

## Library FAQs

### Why does the library need to expand its space?

Due to our limited meeting spaces, prior to Covid-19, we regularly turned away individuals, community groups, and programming partners because there wasn't enough space to meet everyone's conferencing needs. The new library will have an 80-person adult program room, enlarged children's play space, dedicated children's program room, two flex/makerspace rooms equipped with sinks, and two private 2-3 person studying rooms. The need for these spaces will continue to increase as the community grows.

### Will the library's collection increase in the new space?

According to the Alberta Government's *Best Practices for Alberta Public Libraries* (2018), our library currently doesn't have enough room to house all the print materials that it should have for a community of our size. The larger library will allow us to increase our number of shelving units so we can begin to grow our collection. This, in turn, will provide library patrons with more selection and faster access to items of interest.

Of special interest is the opportunity to increase the Teen Section which will provide a positive way to partner with other ALC stakeholders such as Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools and Foothills School Division.

More information:

### Are libraries still as important for the community as they were in the past?

Public Libraries are now commonly known as their community's 'third place' next to home and workplace/school as our changing social role has library staff focusing not only on books but on fulfilling the community's human needs. This includes providing space for performances, meetings, children's activities, art installations, and general public gatherings.

In the new library, we are excited about having the ability to meet the needs of Okotoks and surrounding Foothills County. We look forward to the collaborative opportunities that the ALC Campus will provide us with the other project stakeholders, and we are happy to remain as part of Okotoks Downtown where our vision statement to be "The Heart of the Community, the Key to the World" is reinforced.