



2024 Year in Review

Looking back at 2024, I am so proud of the work the Wood Buffalo Regional Library has done to ensure continued access to library services for everyone in our community. Every year, our Library gets busier as more people access our space, collection, and technology resources. Despite the many challenges our region faces, the WBRL continues to provide free programs and resources to our community. Our Library remains one of the few public spaces in the municipality where there is no requirement or expectation on patrons to spend money.

“A library is a house of hope. It’s a place where we all, whatever our situation, can feed our ideas and develop our dreams.” – Doug Wilhelm

Thank you to our staff and volunteers, funders and sponsors, and all our community partners. You ensure the WBRL can continue to share stories, inspire dreams, and connect the people of our community to limitless possibilities.

-Corinna Pirie, Board Chair

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Inspiring
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Connecting
Wood Buffalo
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We respectfully acknowledge that Wood Buffalo Regional Library is situated on Treaty 8 Territory, the traditional lands of the Cree and Dene, and the unceded territory of the Métis.

We are committed to listening to, learning from, and building relationships with local Indigenous communities and providing resources that support the region in learning more about Truth and Reconciliation, as outlined in the Calls to Action.

With a focus on inclusion, connection, and lifelong learning, Wood Buffalo Regional Library welcomed over 200,000 visitors in 2024. Day-to-day, our team assisted with card registrations, check outs, reading recommendations, computers, printing, and more.

2024-2028 Strategic Plan 5 Year Goals

WBRL is a welcoming, safe, and inclusive environment.

More people engage with and access WBRL.

WBRL is viewed as the employer of choice by the community.

WBRL places literacies at the forefront.

WBRL honours and acts in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation.

WBRL is a trusted partner and leader in the community.

Users and staff of WBRL enjoy current and relevant technology.



January

WBRL celebrated Family Literacy Day with special guests from the region, including Mayor Sandy Bowman, Elder Lorraine Albert, Rofyda from Keyano College Huskies Soccer, Constable Robichaud from the RCMP, local author Saanvi Talwar, Andrew Bradbury and Stomper from the Fort McMurray Giants, and Devin from the Fort McMurray Fire Department. 900 participants engaged in a variety of activities and story times to celebrate the importance of literacy and reading together as a family.

In response to community feedback, WBRL added 4K Ultra, an enhanced version of Blu-Rays for the modern movie connoisseur, to our collection. In 2024, WBRL staff selected 244 adult 4Ks and 103 junior 4Ks for patrons to borrow. Popularity of this collection continues to grow, with 621 circulations since May of 2024.

May



June

In partnership with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, WBRL welcomed author and filmmaker Richard Van Camp to celebrate Indigenous History Month. Van Camp, Tłichǫ Dene from Fort Smith, NWT, began his visit with an event on *Three Feathers*, his comic book and film, followed by a Mom and Tot Gathering at WBRL. Van Camp engaged a group of over 50 children and caregivers in a lively program with songs, a reading of his beloved board book, *Little You*, and a book signing.

391,945

total circulations

294,835

physical materials

97,110

digital materials



10,115

unique borrowers were active over the year

4,558

new library card holders



1,062

in-house programming sessions

24,491

participants

4,821

reference questions answered

6,128

technology assistance inquiries

202,264

in-person visits

119,485

website visits

247

outreach programming sessions

10,632

community members reached



2,292

library space bookings

20,495

computer sessions

Each Monday from June through August, WBRL hosted story times at the Doug Barnes Cabin in Thickwood. Staff also brought a selection of materials from WBRL's collection for patrons to borrow; making it as easy as possible for busy families, children's materials were grouped into bags for quick selection and check out. 424 participants joined us for 22 story times throughout the summer. Based on positive feedback and participation, WBRL will once again offer Summer at the Cabin in 2025!



Expanding access to technology, the Hublet, a new self-serve tablet lending station allows adult cardholders, or teens and children accompanied by one, to borrow a tablet for in-library use. Cardholders can borrow a tablet and find a cozy spot to browse the internet, read an eBook, or play a game. Once returned, the tablet is automatically reset for the next patron.

June-August

September

October



In 2024, WBRL updated procedures for Educator Cards with the goal of reducing barriers to access. Educator Cards are free WBRL accounts for classroom use and teaching supports. They allow local educators to access classroom collection orders, selected by WBRL staff, and free delivery and pick up via WBRL courier. As of 2024, Educators can sign up for their card at the WBRL Service Desk or through our online form and no longer need to renew each school year; getting an Educator Card is easier than ever, leading to 24 new registrations to start the 2024/2025 school year!



We thank our funders, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and the Government of Alberta, for their support.

We are also grateful to our sponsors, donors, and grantors.

2024 PROGRAMS & SERVICES:

Enbridge Pipelines (Athabasca) Inc.
(Community Outreach)

Pembina Pipeline (Afternoon Activities)

Suncor Energy Inc. (Children’s, Indigenous, & Rural)

SPACE MAKING AT WBRL:

Canadian Natural
(Teen Area)

Suncor Energy Inc.
(Suncor Corner & Program Room)

2024 EVENTS:

**Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival
World Tour**

Northland Forest Products Ltd.
(Presenting Sponsor)

Country 93.3 & 97.9 Rock
(Supporting Sponsor)



wbri.ca

1 C.A Knight Way, Fort McMurray, AB T9H 5C5

780-743-7800

Financial Overview

REVENUE

Municipal	4,352,600
Provincial	741,940
Library Generated	291,350
Donations and Fundraising	116,637

Total Revenue 5,502,526

EXPENSES

Wages & Benefits	3,345,898
Facilities & Operations*	1,156,372
Amortization	300,863
Library Services	397,976
Library Materials	211,417

Total Expenses 5,502,526

*Includes expenses funded by internally restricted reserves.

Full audited financial statements are available at wbri.ca.