



CALGARY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
FOUNDATION

# 2020: Extensive Reach. Needed Relief.

FINDING NEW WAYS TO REACH CALGARIANS.



MESSAGE FROM  
Carl Landry

A Library is an important piece of social infrastructure during normal times and as we have seen over the past year, becomes even more critical during challenging times. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, the Library has extended its reach beyond its four walls and illustrated its ability to provide needed relief for individuals and our entire community.

Both the Library and Foundation have explored new ways to reach and support students, jobseekers, newcomers to our city, families, and seniors. Beyond expanding the Digital Library and offering socially-distant services, we are proud to have supported a number of new initiatives which are highlighted in the following pages.

My term with the Board concludes in 2021 and I am proud to have been a part of the Library Foundation. I am confident that the Foundation will continue to enable the Library to remove barriers (to success), innovate, and enable our community to grow and prosper.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your continued support of the Calgary Public Library Foundation.

Carl Landry,  
Chair, Calgary Public Library Foundation Board of Directors

MESSAGE FROM  
Tracy Johnson

On February 25, 2020, I was proud to be sitting in a room with 300 library supporters listening to best-selling author and sociologist, Eric Klinenberg. During his talk, he challenged those attending to imagine a world without libraries.

With the temporary closure of libraries due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we've now seen how the absence of a library affects a community, yet we've also discovered that we're never truly without one. Even when its physical buildings are closed, the Library will find a way to reach the community.

And, our community has continued to support the Library. In addition to the messages of encouragement and gratitude we've received, many Calgarians have stepped forward to support their Library with donations of all sizes. Last year, we said we'd do more with your support. The following pages include a sample of some of the things we've accomplished thanks to you, and I look forward to discovering what we can achieve together in 2021.

Tracy Johnson  
CEO, Calgary Public Library Foundation

2020 CALGARY PUBLIC  
LIBRARY FOUNDATION  
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IN 2020, THE CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY WAS TEMPORARILY CLOSED  
TWICE—ONCE FROM MARCH TO JUNE AND AGAIN IN DECEMBER—  
TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19. THESE CLOSURES INSPIRED THE  
LIBRARY TO DISCOVER NEW WAYS TO DELIVER ON ITS STRATEGIC PLAN,  
LEVERAGE ITS PARTNERSHIPS, AND BECOME EVEN MORE CREATIVE IN  
FINDING WAYS TO REACH AND SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY.

THE FOLLOWING SUCCESSES WERE MADE POSSIBLE THANKS  
TO THE SUPPORT OF OUR DONORS.

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Thank you for pivoting your programs, collections, and procedures in response to the pandemic. This year, our family has enjoyed many hours of reading, Story Time, and Baby Rhyme Time despite spending less than 30 minutes actually IN the library all year.

— CHRISTINE, LIBRARY DONOR

*Photo courtesy  
Calgary Public Library*





## COVID-19 RESPONSE

When the City of Calgary announced a local State of Emergency on March 15, 2020, the Calgary Public Library was closed until further notice, and so were our plans for the second quarter of the year. The Foundation was forced to postpone three events immediately, resulting in a \$160,000 shortfall. While the Library worked quickly to pivot their services to serve our community remotely, we pivoted to support the Library.



Photo: Neil Zeller

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HELP US CONTINUE TO  
REMOVE BARRIERS TO  
THE LIBRARY, INNOVATE  
TO OFFER WORLD-CLASS  
RESOURCES, AND FOSTER  
RESILIENCY SO THE  
LIBRARY CAN SERVE THE  
EVOLVING NEEDS OF  
OUR COMMUNITY.

[libraryfoundation.ca/  
resiliency-fund](https://libraryfoundation.ca/resiliency-fund)

Thanks to you, we have raised  
**\$240,000**  
and counting for the  
Resiliency Fund.

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Thank you for all that you do to keep the library free and accessible to all! Libraries are important for community and for low income access to resources.

— KARINA, LIBRARY DONOR

*Photo: Neil Zeller*





## FINE FREE

On July 1, the Calgary Public Library became fine free, a bold step towards equality and a future where everyone in our community has full access to library materials that help them realize their potential. By supporting success and removing barriers to library usage, the elimination of fines helps ensure that more people than ever will access the Library's rich resources.



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SUPPORT EQUITABLE  
ACCESS TO YOUR  
CALGARY PUBLIC  
LIBRARY.

[libraryfoundation.ca/  
fine-free-yyc](https://libraryfoundation.ca/fine-free-yyc)

Thanks to 1,773 donors,

16,178

previously blocked cardholders  
have resumed Library services.

*Supported by: Greig & Brenda Nicholls, J K L MacLachlan Family Fund, Jason & Theresa Baba, Judith Umbach, Shaun Hunter & Blair Carbert, T. Britt Simmons & Janet Harvie, Anonymous (5), and thousands of Calgarians.*

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A library is social justice in disguise.  
Every book helps someone, every  
computer or program helps those  
who do not have what I have.

— LYNN, LIBRARY DONOR





## THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

The widespread closures of library spaces due to COVID-19 exposed the need for libraries to immediately and aggressively evolve their work to ensure technology was accessible to all. In March, the Library loaned 379 laptops to individuals in need, and the Library Foundation began planning to help expand this critical Library program. In December, we began fundraising to support Digital Equity at the Library.



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SUPPORT TECHNOLOGY  
LOANS FOR THOSE IN  
NEED AND VIRTUAL  
PROGRAMMING  
FOR OUR ENTIRE  
COMMUNITY.

