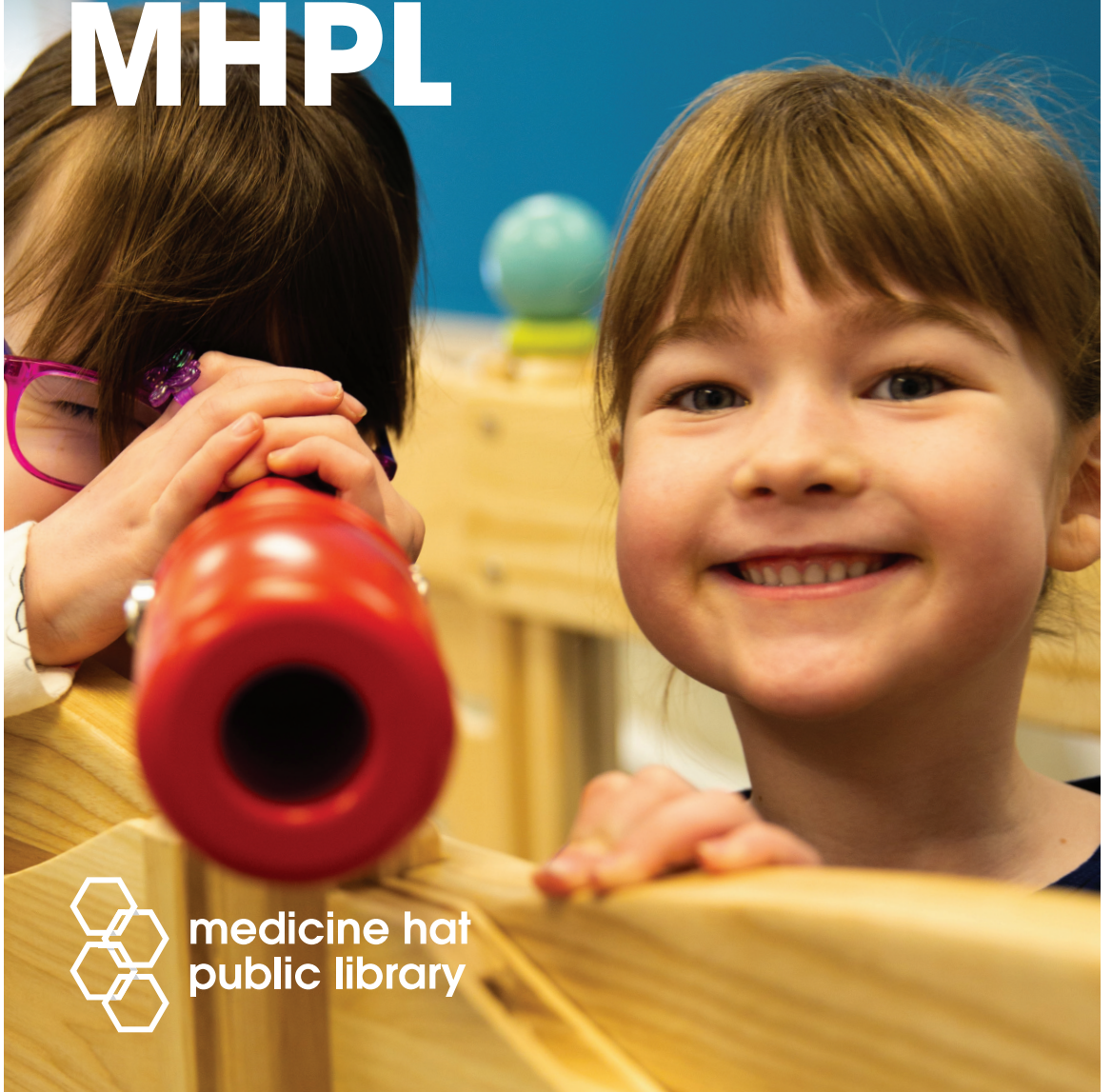


great libraries shape great cities

SUPPORT MHPL

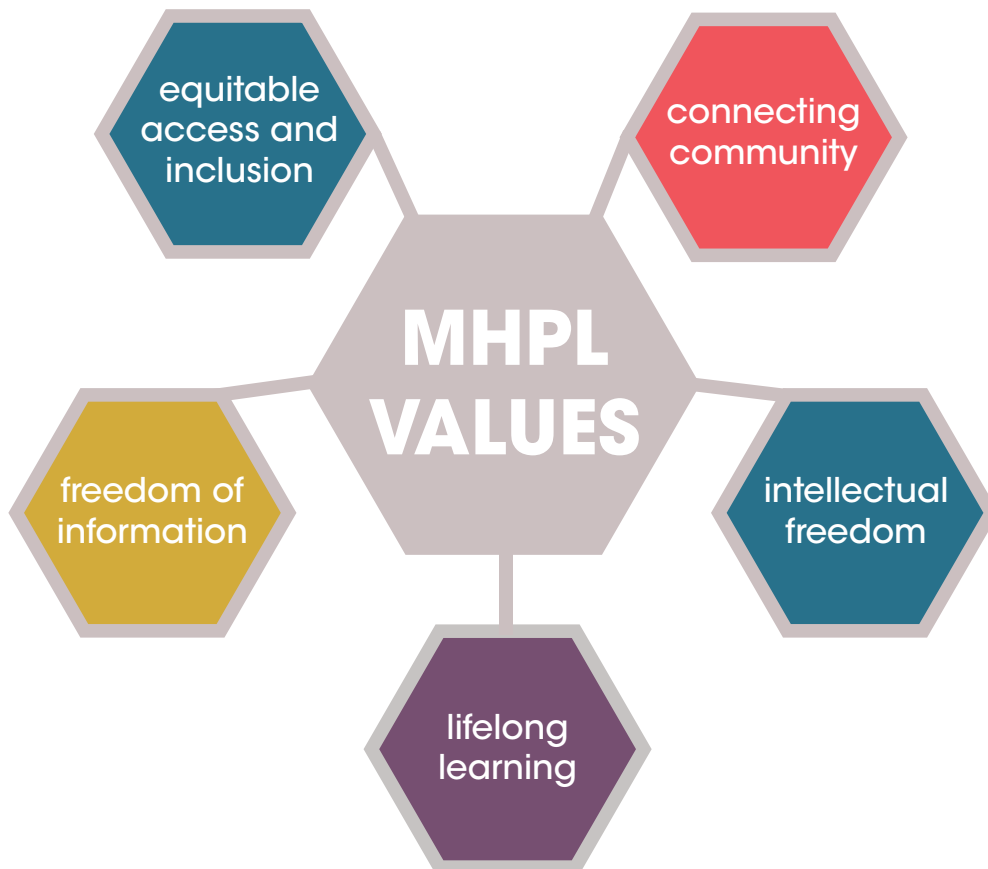


medicine hat
public library

why we're here

The Medicine Hat Public Library (MHPL) is a community hub where all Hatters can come together to connect, share ideas, and reduce isolation. A strong library enhances the vitality of a community by bringing people together to share knowledge, ideas, and experiences. Libraries foster lifelong learning and enhance literacy in communities.

Great libraries shape great communities. Work with us to create a stronger, more vibrant Medicine Hat.



what we do



We have good books and so much more.

Our physical collection includes movies, music, video games, and even items like bicycles and craft kits. We also have online resources like eBooks, eAudiobooks, online learning courses, study help for children, and much more. Our materials are purchased once and used many times - an effective use of public funds!



MHPL brings diverse people together and builds community.

