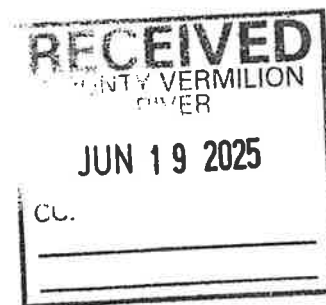




5021 - 49 Avenue
Vermilion, AB Canada T9X 1X1
www.vermilion.ca



June 13, 2025

County of Vermilion River
Attention: Marty Baker, Reeve
Box 69, 505040 Hwy 897
Kitscoty AB T0B 2P0

Dear Reeve Baker,

Re: Vermilion Public Library Funding

The Vermilion Public Library, as a member of the Northern Lights Library System, provides books (print, audio, eBooks, etc.), informational services, public computers, learning databases, Wi-Fi, room rentals, technology help, and a variety of programming to the benefit of the residents of the Town of Vermilion and the County of Vermilion River. The Library is an integral part of our community and surrounding area and we are proud of the level service and access to information that the facility and the staff are able to provide year over year, despite rising operational and capital costs.

In 2024, the Vermilion Public Library had 843 cardholders, of which 275 were County residents, 521 were Vermilion residents, and 47 were residents of other neighboring municipalities. As per the Town of Vermilion and County of Vermilion River's Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework, the Library is owned and operated by the Town and is supported by the County. However, the Town requisitioned our residents in the amount of \$270,375.00 in 2025 whereas the County only provided \$14,000.00 as per Policy PD021 and another \$18,750.00 via grant transfer for a total contribution of \$32,750.00. Given that ~30% of the Library users are County residents, Council for the Town does not believe that the annual contribution is sufficient for the continued operation and viability of the facility. To address the shortfall between what the Library requested and what was allotted, the Library had to take drastic measures to lower their costs by reducing staff wages, reducing capital contributions and reducing administrative expenses.

In a time when everything is more expensive, we should not expect that our Libraries reduce expenses at the cost of the livelihoods of their employees, inadequately planning and budgeting for the future, or by decreasing the level of service that the Town and County residents have come to know and expect since 1932.

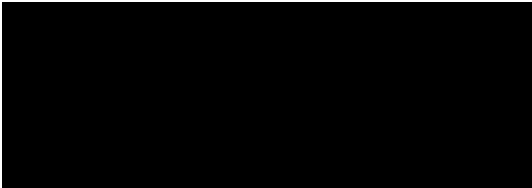
At our May 20, 2025 regularly scheduled meeting, Council discussed the 2025 Vermilion Public Library Funding Requisition at length as it relates to the provision of services and the operation of the facility. It is our understanding that the Vermilion Public Library has also discussed this matter at their most recent regularly scheduled board meeting and have concluded that County residents will be subject to significantly higher membership rates and fees than their Vermilion counterparts as a result of the lack of annual operating funding provided to the Library by the County.

In the spirit of intermunicipal collaboration, the Town of Vermilion believes that it is essential that we work together to enhance the lives of our residents by ensuring that the services and the facilities that they rely upon are adequately funded by the people who benefit from them. The Town of Vermilion should not be expected to bear 89% of the costs of the Library when 30% of its users are County residents. As a municipal government organization focused on fiscal accountability and responsibility, it is imperative that we advocate for the best interests of our people and our community. We cannot be reasonably expected to continue to cover the costs for County residents to utilize this facility.

While we sincerely hope that the County sees value in the Vermilion Public Library, we are not in a position to be able to force anyone to pay their fair share. As such, we respectfully request that the County of Vermilion River reconsider the terms within Policy PD021 so as to ensure that the Vermilion Public Library is adequately funded in future years by the people who are utilizing and benefitting from their services and their facility. The Town of Vermilion stands behind our Library, their staff and their offerings and would expect that the County of Vermilion do the same.

We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this matter further and thank you for reading.

Sincerely,



Joshua Rayment
Deputy Mayor