

November 25, 2022

Mr. Jim Elliott  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Elliott,

**RE: Delegation Submission of September 20, 2022**

Thank you for the submission you provided to the RPL Board of Directors for their meeting on September 27, 2022. I would like to take this opportunity to comment on some of the assertions in your letter.

We appreciate your desire for further engagement on Central Library. Beyond the Catalyst Committee sessions and community survey that RPL has participated in since the September Board Meeting, we will certainly be providing further opportunity for Reginans to voice their feedback as the project moves forward.

I acknowledge your statement that “the community does not simply want a tall glass and steel tower at the corner of Lorne Street and 12<sup>th</sup> Ave.” Yet if we were to renovate the current building and add the space required to adequately serve the public, an addition on the west side would have to be 10 stories high.

The intent of the 2021 Stakeholder Engagement Summary was to gauge the level of interest by stakeholders in Central Library renewal: overall, did they believe that renewal, regardless of what that might look like, was important for the city. The overwhelming response was yes.

The themes for engagement within the 2021 Stakeholder Engagement Summary appear based on research and observations of central libraries in other urban centres. They are hubs for the community and people are naturally drawn to them by their appearance, flow, and architecture. By their very nature they are downtown destinations, attract events and conferences, and facilitate local connections.

In terms of assessing the entire library system, I can assure you that branch renewal is still very much a priority for the Board of Directors. Central Library and the magnitude of its issues create significant risk that must be mitigated. Branch renewal is included in the Board’s strategic plan



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as a priority. Once we get Central renewal moving forward, we will continue with branch renewal.

If you have more questions, let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Barber', with a small flourish at the end.

Jeff Barber

Library Director & CEO, Regina Public Library