

## **[insert library name here] Statement of Value**

Libraries are absolutely integral to the fabric of our society and their value and importance is highlighted even more in rural communities. The **[insert library name here]** adds value to our community in so many ways that support the well-being and connection of the people who live here. Continued funding from council is the only way forward for our library.

In 2024 alone, we circulated **[insert number of items circulated here]** items throughout our community. That number represents parents reading to their children every night, making lifelong memories and increasing literacy and love of learning. That number also represents seniors, keeping their minds sharp and active by accessing our large collection of regular, audiobooks, and large print books. Teens cooking their families' dinner after checking out a new cookbook. Gardeners building and planting new raised beds with the help of our non-fiction books. Families gathering together for a movie night picked from our DVD collection. People finding connection, purpose, adventure, and more within the pages of our books.

This is all to say nothing of the value that our community finds in our physical space. We are connected to the Alberta SuperNet and provide free, high-speed internet to anyone who walks through our doors. We also provide computers and a printer for the public to use as a way to help our community stay connected to the world at large. We facilitate ancestry research, job applications, newspaper subscriptions, research projects, and language learning. We offer support for print-disabled patrons because everyone deserves to feel supported with access to their library. Our programs foster a sense of fun, creativity, and unity in our town by bringing people together for songs, stories, crafts, clubs, and learning.

Through our partnership with Parkland Regional Library System, we have access to books, DVDs, audiobooks, and more from every library in the province. For every one dollar that we invest into this partnership, it is returned to us in **[insert Return on Investment here]** worth of goods and services that allow us to better serve our patrons.

At the end of the day, the library is the heart of a community, and community is at the heart of our library.

Without a per capita contribution from the **[insert municipality name here]**, we would not be eligible for our provincial operating grant, which would result in zero funding from the province and the inevitable closure of the library. We truly believe this would be devastating for our patrons and the community in general. According to legislation governing public libraries in Alberta, "it is the responsibility of council to approve, in whole or in part, the estimate of local appropriation requested by the library board." It is our sincere hope that council recognizes this responsibility and approaches our funding request with the listed benefits and services the library provides in mind.

**Commented [PM1]:** You can replace this section with testimonials or stories from your own community. This always has the biggest impact – showing council how the lives of real people in their municipality are improved by the operation of the library.