



6.6 LIBRARY

Demand for library services, materials, technology and locations is at an all-time high. In 1997, six out of seven Richmond residents were active users of the library; over two million visits were made to the library, and residents checked out over 1.2 million books (increasing by 10% per annum).

Branch libraries ensure easy access for popular reading, school support, children's programming, quiet study space and access to computers and the Internet.



Library services are essential to the community

ISSUE:

A public library system is one of the most highly-used community services. As demand for services continues to grow, the challenge will be to provide access to a state-of-the-art, affordable system. Access to technology through facilities provided at the library is important, as is electronic access to library services from one's home or place of business. This latter ability will allow for more service to be provided without a concomitant increase in facilities. At the same time there is a recognition that branch libraries, located for easy access in a community, increase accessibility to local and general services.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Provide high-quality, accessible, and state-of-the-art library services that meet the needs of a diverse community.

POLICIES:

- a) Maintain a strong central resource library with specialized collections and up-to-date technology;
- b) Establish community library branches to serve sizeable communities and improve access to basic library services;
- c) Ensure the needs of the City Centre for a community branch library are met along with city-wide needs for a central resource library;
- d) Continue to explore innovative ways to make services available to the community;
- e) Ensure library services reflect the needs of a diverse community;
- f) Explore public/private partnerships as a way in which to develop future facilities.