



STRATEGIC PLAN

2026 – 2031

Board Approved September 9, 2026

*The Bentley Municipal Library connects the community through imagination and discovery,
fostering a lifelong love of reading and creativity in a welcoming apace.*

Strategic Plan

BOARD APPROVED September 9, 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Welcome to the 2027 strategic plan and vision for the Bentley Municipal Library. Our library is far more than a house for books- it's a dynamic space dedicated to inspiring lifelong learning, physical literacy, and community connection through diverse and engaging opportunities and programming for all ages. The library provides a rich array of recreational, educational and physical literacy opportunities. Our library continuously evolves to meet the diverse needs of our patrons. As technology evolves and our community's needs and focuses change, the library continues to adapt alongside our patrons ensuring accessible support, modern resources, and relevant opportunities for everyone.

Our strategic direction for 2027 reflects the true spirit of community and collaboration. To shape our vision and goals, the library board, with the support from Parkland Regional Library and library staff, gathered valuable insights from a dedicated panel of community members, town council, and county representatives. We are deeply grateful for their input, as well as unwavering dedication of our volunteers, whose time and passion keep our doors open. This plan is very important to the residents of the Town of Bentley, Lacombe County and summer villages.

With thoughtful consideration of our seniors, youth, students, and families, we are proud to offer diverse, engaging programming tailored to every stage of life. Our dynamic programming and plans give special focus to the tailored needs of seniors, youth, students and families. From physical literacy and active play to educational workshops and creative learning, we strive to ensure every patron finds valuable, engaging experiences when they walk through our doors. We extend our sincere thanks for the financial support provided by the Town of Bentley, Lacombe County, the volunteers of the Library Society, Parkland Regional Library, board of volunteer directors, the Province of Alberta, and our generous donors and community supporters. Your continued partnership makes this Library a place where everyone can learn, grow and connect. Together we look forward to another wonderful 5-year term of serving the Town of Bentley, Lacombe County and neighboring summer villages.

Kathy Pike
Chairperson
Bentley Municipal Library

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COMMUNITY PROFILE

Bentley is a well-established agricultural community in Central Alberta that combines its farming heritage with its role as a gateway to the Gull Lake recreation region. Located in Lacombe County at the intersection of Highway 12 and Highway 20, approximately 28 km northwest of Red Deer, the community serves both the surrounding agricultural area and the region's seasonal tourism economy.

Home to approximately 1,153 residents, Bentley is characterized by a strong sense of community, active volunteerism, and a vibrant historic downtown with locally owned businesses. The community continues to support multi-generational farming families while attracting retirees and young families seeking affordable housing within commuting distance of regional employment centers.

Key community assets include the local school, Bentley Arena, Curling Club, Bentley Municipal Library, and access to the Blindman River Valley and nearby Gull Lake. Together, these amenities support year-round recreation, community programming, and a high quality of life.

Bentley's strategic location, strong community identity, and established local services position it to support sustainable residential growth, local business development, and continued investment while maintaining its rural character.

OVERVIEW OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

As part of the process to complete a Plan of Service, the Bentley Municipal Library conducted a community consultation. As recommended by the Strategic Planning for Results process, in person meeting of community members and surveys made available on multiple social media avenues and in-house, inviting interested people and community groups within the service area to participate.

Using the results from the surveys and in person meeting, Bentley Library staff and board reviewed the results the community needs assessments and determined that the following service responses would be the library's highest priority over the next five years:

- Strengthen Community Connections Through Inclusive and Multi-Generational Programming
- Expand Library Business, Technology and Community Support Services
- Increase Community Awareness, Outreach and Engagement
- Enhance Programming, Accessibility and Support for Seniors
- Enhance Library Spaces, Comfort and Accessibility

MISSION STATEMENT

To serve as a trusted community hub that promotes literacy, lifelong learning, creativity, and meaningful connections by providing inclusive programs, resources, and welcoming spaces for residents of all ages.

PRIORITY SERVICE RESPONSES

Strengthen Community Connections Through Inclusive Programming

Goal

Create meaningful opportunities for residents of all ages to connect, learn, and participate in community life through inclusive library programming and community partnerships.

Objective

- Increase programming during school breaks, PD days, and seasonal periods to better support families and youth.
- Collaborate with schools, community organizations, and local groups to co-host events and initiatives.
- Expand creative, recreational, wellness, and educational programming opportunities based on community interests
- Offer diverse programs for children, teens, adults, families, and seniors throughout the year.

Expand Library Business, Technology and Community Support Services

Goal

Enhance the library's role as a community resource hub by expanding access to practical services, technology, and lifelong learning opportunities.

Objectives

- Expand business center services to include faxing, scanning, printing, and additional technology supports.
- Improve access to digital literacy training and basic technology assistance for all ages.
- Support job seekers, entrepreneurs, nonprofits, and lifelong learners through access to information and resources.
- Increase awareness and promotion of available technology, internet, and business services.
- Assess community needs regularly to identify additional services that would benefit residents.

Increase Community Awareness, Outreach and Engagement

Goal

Increase awareness of the library's services, programs, and resources while attracting more residents—especially teens, youth, and families—to actively engage with the library.

Objectives

- Develop a consistent marketing and communication strategy using social media, schools, community newsletters, and local events.
- Increase outreach efforts to residents who may be unaware of the programs and services the library offers.
- Expand teen-focused programming, spaces, and collections that reflect teen interests and encourage participation.
- Participate in community events and partnerships to strengthen the library's visibility within Bentley.
- Gather and review community feedback regularly to help guide future services, programs, and priorities.

Enhance Programming Accessibility and Support for Seniors

Goal

Support the wellbeing, lifelong learning, and social connection of seniors through accessible, welcoming, and engaging library services and programs.

Objectives

- Offer regular senior-focused programs such as technology help, wellness activities, social gatherings, and lifelong learning opportunities.
- Increase opportunities for seniors to connect socially and participate actively in community life.
- Partner with local organizations and community groups to identify and respond to senior needs.
- Improve awareness of library services, resources, and supports available to seniors.

Enhance Library Spaces, Comfort and Accessibility

Goal

Create welcoming, comfortable, and accessible library spaces that support learning, relaxation, creativity, and community connection.

Objectives

- Improve seating, reading, and gathering areas to create a more welcoming and comfortable environment.
- Create flexible and functional spaces that support programs, collaboration, quiet reading, and community use.
- Enhance accessibility and comfort for patrons of all ages and abilities.
- Evaluate library layout and physical space needs regularly based on community feedback and changing use patterns.

CONCLUSION

The Bentley Municipal Library Board and staff continue to make every effort to meet the Government of Alberta and Municipal Affairs Standards and Best Practices for Libraries in Alberta. We appreciate the support of the Town of Bentley, Lacombe County, the Library Society, Parkland Regional Library and Province of Alberta, which enables the library to provide a high level of service to the community.

We are grateful to the members of the Community who emailed, completed a survey, online or in-house, and attended a meeting which was essential in producing this Plan of Service.

The Bentley Municipal Library 2026 – 2031 Plan of Service has been approved by the Bentley Municipal Library Board.

September 9, 2026