

**QUOTES ON SUPPORT FOR
RURAL PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

“Public libraries are one of the last indoor spaces where anyone is welcome. You don’t need money, equipment or a monthly membership, just a library card and respect for the people around you. Inclusive spaces like libraries are critical to the safety and well-being of our community, especially for our youth.”

— Mayor Colleen Smook, City of Thompson

“Since local libraries act as community hubs, the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) commends the province for increasing funding support in Budget 2021. Today’s announcement further demonstrates how libraries play a critical role in providing community access to vital services, particularly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.”

— Kam Blight, president, Association of Manitoba Municipalities

“The public library is an essential part of a healthy, inclusive and democratic community and society. Manitoba’s rural and northern libraries enable their communities’ access to information and technology, allowing for active civic participation in social, cultural and economic activities. The Manitoba Library Association greatly welcomes this news of funding to rural and northern libraries, and applauds increased sector development, including an agreement with Centre for Equitable Library Access – also making more information accessible to all Manitobans.”

— Melanie Sucha, president, Manitoba Library Association

“We are so pleased that all public libraries in Manitoba will have access to CELA’s services and the more than one-million titles we offer. Public libraries play a crucial role in providing accessible reading materials to the one-in-10 people with print disabilities, so that everyone can fully participate in learning, work and community life. Our team is looking forward to supporting Manitoba public libraries as they continue their work to ensure equitable access to reading materials for all Manitobans.”

— Laurie Davidson, executive director, Centre for Equitable Library Access