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Provincial library system up and running

The online, province-wide library catalogue has been turned back on, and people from across the province once again have access to thousands of books, e-books, DVDs and more.

“As of this morning, the borders between libraries in the province were reopened, and the entire online catalogue is available to Saskatchewan residents,” Jeff Barber, Regina Public Library Director and CEO, said. “We are pleased we can once again provide province-wide access to this valuable service.”

The provincial catalogue is a joint system managed by the province’s eight regions and two urban libraries. It enables anyone from anywhere in the province to request items and have them delivered to their home library.

“Sharing resources has always been part of Saskatchewan’s rich heritage,” Barber said. “Sharing library materials is a decades-old practice, and is known across Canada as an effective means of providing learning and literacy opportunities to anyone, regardless of location, age, income, education or social status.”

The ability to borrow items from across the province was closed off as a result of funding cuts in the province’s 2017 budget. When funding was restored on April 24, libraries were once again able to support province-wide use of the system.

“The provincial grant for public libraries is specifically for resource sharing, and makes up a significant portion of the revenue for regional library systems,” Barber said. “We appreciate the provincial government’s decision to reinstate that grant for the 2017 fiscal year.”

Library directors across the province will be meeting with government officials in the months ahead to review the system and determine whether changes or improvements can be made.

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For more information:

Colleen Hawkesford
Manager, Marketing and Communications
Regina Public Library
chawkesford@reginalibrary.ca
306.777.6015