



# Friends of the Regina Public Library

2042 Garnet Street, Regina, SK. S4T 2Z6

[www.friendsofrpl.ca](http://www.friendsofrpl.ca)

[frpl@sasktel.net](mailto:frpl@sasktel.net)

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February 22, 2012

Darlene Hincks Joehnck  
Chair, Regina Public Library Board  
Regina Public Library  
2311 12th Avenue  
Regina, SK, S4P 0N3

Dear Ms. Hincks Joehnck,

The Friends of the Regina Public Library (FRPL) would like to make the following presentation to the Regina Public Library (RPL) Board at its meeting at 4:30 PM on Tuesday February 28, 2012.

Friends of the Regina Public Library appreciates the opportunity to make this presentation to the Regina Public Library Board.

First we want to reiterate our genuine appreciation for many of the Board's activities: retaining the branch libraries, the Dunlop Art Gallery, Prairie History Room and the Film Theatre. The new Prince of Wales branch was planned in a consultative way and has shown results in a larger much more amenable space in an excellent location. The efforts of the Regina Public Library (RPL) Board, staff, community members, designers and builders are to be commended.

We also appreciate the collaboration between RPL and FRPL and the extensive support that has been given to the history book project. When it is completed it will definitely be a credit to the Regina Public Library and the City of Regina.

We wanted to discuss with you some concerns that have arisen concerning the planning of upgrades to Central Branch.

We were surprised to learn at the January 4, 2012 AGM of the Regina Public Library that negotiations were proceeding for the purchase of the Masonic Temple.

We have been asked by members of the public for information on a number of issues related to the plans for upgrading Central Branch including:

- detailed reasons for needing an upgrade to Central Branch;
- a cost analysis of the upgrades needed to Central Branch;
- the space needs for current and future essential library services;
- the range of funding possibilities (in addition to public private partnerships);
- the application process leading to the choice of a developer;
- more details about the proposal submitted to the P3 Canada fund;
- public discussion about the heritage value of the Masonic Temple and the Central Library Building, and
- the design options that have been considered for adaptive reuse of these heritage buildings.

It is the view of FRPL that there should have been an opportunity for public review of this information and options prior to the Library putting in a P3 Canada funding request, or the Library and/or its designate entering into formal negotiations regarding purchase of the Masonic Temple and its land.

Many people are concerned about the possible removal of two heritage buildings. Both the Masonic Temple and the Central Branch library building are designated heritage properties protected by the Victoria Park Municipal Heritage Conservation District bylaw. The Masonic Temple is also on the Municipal Heritage Holding Bylaw property list.

Libraries are about knowledge, and knowledge is not just found in books, it is in art and films and in the buildings that are a physical reminder of our history. We care about preserving the stories that are our library heritage and about the heritage value of library buildings, and in the case of the upgrade to Central Library, the heritage value of another heritage building that will possibly be affected by a library development.

Since this is an important matter and there is considerable public concern about the need for more information, FRPL respectfully requests that the Board hold a public meeting by March 15, 2012, to inform the public. Regina residents need to be involved in decisions about the future of their libraries. FRPL wants to ensure that the public is able to participate in public discussion so that they can be a part of the decisions that affect them. It is imperative that the Library Board consult fully with the public before any major decisions, including financial, are finalized.

Joanne Havelock  
Chair, Friends of the Regina Public Library