



Mr. Jeff Barber
CEO
Regina Public Library
2311 12th Avenue
Regina, SK
S4P 0N3

Mr. Barber;

On behalf of the Regina & District Chamber of Commerce I would like to provide support for a new Central Library in downtown Regina.

Regina Public Library (RPL) has been inspiring our community to discover, learn and connect since 1909. It's a part of Regina's proud heritage – we all have fond memories of going to the library, as children, with our children or our grandchildren.

We need to ensure the Central Library legacy continues into the future.

Not only is it a common gathering place that unites people, it represents our city's character, aspirations and commitment to the future. It's a source of pride for the community.

Libraries have evolved to more than just books. We need the space and technology to share Indigenous history and culture, provide free programs, share business advice, and encourage free learning in new areas like Digital Media.

This building opened in 1962 and was a crown jewel of Victoria Park at the time. Over time, however, Regina's size and demographics have changed.

To remain inclusive and accessible the Central Library needs be flexible and responsive to the community. This current building doesn't offer that opportunity.

As part of the overall growth and revitalization of downtown we need a new Central Library.

Some would say that in building a new facility, RPL would lose a piece of heritage and history. I am confident that the key historical components of this building can be incorporated into a new design, much like was done at Connaught School. As well, the new Library could be built on the current site to continue RPL's rich historical heritage.



The current building no longer provides for Regina's needs. To continue to serve our community, RPL needs to work with our community leaders to ensure we have a welcoming community gathering place where the joy of reading, discovery and lifelong learning is promoted and encouraged.

If done in consultation and partnership with the Catalyst Committee, a renewed Central Library will contribute to a revitalizing downtown that will encourage economic development and enhance our overall quality of life in Regina.

The Regina & District Chamber believes that with the potential infrastructure growth downtown, that could include a new arena and aquatics centre, it only makes sense to add a new library. Doing these major builds together as part of one large project makes sense from a business standpoint.

I look forward to working together to create a more dynamic and vibrant sense of civic pride in the heart of downtown Regina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Playter'. The signature is stylized with large loops and a prominent 'P'.

Tony Playter
CEO
Regina & District Chamber of Commerce.