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## **New Central Library Functional Program and RFP for Design Consultant Released**

Since having its borrowing request approved by City Council in 2019, Saskatoon Public Library (SPL) has been busy planning and assembling a team that will deliver the new central library to Saskatoon. Today, SPL released two key documents that signal significant progress for this project:

- A Request for Proposal for Design Consulting Services.
- The design brief (functional program).

The design work, for which the team will be selected in October—will be guided by the functional program, which is a statement of building needs. It articulates the vision for the building and describes the types and sizes of spaces needed, how the spaces will be used, and the relationships between the spaces.

As this is a project for the community, SPL will be releasing a community engagement and learning plan later this fall. This plan will outline the various ways Saskatoon residents will have an opportunity to provide feedback about the functional program and, in doing so, help shape the future of library services in our city.

"We're thrilled to see the tremendous progress that has been made on this long-overdue project for our city," said Brett Bradshaw, SPL's Board Chair. "With the need for a new downtown library having been recognized for more than two decades, the Board is pleased to move it forward and excited to see the economic and social benefits it will bring to our city."

Built in 1966 to serve a population of 115,000, the Frances Morrison Central Library is now significantly undersized and unable to support many modern library services, including increasing demands for technology and multi-use spaces. The current central library is also non-compliant with all significant building codes, including fire, mechanical, electrical and accessibility, with many deficiencies dating back nearly 20 years.

With the city projecting its population growing to nearly 500,000 people over the next three to four decades, a new central library is a critical piece of SPL's long-term plan to address growth and service demands.

The new central library is slated to open at 321 2nd Avenue North in 2026. Following approval by City Council in 2019, the building is projected to be approximately 136,000 square feet and will be constructed within an inflation-adjusted budget of \$134 million (2026 dollars).

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### **For more information, contact:**

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