

2017

Redwater Public Library

DELEGATION TO STURGEON COUNTY

REDWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY | Box 384, Redwater, AB, T0A 2W0

In 2017 the Redwater Public Library Board consulted with members of the public to help us formulate our 5-year Plan of Service. Through surveys and a focus group we learned that our users consider the service we offer to the region as excellent. We took their input and additional market research and used it to create our plan.

As always, having the funding available to implement that plan is key to its success.

Currently the formula used to determine funding to the libraries within Sturgeon County is based on the number of registered cardholders who are county residents. Our proximity to the industrial heartland creates unique challenges for the Redwater Library that cannot be measured by cardholder numbers.

Our public computers logged over 2000 30-minute sessions in 2016. Library staff aided in many those sessions, providing instruction in:

- creating e-mail accounts for access to job postings and company resources.
- creating and uploading resumes and cover letters.
- accessing on-line job training to enable workers access to job sites.
- using technology such as webcams for job training.
- access to electronic services at all levels of government.

In addition to those public computer sessions, library staff often assist the public with those same issues on their own personal devices. Staff are often told, at the end of a public interaction, that the patron would not be able to access services without the help provided by staff.

We faxed 1585 pages, printed or copied 6012 pages, and scanned and emailed 407 pages for the public. Many of those transactions provided support to small business.

We proctored exams for high school distance education students as well as post-secondary students from SAIT, Mount Royal College, Athabasca University, and Norquest College.

In 2016 we offered 223 program sessions with 1551 members of the public participating. Areas covered included such things as job readiness workshops, computer trainings, early childhood literacy, school-aged science programs, adult general interest and hobby workshops.

Our regional programming partners include: Careers Under Construction, Sturgeon Literacy, and the Early Childhood Development Initiative.

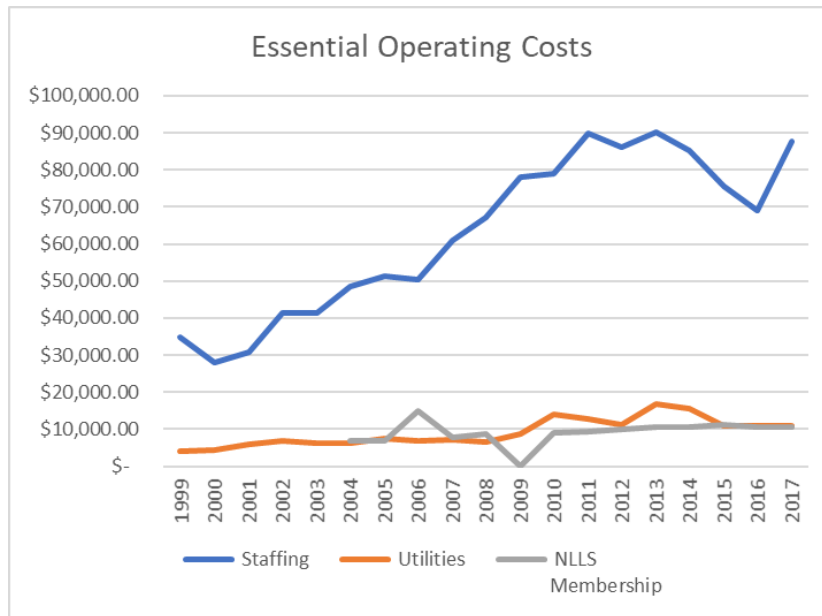
“Libraries serve a vital social service by helping bridge the gap between the haves and the have nots, especially when it comes to literacy and computer skills training.

Having a public library contributes to the development of human capital and the social infrastructure of the community.”

-Libraries are Essential

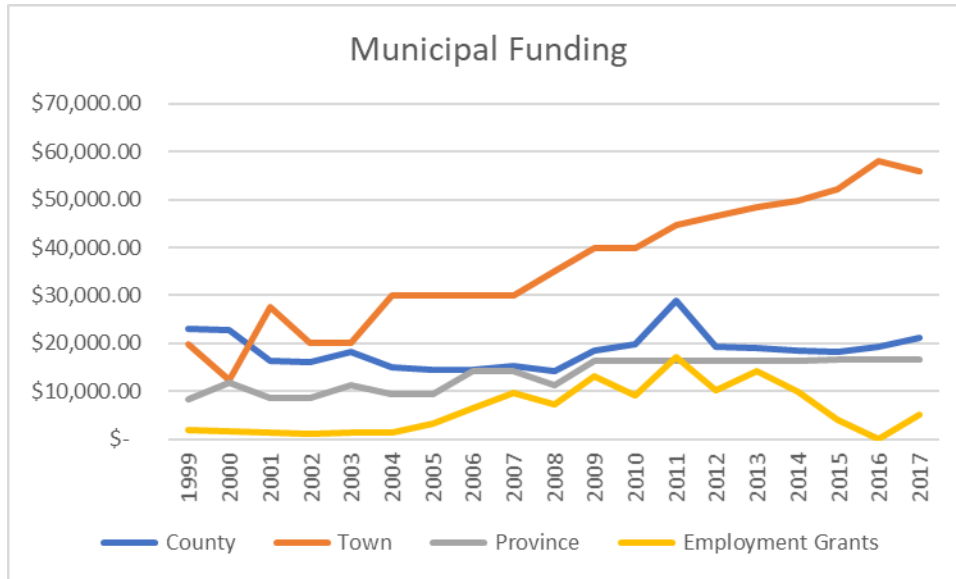
The Redwater Public Library staff are dedicated to providing excellence in library services however they are not being fairly compensated for that dedication. Based on statistics gathered from neighboring and comparably-sized provincial libraries and data from the provincial government, our staff is paid 30% less than average.

