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New pilot project gives public access to free menstrual products

Regina Public Library's Menstrual Equity project will provide free access to menstrual products at three of its locations. This helps ensure that library customers and members of the public will have access to menstrual products in times of urgent need.

"Period poverty is a concern in Regina, and the stigma associated with menstruation can make it embarrassing or difficult to ask for help. If we can support our community and help to address that hygienic need in an open, equitable, and respectful way, that's something we want to explore," said Aidan Megan, Department Head, Branch Services at Regina Public Library.

According to a [study by Plan International Canada](#), 86 per cent of women have started their period without the supplies needed.

Nearly a quarter of those surveyed also struggled to afford menstrual products, either for themselves or their dependents. The library's project will also help those who have a hard time managing the often-prohibitive cost of menstrual products.

RPL installed free sanitary pad and tampon dispensers in public washrooms at Central Library, and Glen Elm and Regent Place Branches. The pilot project will run at these three locations from March 1 through August 31, 2020.

RPL will evaluate the project's success in the fall, to determine its feasibility as a long-term service offering.

RPL's Menstrual Equity project is funded by donation and Regina Public Library.

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For more information contact

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