

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Provincial Funding Cuts to Libraries Results in Reduced Services to Patrons

As a result of the budget cuts, the Saskatchewan Information & Library Services (SILS) consortium member organizations will no longer offer “One Province, One Library Card” materials holds and delivery service. The service, established in 2009, allowed anyone with a valid library card in Saskatchewan to place holds on materials from any library in the province, and then have those materials delivered to their local branch. Without comprehensive provincial funding to cover all associated costs of this service, it is not sustainable for SPL to continue to participate. In light of the unanticipated budget challenges faced by our municipality, we cannot ask municipal taxpayers to further supplement the costs of the holds and delivery service.

Effective Apr. 10, 2017 the ability for Saskatchewan library card holders to place holds on materials from other library systems will no longer be available. Materials which are already in transit or are waiting for pick up at a branch will be delivered to the requesting patron. For Saskatoon residents, these changes only apply to borrowing materials outside of SPL’s holdings, meaning that inter-branch holds and transfers of SPL’s roughly 550,000 materials will not be impacted.

Library card holders in Saskatchewan will continue to be able to visit SPL and borrow materials. Further review of costs associated with providing this service is required to determine if SPL can continue to offer this service.

As per provincial budget the Interlibrary Loans program (which allows for loans between provinces) will continue.

With provincial library funding being severely cut—or, in the case of Saskatoon, completely eliminated—service changes will necessarily follow suit, and there will be more difficult decisions for SPL to face in the coming weeks.

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For more information, contact

Janna Sampson
Director, Marketing & Communications
Phone: 306.975.3494 / Mobile: 306.221.4880
Email: j.sampson@saskatoonlibrary.ca