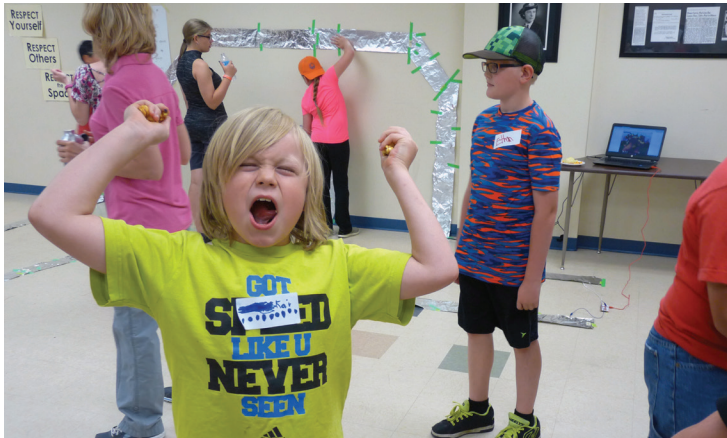
The Medicine Hat Public Library is a 21st century library offering a wide range of modern services. In addition to books, we offer music, movies, video games, and electronic resources like eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, and eNewspapers, all accessible from home.

We deliver a wide range of programming to meet the entertainment, learning, and companionship needs of Medicine Hat. We take library services into the community with programs like the Sunrise Rotary Ride the Road to Reading, homebound services, attendance at Canada Day, and our Pecha Kucha community speaker series.

Community use of the library is increasing. Circulation of print materials remains steady, electronic content has become very popular and program attendance is at an all time high.

We have plans for how we can build on our current success, but we need your help to meet our goals.

Together We Succeed



The Medicine Hat Public Library has always depended on partnerships with service clubs, businesses, not-for-profit organizations and individuals in order to succeed.

Municipal and provincial funding is important for the daily operation of our library, but we need more partnerships if we want to grow and change.

The Medicine Hat Public Library is a positive force in our community, but it will take additional resources to meet the changing demands of our city. And so, like many other publicly-supported organizations, we are fundraising for our patrons and our community.

We need your help to provide this community with the Library it deserves.



Current Funding Sources

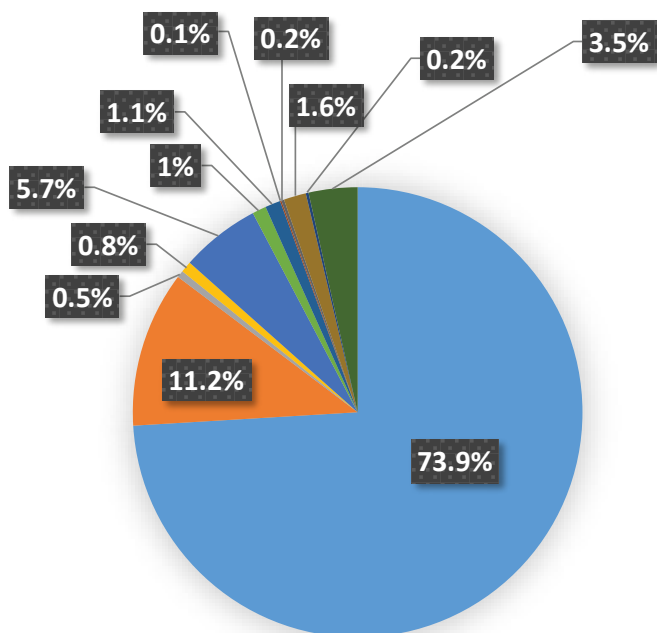
Why fundraise?

A common misconception is that we are fully funded by the municipal and provincial governments.

While we rely on funding we receive from government sources, it's not always enough to go beyond basic operational requirements. Therefore, we need to look at funding sources beyond the allotment received from municipal and provincial governments.

Growth initiatives and expansion projects require us to undertake significant fundraising campaigns in order to meet our goals.

Only 85% of our operations are funded by the municipal and provincial governments.



- City of Medicine Hat
- Province of AB
- Shortgrass
- Employment Grants
- Other grants
- Memberships
- Fees and Fines
- Discarded materials
- Room & Equipment Rentals
- Other Services
- Interest
- Other Donations & Misc.

Our Vision for the Future

To meet our vision of enhancing the vitality of our community, we need to enhance our space & expand our services.



Expanding the collection.

Our traditional collections (books, audio-visual and other resources) are substantive and ever-evolving. Opportunities exist for new collections to be developed at our library - anything that can be shared by the community to reduce the total cost to all, is a worthwhile endeavor. We can also improve our programming offerings by developing partnerships with enthusiasts and experts in the community.

Upgrading our space.

We want the Library to be a beautiful space with the architectural quality that our city deserves in its public spaces. Our existing building has a good structure and a beautiful location with breathtaking views. By improving the furnishings, finishes, and equipment - we can turn our existing library into a truly remarkable space.

Extending our reach.

As Medicine Hat grows, the Library needs to meet people where they are. A lack of parking at our downtown location is the single biggest determinant of non-use, especially among the elderly and parents with small children. We need to overcome this challenge in order to deliver our services to a larger proportion of our community by expanding to the north or south ends of the city. We are looking at expanded program/service delivery in these areas with facility considerations in mind for the long run.

