

April 21, 2022

Reeve Don Kochan
262075 Rocky View Point
Rocky View County AB T4A 0X2

Dear Reeve Kochan,

RE: Marigold Per capita levy requisition documents

Enclosed with this letter are documents outlining the per capita levy rates that will appear on requisitions in 2023 and 2024. The Marigold Library Board is submitting this documentation for your Council approval after giving these levy rates and library services consideration.

For the last three years (2020, 2021, 2022), the Board did not increase the per capita levy because we recognized your financial challenges. Marigold also retained the 2019 Government of Alberta municipal populations for the 2020 and 2021 levy requisitions. However, rising costs and inflation are having an impact on our service provision capacity.

Marigold's mandate is to deliver library service to our forty-three member municipalities. Library systems like Marigold do not duplicate municipal library services and our governance structure is quite different from municipal libraries. While we innovate, adapt and deliver library services that are mostly behind-the-scenes, the nature of our work has not changed during or following the COVID closures.

As we prepare the 2023 and 2024 budgets for Marigold Library System, we see increasing costs for utilities, fuel, books, IT contracts and equipment, digital subscription contracts, the TRAC levy for our library system, supplies and salaries. Therefore, the Board has approved a revised levy schedule for municipalities and library boards with an \$0.11 per capita increase for each of 2023 and 2024.

Since the COVID pandemic began in 2020, municipal libraries have had to close their doors to the public at times, limit the number of people on-site, and reduce in-person programming and one-on-one patron supports, but this does not mean that library service has ceased. Quite the opposite. Libraries have innovated to provide a wider range of off-site and virtual programs. Marigold Library System has experienced significant increases in the use of its website services, online catalogue, e-book collections and digital subscriptions. Despite increased operational costs and declining provincial grants, Marigold has found operational efficiencies and invested in cyber security protections.

Every year after the April AGM, Marigold distributes **Value of Your Investment** reports for all member library boards, along with a companion document entitled **Power of Your Library Card** for counties. In these documents, we report how your levy investment has been spent to provide a wide range of supportive library services for your residents and for your municipality. The return on investment is significant and made possible by our careful and transparent use of your levy investment.



We value the support for library services that your municipality provides, and we would appreciate your review and signing of the attached Schedule C documents because we believe strongly that public libraries deliver exceptional value.

Sincerely,

Michelle Toombs, CEO
Marigold Library Board