

# Bibliothèque Allard Regional Library

## Strategic Plan 2024-2026



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## WELCOME

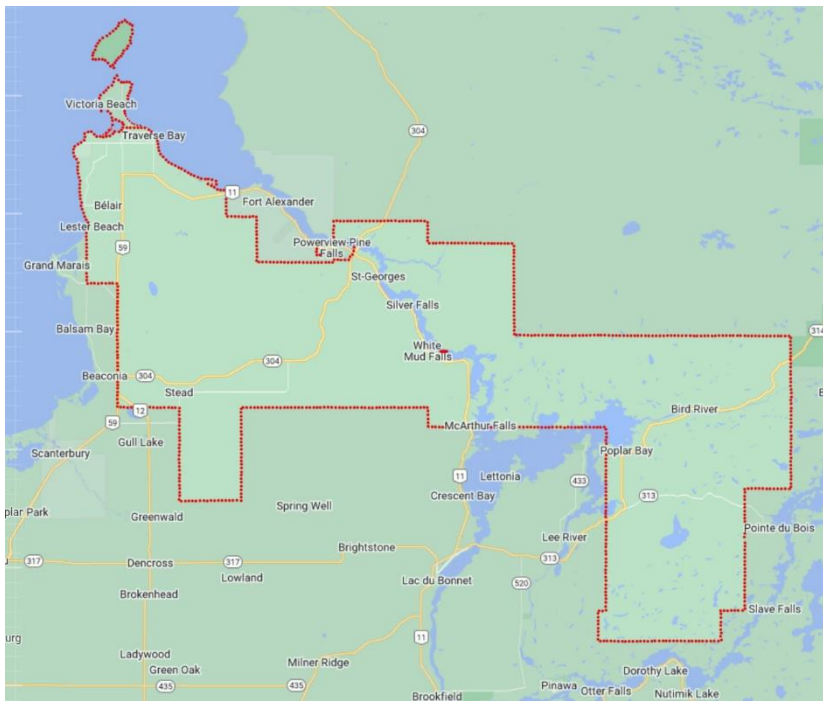
Public libraries are welcoming places where everyone can come together, learn, grow and connect. Libraries contribute to healthy and vibrant communities.

Bibliothèque Allard Regional Library and its library board are pleased to present our 2024-2026 strategic plan, which sets out key priorities for the coming years and ways in which we intend to achieve them. We see this plan as an opportunity to review the way we currently operate and to develop new ways of delivering library services to meet the diverse needs in our community.

We thank everyone who participated in our survey in spring 2023. The feedback we received was invaluable and helped to develop this plan.

## ABOUT THE LIBRARY

Bibliothèque Allard Regional Library is one of 54 public library systems in Manitoba, serving a population of 5,540 across three municipalities – the Rural Municipality of Alexander, the Rural Municipality of Victoria Beach and the Town of Powerview-Pine Falls. There are two library facilities – a main library in St. Georges and a branch library in Victoria Beach.



### Population

Rural Municipality of Alexander: 3,854\*

Rural Municipality of Victoria Beach: 447\*\*

Town of Powerview-Pine Falls: 1,239\*

Total: 5,540

\*2021 Census of Population

\*\*Population and dwelling count amendments, 2021 Census

In addition to serving the permanent population in the three municipalities, library services are available to seasonal residents who own property in the municipalities but whose primary residences might be elsewhere. For a small fee, non-resident memberships are also available to residents outside of the three partner municipalities and to visitors in the area.

## **Library programs and services**

At Bibliothèque Allard Regional Library, community members can:

- Borrow books, magazines, DVDs and specialty items such as radon detectors from library facilities in St. Georges and Victoria Beach
- Read e-books and listen to audio books from eLibraries Manitoba with the Libby application on a phone, tablet or computer
- Watch films from Kanopy, an online streaming service
- Access books, magazines and newspapers in alternate formats through the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA), for individuals with a print disability
- Borrow books via interlibrary loan from other public libraries in Manitoba
- Access research resources from a reference collection and online databases
- Participate in programs and special events for children and adults
- Use public computers with internet access, connect a device to wireless internet or use printing, copying, scanning and faxing services
- Get help with technology (e.g. setting up e-services on their devices), arrange for exam proctoring or borrow a puzzle from the puzzle exchange

A percentage of residents in each municipality speak French; some where French was the first official language spoken in their household and others who have knowledge of both official languages. The RM of Alexander and Town of Powerview-Pine Falls are bilingual municipalities. Accordingly, French language services are available at the main library located in St. Georges.

