

## Terms of Reference: Literacy

Council Term:	2017-2021 Council Term
City Council Sponsor(s):	Councillor J. Dziadyk Councillor A. Paquette
Supporting Department:	Citizen Services
Administration Lead:	Rob Smyth / Jackie Foord
Initiative Status:	New

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### **Mandate**

Basic literacy is essential to enable Edmontonians to have the skills necessary to improve their quality of life and in many cases end the cycle of poverty. Research indicates that people with higher literacy rates are more likely to be employed and have higher wages, stronger families and improved civic engagement. Similarly, these people are better able to adapt as new Canadians, and have healthier and more satisfying lives.

This new initiative is strongly aligned with the work of EndPovertyEdmonton and the City of Learners initiative that the Edmonton Public Library is leading on behalf of the City.

The City of Edmonton can be strong allies and advocates for the work of Edmonton Public Library and other community organizations and initiatives.

### **Desired Outcomes**

- Outcome #1: Edmontonians have an increased understanding of the importance of financial literacy through a financial empowerment approach to poverty elimination.
  - Support the Edmonton Financial Empowerment Collaborative and their activities.
  - Promote opportunities focused on vulnerable people to expand their financial literacy and knowledge, reduce debt, grow savings, build assets, increase ability to participate in the workforce and ensuring access to appropriate financial services regardless of income to improve their lives.
- Outcome #2: Edmontonians have an increased understanding of the importance of promoting literacy in day to day life as a way to end poverty, enhance quality of life, increase civic engagement, and improve social cohesion and inclusion.

- Coordinate literacy efforts throughout the city through integrated networking efforts.
- Support the Edmonton Public Library's City of Learners initiative's learning priorities.

### **Existing Related Corporate Programs**

- Edmonton Public Library - City of Learners
- Child Friendly Edmonton
- Community Mental Health Action Plan
- Edmonton Family and Community Support Services
- Edmonton Financial Empowerment Collaborative
- EndPoverty Edmonton
- Multicultural Initiative - Immigration and Settlement

### **Timelines**

- The work plan will be presented to City Council on June 12, 2018.
- This Council Initiative will report to the Community and Public Services Committee twice a year, with the exception of the final year in which the second report will be made to City Council.

### **Key Stakeholders**

- Edmonton Public Library
- Centre for Family Literacy
- School Boards and Post Secondary Institutions
- Edmonton Financial Empowerment Collaborative

### **Financial Implications**

Any estimated financial and human resources for future work will be identified in the work plan that will be presented to City Council on June 12, 2018.