



P O L I C Y

Department Recreation and Culture	Policy No. RC(6)	Page 1 of 2
Policy Title Library Support	Date September 22, 2022	Resolution No. C/374/22

Policy Statement:

Lacombe County recognizes the importance of libraries in meeting the leisure, cultural and intellectual needs of communities and their citizens, and acknowledges the need to collaborate with and support the Parkland Regional Library, the public libraries located within the County and the Mirror Book Exchange to ensure that County residents have equal and continued access to the services and resource materials that these institutions provide.

Guidelines/Procedures:

1. Parkland Regional Library Support
 - (a) Lacombe County will maintain its membership in Parkland Regional Library by paying an annual per capita membership fee and by appointing a member of Council to the Parkland Regional Library Board of Directors.
 - (b) Prior to January 15th of each year Parkland Regional Library shall provide the County with 1) a list of Lacombe County residents and their corresponding legal land locations that purchased memberships in each public library located within the County in the previous year, and 2) a brief report highlighting the general activities of each library in the previous year.
 - (c) Subject to the reporting requirements set out in Section 1 (b) being met, by January 31st of each year Lacombe County shall instruct Parkland Regional Library to distribute the County's allotment of the Rural Library Services Grant, Library Materials Purchase Allotment and the Membership Dividend, if declared, to the public libraries in accordance with the following formula:
 - o 25% - based on the previous years' official population of the urban municipality in which the public library is located in relative to the total population of all of the urban municipalities that operate public libraries within the County, and
 - o 75% - based on the number of memberships purchased by Lacombe County residents at each library in the previous year relative to the total number of memberships purchased at all of the public libraries within the County in the previous year.

2. Lacombe County Operational Support
 - (a) Lacombe County shall provide operational support to the public libraries located within the County and the Mirror Book Exchange based on the total library funding approved in the County's annual budget and allocate it in accordance with the following formula:

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- Beginning in 2023, base funding for libraries shall be based on the highest individual annual contribution provided by the County to the respective library board for the previous six years (2018-2022). The 2023 base funding shall be augmented by the annual inflation adjustment established for 2023 as outlined in Section 1(d).
- 2023 Base funding (before inflation adjustment) for each urban library will be:
 - Alix \$ 9,428
 - Bentley \$19,088
 - Blackfalds \$24,112
 - Clive \$20,280
 - Eckville \$18,728
 - Lacombe Library funding will continue to be funded in accordance with the terms of the Lacombe-Lacombe County ICF agreement.
- Beginning in 2023, the Mirror Book Exchange will receive base funding of \$6,709 plus the 2023 inflation rate set out Section 1(d)
- (b) The County's operational support shall be provided by June 30th of each year provided the reporting requirements set out in Section 1 (b) have been met. Payment shall be either to the urban municipality or directly to the local library board.
- (c) Lacombe County operational support for libraries shall be in accordance with an agreement with the Mirror Book Exchange and respective urban municipalities.
- (d) Lacombe County operational support shall be indexed annually for inflation in an amount as determined by Council.

3. General

- (a) In recognition of the support provided to public libraries pursuant to this policy, Lacombe County residents shall be entitled to 1) purchase annual memberships in the public libraries at the same cost as urban residents, and 2) equal access to library services and resource materials as provided to urban residents.
- (b) Excepting the Mirror Book Exchange, only those libraries in the County which are deemed to be "public libraries", as defined by the provincial Libraries Act, are eligible for support through this policy.

Approved: February 10, 2005
Revised: April 23, 2009
Revised: September 22, 2022