### **Mission statement**

Bibliothèque Allard Regional Library facilitates public access to library resources, programs, and services that enhance personal knowledge, the joy of reading, and quality of life.

### **Vision statement**

Bibliothèque Allard Regional Library fosters an enriched, informed, and connected regional community, through the united service of our two branches. Our vibrant meeting places promote growth through the spirit of creative exploration and the pursuit of knowledge in people of all ages.

### **Equity statement**

Bibliothèque Allard Régional Library acknowledges with respect that we live and work on the ancestral lands of Treaty 1, Treaty 3, and Treaty 5. As the library is committed to upholding the complex values of equity, diversity, inclusion and human rights in our living, learning and work environments, we actively encourage applications from members of groups with historical and/or current barriers. We value the contributions that each person brings, and are committed to ensuring full and equal participation for all in our community.



## **STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: 2024-2026**

**Where we will focus and invest resources over the next three years.**

### **Priority 1: Strengthen policies and processes to support the delivery of library services**

This priority is focused internally and encompasses how the library conducts its business. Periodic review of library policies and processes helps to ensure that library facilities and services are available to as many community members as possible without presenting unintended barriers to access. Exploring ways to supplement the library's income stream helps it to become a more resilient organization and enables greater investment into library materials, programming and special projects. Developing ways to gather feedback from the community on a regular basis is critical to ensure members are satisfied with services and that the library remains relevant to the community.

Over the next three years we will:

- 1.1 Review and update the library's existing policy manual and related procedures, and develop new policies and procedures, to support contemporary and accessible library services. This will include identifying barriers (ex. library late fees, restricted hours, limited items for persons with print disabilities) and developing ways to overcome the barriers.
- 1.2 Seek additional funding opportunities such as grants for specific projects, multipurpose room rentals and fundraising activities to supplement the funding received from our municipal library partners.
- 1.3 Invest in training and development of library staff to ensure staff are knowledgeable about the range of services offered by the library and can assist library members when needed.
- 1.4 Network with other Manitoba public libraries and organizations involved in the planning and/or delivery of library services to learn about innovative practices and changes in the library field and to work toward common goals.
- 1.5 Invite community feedback and participation in decision making through annual surveys and periodic focus groups.

## **Priority 2: Deliver exceptional library services to the community**

This priority is focused on the library's primary purpose, namely the delivery of programs and services to the community. Community members value the ability to access library resources in different ways, and library materials should be available in physical and digital formats and in English and French to reflect the preferences and needs of library users. Partnerships with other organizations can result in opportunities for innovative library services. Programming can provide an avenue for community members to engage with the library, socialize with each other and connect with the broader arts, culture and education communities.

Over the next three years we will:

2.1 Encourage an appreciation of reading, learning and discovery through access to library resources and programming for all ages.

2.2 Build and maintain diverse and accessible library collections in print and electronic formats, in English and French, for all ages.

2.3 Collaborate with other organizations to enhance existing library services or for new and innovative services.

2.4 Partner with others in the community to support and promote local arts, culture and education initiatives.

2.5 Increase membership and library use by promoting the benefits of library programs and services to individuals and groups who are not regular users of the library (ex. seasonal residents and residents in areas located farther away from library branches).

### **Priority 3: Invest in library facilities**

This priority is focused on the physical infrastructure – facilities, equipment and surrounding spaces – that enables the library to deliver its programs and services.

- The main branch in St. Georges occupies a 4000 square-foot/372 square-metre building that was constructed in 2008 specifically for the library. The library is located adjacent to Bouvier Park, a green space often used by the library for outdoor summer programming.
- The Victoria Beach branch occupies a 140 square-foot/13 square-metre space in the lower level of the East Beaches Social Scene.

Over the next three years we will:

3.1 Assess and upgrade library facilities to ensure they are welcoming and accessible for:

- Library programs and events
- Community programs and events
- Individuals using the space for work, learning and recreation

3.2 Upgrade computer and internet technologies for staff and the public.

3.3 Develop plans for ongoing maintenance of the library facility in St. Georges and for maintenance and expansion of the library facility in Victoria Beach.

## CONTACT US

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### Website and social media

[www.allardlibrary.com](http://www.allardlibrary.com)  
[www.facebook.com/Bibliothèque-Allard-Regional-Library](https://www.facebook.com/Bibliothèque-Allard-Regional-Library)  
[www.twitter.com/AllardLibrary](https://www.twitter.com/AllardLibrary)  
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