[libraryfoundation.ca/  
digitalequity/](https://libraryfoundation.ca/digitalequity/)

A donation of  
**\$500**

allows the Library to purchase  
a new Chromebook or Laptop  
for borrowing.

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If a client requires support and there are very few barriers to it; short of walking through a door, we'll be able to support those who have historically avoided mental health supports for whatever reason.

— WOOD'S HOMES SOCIAL WORKER





## WELLNESS DESK

In October, donor funds enabled the Library to launch a pilot program that brings trained social workers into the Central Library. The Wellness Desk minimizes barriers to mental health support, allows Calgarians to discover services available, and empowers caregivers to direct loved ones to the right services. This inclusive service allows the Library to partner with community partners, providing positive outcomes for high-needs individuals and further supporting staff who rely on security to maintain safe environments.



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PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE  
MENTAL HEALTH  
SUPPORT FOR  
INDIVIDUALS AND  
CAREGIVERS IN OUR  
COMMUNITY.

[libraryfoundation.ca/gift/  
mental-health/](https://libraryfoundation.ca/gift/mental-health/)

After using the Wellness Desk

94%

of individuals reported  
having a clear next step.

*In partnership with: Wood's Homes. Supported by: The Government of Alberta, Boone-Poole Family Foundation, The City of Calgary, J K L MacLachlan Family Fund, RBC Foundation and donors of the Library Foundation*

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My first book was a Christmas gift.  
'The Snowman Who Wanted to Stay'  
is still on my shelf! It is a fuzzy wuzzy  
book that's worn in spots because  
I read it to 4 siblings, 4 daughters  
and now 8 grandchildren!

— BERTHA ANN, LIBRARY DONOR





## MY FIRST BOOKSHELF

My First Bookshelf supports children on their journey to literacy, kindergarten readiness, and lifelong wellbeing, and creates the opportunity to build connections with Library services. This new pilot program provides a free, age-appropriate, personalized book once a month from birth to age five. In response to the second Library closure in December, the pilot was doubled, with a goal of reaching 2,000 children in the first year.



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FOSTER A LOVE OF  
READING AND LEARNING  
THAT WILL SET A CHILD  
UP FOR LIFELONG  
SUCCESS FOR AS LITTLE  
AS \$5.50 PER MONTH.

[libraryfoundation.ca/  
myfirstbookshelf](http://libraryfoundation.ca/myfirstbookshelf)

Thanks to you, we raised  
**\$247,600**  
removing barriers to children's  
literacy and development.

*In partnership with: Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Supported by: Calgary Foundation, Canada Life, The Dollywood Foundation of Canada, Leah & Ernie Hagel, J K L MacLachlan Family Fund, Barbara Killick, the McNamara Family, Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown, Rotary Club of Calgary East, Rotary Partners of Calgary at Stampede Park, and donors of the Calgary Public Library Foundation.*

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Truly wonderful service from the Library staff and easy free delivery to the branch of my choice. Thank you for this gift shop and the chance to support our wonderful community resource, the Calgary Public Library!

— CHARLENE, LIBRARY STORE SUPPORTER



A young woman with long brown hair is looking down at a book in a library. She is wearing a dark blue sweatshirt with the text "Happiest when Reading" in white cursive. The background shows bookshelves filled with books, slightly out of focus.

*Happiest when  
Reading*

**LIBRARYSTORE.CA**

In response to a rallying cry to support local, 5,702 people made a purchase at Library Store in 2020, resulting in the most successful year ever! This accomplishment was especially meaningful as the store was closed from March 15 – July 11.

Our jigsaw puzzles sold out five times over, but the breakthrough success story of the year was our “I always have my nose in a book” non-medical mask. Thanks to your purchases, we raised more than \$115,000 in support of the Calgary Public Library.



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ALL PROCEEDS FROM  
LIBRARYSTORE.CA  
BRING THE LIBRARY'S  
PROGRAMS, SERVICES  
AND COLLECTION ITEMS  
TO THE PEOPLE WHO  
NEED THEM.

[librarystore.ca](http://librarystore.ca)

You purchased

2,577

non-medical face masks,  
making it our most successful  
product yet!

IN 2020...



\$4.86M

in revenue



1,103

virtual programs  
delivered



473

monthly donors  
to the Library



11,439

custom book  
bags created



33%

increase in  
Digital Circulation



6.8M

books borrowed through  
Curbside Pickup

IN ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT YEARS IN RECENT  
MEMORY, YOU HAVE PROVIDED **NEEDED RELIEF** TO OUR  
COMMUNITY THROUGH THE LIBRARY.

WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE WILL CONTINUE TO EXPAND  
THE LIBRARY'S **EXTENSIVE REACH**; REMOVING BARRIERS,  
INNOVATING, AND FOSTERING RESILIENCE, NOW AND  
IN THE FUTURE.

SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY AT **LIBRARYFOUNDATION.CA.**

**CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION**

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**P** 403 221 2002 **E** [info@libraryfoundation.ca](mailto:info@libraryfoundation.ca) [libraryfoundation.ca](https://libraryfoundation.ca)

Charitable Registration Number 87292-3537-RR-0001

# Doing more with your support.

Removing **more** barriers.

Sparking **more** innovation.

Building a **more** resilient community.

VISIT [libraryfoundation.ca](https://libraryfoundation.ca)

FOLLOW @libraryfdnyyc



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