Since 1999 the costs of Staffing, Utilities & our NLLS Membership combines have increased 180%. The bulk of that expense is staffing even though we have reduced staff hours and our staff wages remain significantly lower than the provincial average.



	Staffing	Utilities	NLLS Membership	Total
1999	\$ 34,814.00	\$ 4,175.00		\$ 38,989.00
2000	\$ 28,040.00	\$ 4,479.00		\$ 32,519.00
2001	\$ 30,926.00	\$ 5,952.00		\$ 36,878.00
2002	\$ 41,356.00	\$ 6,754.00		\$ 48,110.00
2003	\$ 41,251.00	\$ 6,102.00		\$ 47,353.00
2004	\$ 48,664.00	\$ 6,146.00	\$ 6,950.00	\$ 61,760.00
2005	\$ 51,220.00	\$ 7,429.00	\$ 6,965.00	\$ 65,614.00
2006	\$ 50,361.00	\$ 6,838.00	\$ 14,922.00	\$ 72,121.00
2007	\$ 60,949.00	\$ 7,038.00	\$ 7,797.00	\$ 75,784.00
2008	\$ 67,248.00	\$ 6,498.00	\$ 8,862.00	\$ 82,608.00
2009	\$ 78,117.00	\$ 8,850.00	\$ -	\$ 86,967.00
2010	\$ 78,908.00	\$ 14,134.00	\$ 8,943.00	\$ 101,985.00
2011	\$ 89,925.00	\$ 12,859.00	\$ 9,491.00	\$ 112,275.00
2012	\$ 86,119.00	\$ 11,292.00	\$ 9,974.00	\$ 107,385.00
2013	\$ 90,112.00	\$ 16,718.00	\$ 10,478.00	\$ 117,308.00
2014	\$ 85,086.00	\$ 15,554.00	\$ 10,687.00	\$ 111,327.00
2015	\$ 75,488.00	\$ 11,068.00	\$ 11,113.00	\$ 97,669.00
2016	\$ 69,001.00	\$ 10,840.00	\$ 10,728.00	\$ 90,569.00
2017	\$ 87,714.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 10,728.00	\$ 109,442.00

In the same period, the Town of Redwater has increased funding to the library by 182% and the Province of Alberta has increased funding by 101%. Direct operating funding from Sturgeon County has seen little change.



	County	Town	Province	Employment Grants	Total
1999	\$ 23,077.00	\$19,795.00	\$ 8,274.00	\$ 1,772.00	\$ 52,918.00
2000	\$ 22,671.00	\$12,295.00	\$11,774.00	\$ 1,485.00	\$ 48,225.00
2001	\$ 16,195.00	\$27,500.00	\$ 8,544.00	\$ 1,470.00	\$ 53,709.00
2002	\$ 16,147.00	\$20,000.00	\$ 8,544.00	\$ 1,208.00	\$ 45,899.00
2003	\$ 18,165.00	\$20,000.00	\$11,318.00	\$ 1,337.00	\$ 50,820.00
2004	\$ 14,871.00	\$30,000.00	\$ 9,318.00	\$ 1,339.00	\$ 55,528.00
2005	\$ 14,504.00	\$30,000.00	\$ 9,318.00	\$ 3,129.00	\$ 56,951.00
2006	\$ 14,328.00	\$30,000.00	\$14,318.00	\$ 6,498.00	\$ 65,144.00
2007	\$ 15,140.00	\$30,000.00	\$14,318.00	\$ 9,511.00	\$ 68,969.00
2008	\$ 14,155.00	\$35,000.00	\$11,318.00	\$ 7,247.00	\$ 67,720.00
2009	\$ 18,479.00	\$40,000.00	\$16,200.00	\$13,202.00	\$ 87,881.00
2010	\$ 19,929.00	\$40,000.00	\$16,200.00	\$ 8,980.00	\$ 85,109.00
2011	\$ 28,898.00	\$44,800.00	\$16,200.00	\$17,162.00	\$107,060.00
2012	\$ 19,152.00	\$46,620.00	\$16,200.00	\$10,249.00	\$ 92,221.00
2013	\$ 19,026.00	\$48,520.00	\$16,350.00	\$14,161.00	\$ 98,057.00
2014	\$ 18,462.00	\$49,700.00	\$16,350.00	\$ 9,834.00	\$ 94,346.00
2015	\$ 18,087.00	\$52,185.00	\$16,650.00	\$ 4,052.00	\$ 90,974.00
2016	\$ 19,385.00	\$58,072.00	\$16,650.00	\$ -	\$ 94,107.00
2017	\$ 21,162.00	\$56,012.00	\$16,650.00	\$ 5,003.00	\$ 98,827.00

The Redwater Public Library strives to continue offering programs and services to our growing community. To meet the recommendations of the focus group which is outlined in the Five-Year Service Plan the library relies on the funding provided by three levels of government.

It has and continues to be impossible to remain within budget and provide wage parity to our staff. The new minimum wage will be an added burden to our annual expenses and complicate efforts to increase the pay grid closer to the Alberta average. A reasonable pay grid would allow us to maintain qualified staff.

We are asking for funding that will enable the library to be sustainable in the future, as current funding will result in closures in future and reduction in quality of service.

We appreciate the opportunity to present this information and it is our hope that you will weigh the difficulties and consider increased funding.