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## **Library Takes Next Step in Future of Central Library**

**Regina** – Dr. Roberta McKay, Chair of the Central Library Selection Committee, along with Darlene Hincks Joehnck, Chair of the Regina Public Library (RPL) Board, announced today that the Library will begin initial discussions with P3Architecture Ltd. and Harvard Developments Inc., both from Regina, regarding the future development of RPL's Central Library.

In early February, the Regina Public Library Board issued an invitation for Expressions of Interest requesting proposals for either a renovated and expanded Central Library, or a new one. Nine submissions were received and considered. From there, the Central Library Selection Committee interviewed four firms. "We were impressed with the level of interest in the Central Library project. After careful consideration, the Selection Committee arrived at a unanimous decision on the proposal recommended to the Library Board," said Dr. Roberta McKay, Chair of the Central Library Selection Committee.

"We are very pleased to be exploring Central Library options with these two exceptional Regina firms," said Darlene Hincks Joehnck. "The Board feels that this is the right time and we're excited to be moving ahead with a great team who bring both a strong vision and passion to this project."

One of the key priorities outlined in the Library's Five-Year Strategic Plan is *Considering the Future of Central Library*. Central Library is located on the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Lorne Street and across from Victoria Park. Previous studies indicate that the Library must grow from its current 75,000 square feet to about 150,000 square feet to operate efficiently. Only minor changes have been made to the building since it was first built in 1962.

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“Our research shows that Central Library is the city’s library. People from every neighbourhood use it and they are placing increasing demands on it. At Central, we bring it all together – lifelong learning, literacy skills, public spaces, and access to the broadest range of information possible to help Regina residents survive and thrive in today’s knowledge-based society,” said Hincks Joehnck.

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