



For Immediate Release: December 22, 2014

Saskatoon Public Library Director Announces Retirement

After 19 years at the helm of Saskatoon Public Library (SPL), Director of Libraries Zenon Zuzak is retiring December 31.

"I've worked here one-third of the library's 101-year history and it feels like the right time to start a new chapter in my life," said Zuzak. "I'd like to spend more time with my children and grandchildren. I also want more time to pursue my own interests, such as enjoying nature and doing volunteer work for my community and church."

"However, I'm sad to be leaving such an exceptional organization. SPL is certainly one of the best libraries in North America, largely due to our dedicated staff, sound board leadership and loyal patrons," he said.

"Saskatoon has been fortunate to have Zenon's innovative and creative leadership these past 19 years", said Mayor Donald Atchison. "At a time when libraries face financial and technological challenges, Zenon found ways to provide services to those who most needed them. He brought the 20th Street library back to life after decades, and helped create the Alice Turner Branch in University Heights and the soon to open Stonebridge library. Saskatoon is a stronger and more caring city because of Zenon's contribution."

"With over three decades of experience, Zenon has seen libraries change and evolve from buildings that loaned and housed collections of books to places where many community connections are made," said SPL Board of Trustees Chair Chris Shauf. "A strong library system is an important part of a strong community, and we thank Zenon for his many years of service and dedication to the library and the people of Saskatoon. The board's search committee will be looking for a leader with a clear and compelling vision to continue to carry our library forward and position it well for Saskatoon's future."

The board of trustees has hired an executive recruitment firm to conduct a comprehensive national search for a new director to replace Zuzak. Meanwhile, the board has asked Zuzak to stay as acting director for at least three months while the search moves forward. The position will be posted January 5.

Zuzak received his Master of Library Sciences degree at the University of British Columbia and worked as one of the technical services managers at the University of Saskatchewan Library before



joining SPL in 1980. He was head of Technical Services before he became assistant chief librarian in 1986 and then director of libraries in 1995.

“I believe that SPL has met the challenge of keeping in step with the city’s growth. We’ve also kept pace technologically and continue to evolve, with a strong online presence, extensive electronic resources and a growing digital collection,” Zuzak said.

“I’ve been pleased to work in a public service organization that is there for everyone. Our doors are open for every toddler, senior and newcomer. Not many organizations can say they are free,” he said.

Zenon has seen Saskatoon change and grow over the years and knows the need for a new downtown central library. He looks forward to the day when the city’s skyline includes one. In the meantime, he plans to stay in Saskatoon and remain a staunch library supporter.

Career highlights:

- In his 34 years at the library, Zuzak saw the construction of five new branches – Cliff Wright Branch (1989), Rusty Macdonald Branch (1989), Mayfair Branch (rebuilt 1991), Alice Turner Branch (1998) and The Library on 20th Street Branch (2009). The last two branches were built while he was director. SPL plans to open a ninth location in 2016 in Stonebridge.
- Zuzak took on a major role when the Saskatchewan Information & Library Services (SILS) Consortium, was formed in 2009. The consortium is a network of more than 300 public libraries that work together to provide consistent library services in the province. Zuzak sat as president of the consortium for the first four years.
- Zuzak has served on the executives of several provincial organizations throughout his career. These include the Multitype Library Board and the Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal Peoples (LSSAP) Committee.

-30-

For interviews please contact

Zenon Zuzak, Director of Libraries

306.975.7575 or 306.222.0296

z.zuzak@saskatoonlibrary.ca

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter by clicking on the links at saskatoonlibrary.ca!