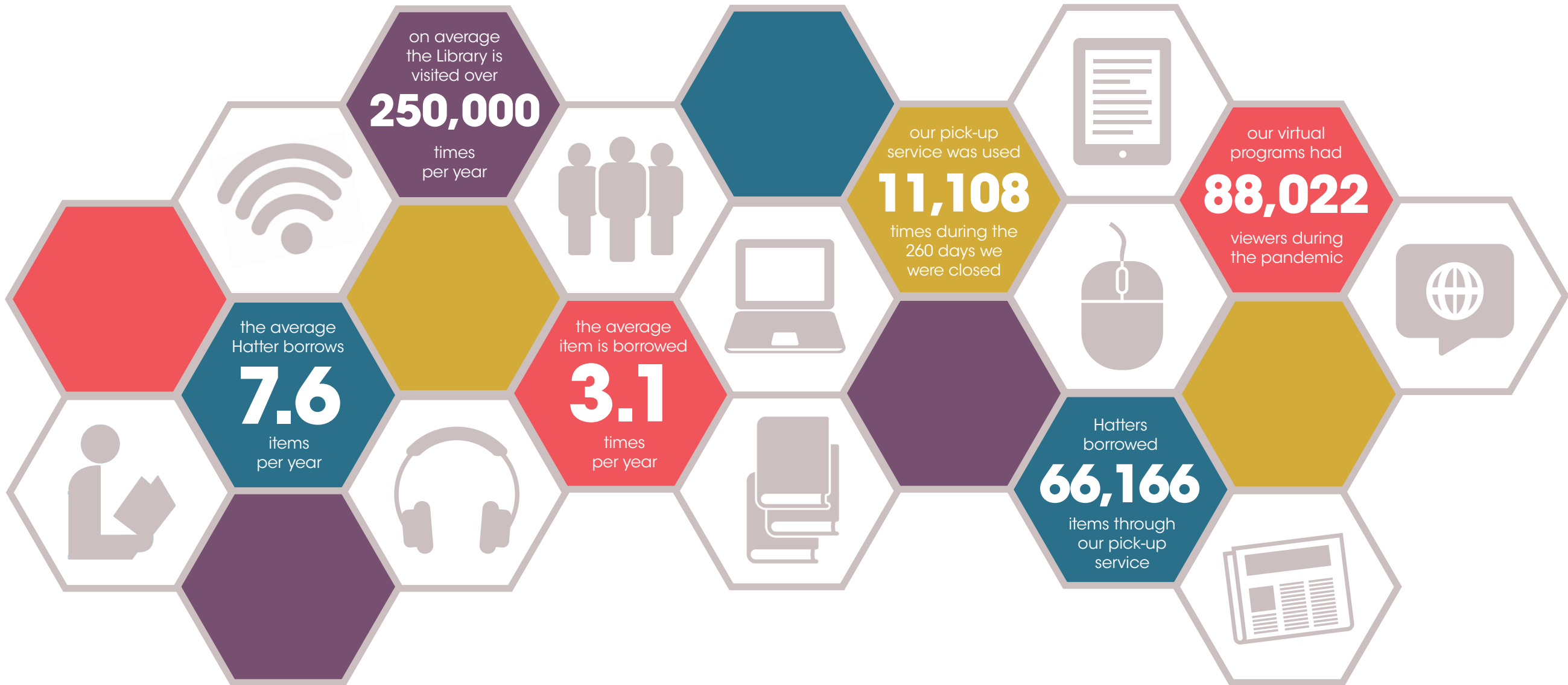
This is a role that is increasingly important as loneliness, isolation and division become serious social problems. The Library is open to everyone, with no expectations or requirements for use beyond basic civility. It's free in every sense of the word.



We host free programs for the community.

We're just getting back to our regular programming schedule which will include things like crafting, book clubs, youth nights, Indigenous and cultural programming, movies in our theatre, and more. Storytimes are also a cornerstone of our programming. Reading to a child stimulates growth and builds preliteracy skills - it's superfood for the developing brain!

