

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**May 1, 2017**

Provincial Library Holds & Delivery Service Restored

Saskatoon, SK – Today, the Saskatchewan Information & Library Services (SILS) consortium member organizations announced that the materials holds and delivery service will be restored across the province effective today, May 1, 2017.

Saskatoon Public Library (SPL) views sharing materials amongst Saskatchewan’s library systems as a valuable and important service and wants to see the service continue into the future. However, SPL is mindful that the province has only restored funding through to the end of 2017 and that the City of Saskatoon—which provides SPL’s vast majority of funding on an annual basis—is facing its own financial pressures following the recent provincial budget.

As the largest library system in the province, SPL—and, by default, Saskatoon’s municipal taxpayers—is the largest funder of the service. Having looked deeply into the costs of the materials holds and delivery service in recent weeks, it has become clear to SPL that numerous operational efficiencies could be implemented that would result in cost savings moving forward. As such, SPL will be making changes to how the organization participates in the service over the coming months.

“We’re reviewing our own procedures and approach to participating in the service with a goal to increase return on investment for our municipal taxpayers,” said Cooley. “It may be a luxury that we are no longer able to afford in its current form. This is a tough budget and there are real financial challenges ahead. Everyone has to do their part, and this is an area where we think some significant cost savings can be achieved while maintaining the spirit and the intention of the service,” she added.

A commitment has been made between libraries and the province to explore more efficient ways of sharing materials.

“We look forward to working with all parties to ensure Saskatchewan continues to have quality library services, now and into the future,” said Cooley.

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