

**Strong Communities**

September 9, 2008

**Consultation to shape the future of public libraries*****MLA Committee looks to enhance libraries through collaboration and innovation***

*Edmonton...* The province has established a three-member MLA committee to work with libraries to review and make recommendations on how to keep libraries strong as they look to the future.

The committee members are Jeff Johnson, MLA for Athabasca-Redwater (Chair), Teresa Woo-Paw, MLA for Calgary-Mackay and Fred Horne, MLA for Edmonton-Rutherford. The committee will hold stakeholder consultation sessions in 11 locations across the province.

During the consultation sessions, discussions will focus on how the province can support a strong province-wide public library service, encourage collaboration to achieve benefits not possible from working independently, and maximize service delivery through the use of technology.

“Communities and library users have changed their expectations of what a public library service should provide,” said Ray Danyluk, Minister of Municipal Affairs. “As a government, we also want to keep pace with these expectations. We will use input from the consultations to ensure we can better support libraries in their efforts to support Albertans.”

The consultations will take place from September to October with representatives of stakeholder groups such as library staff and volunteers; library board trustees and regional library system board trustees; municipal councils and library support organizations. The government will use input from the consultations to determine how best to support Alberta’s libraries in meeting current and future needs.

Premier Ed Stelmach is committed to developing and implementing strategies that promote and enhance the vitality of our communities through culture and diversity. The strategy that results from these consultations will help address challenges today and build for the future.

-30-

**Media inquiries may be directed to:**

Jody Korchinski, Communications  
Alberta Municipal Affairs  
780-427-8862

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.