MHPL at a glance

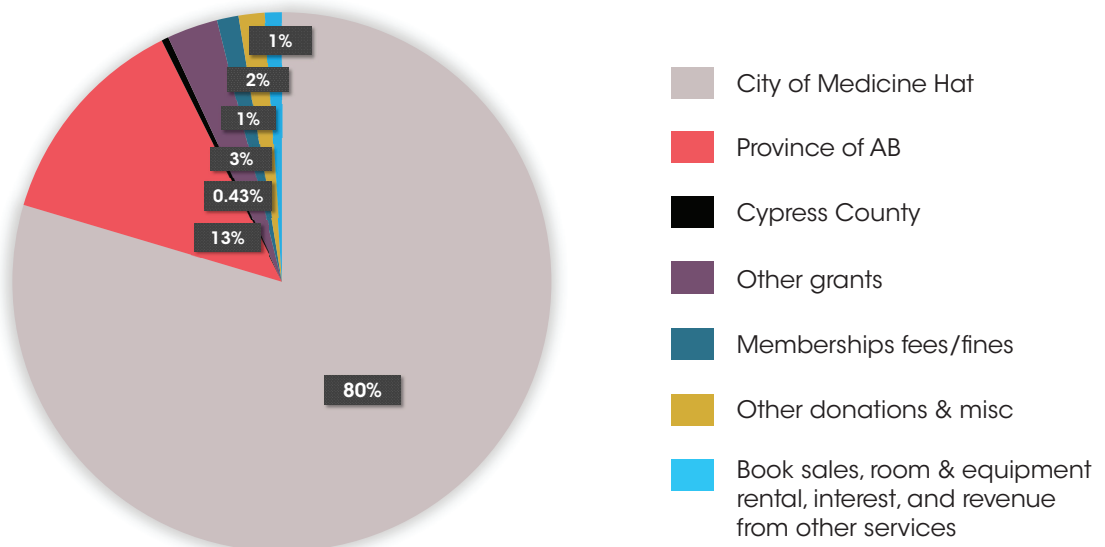


funding sources

Under provincial legislation, public libraries are a municipal service in Alberta. Municipal council forms a library board and appoints board members. The board is a corporation that is responsible for the management and control of the public library. It is the municipality's decision and responsibility to fund the library. The province provides operating grants but they are not sufficient to run a library.

Library systems assist libraries on a regional level. They are funded by member municipalities, libraries and the province. **The Shortgrass Library System** provides the computer network, library catalogue, book ordering, delivery service and more to our library, and to thirteen other libraries in Southeastern Alberta.

In 2016 (the last year data is available), Alberta municipalities with populations from 50,000 to 200,000 provided an average of **\$45.19 per capita** funding to their libraries. Medicine Hat Public Library received **\$36.56 per capita** in 2016, and **\$33.69** in 2021.



why we need your support

Medicine Hat Public Library's municipal funding was **cut by \$72,000 in 2019** as part of the city's Financially Fit initiative. The Library adjusted by eliminating a management position. Library expenditures were reduced in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions and the Library **returned a \$125,000 surplus** to the City. **Funding was cut a further \$70,000 in 2021**. This had a low impact in a pandemic year but in 2022, the library will need to cut hours, staffing levels, and some services to reduce costs. Any further cuts would have increasingly severe impacts on the services that we provide to our community.



what hatters say

"What you did throughout the pandemic with the contactless pickup etc., was a real godsend. Each library employee we spoke with was so kind, considerate, accommodating, and extremely pleasant. We send a huge thank you to one and all." - Patron comment



"Friendly, knowledgeable and professional service, especially through the ups and downs of the lockdowns."

- Patron comment

what do you say?

send your questions or comments about our services to kenf@shortgrass.ca

"Thank you MHPL and staff for providing a space that values freedom of speech and expression."

- Patron comment

"My mom appreciates your service. She hasn't been out of the house in the past 14 months other than for medical appointments. You may not realize the difference you make in a lot of peoples' lives." - Patron comment

