

BOOKS AND BEYOND ACCESS OUR ONLINE SERVICES

LEARN CODING, LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE,
ACCESS YOUR FAVOURITE MUSIC & MORE

The Mackenzie County Library Consortium (MCLC) is a vital hub for learning, connection and inspiration across Alberta's Far Northwest. With in-branch services and a powerful suite of online tools, the consortium enriches lives, supports lifelong learning and benefits the entire region. And—right now—it's seeking community input to shape the next five years of service.

"The input we get from our communities is vital," said Lisa Wardley, a dedicated member of the MCLC Board. "We want locals to share what they love, what needs improvement and how the library can continue to grow as a place for everyone—from kids to seniors."

Serving the hamlets of La Crete, Fort Vermilion and

Zama City, the consortium has a broad reach and a big impact. In 2023 alone, over 41% of Mackenzie County's population were active library patrons—a remarkable sign of just how important these spaces and services are. But, the consortium is hoping to give those numbers a boost by enhancing services and ensuring they remain accessible, innovative and meaningful.

Each library in the consortium is a unique community destination. La Crete boasts a vibrant children's area and a popular graphic novel collection. Fort Vermilion's library offers a warm, welcoming space with stunning views of the Peace River. Zama City's library blends traditional collections with innovative programs and creative kits.



Beyond the typical library offerings, the MCLC also offers several cutting-edge online tools that can be accessed from the comforts of your own home.

**Help Shape
the Future of
OUR LIBRARIES**

WE WANT
YOUR INPUT



One of the standout tools available to patrons is **Fiero Code**, a hands-on, gamified platform that teaches you how to code real websites and games. It's designed to make computer science fun and empowering—something 11-year-old

Arya Doucette discovered firsthand.

"It's great because you get to learn how to make games and websites, and it's fun to use," said Doucette.

And, Fiero Code is just the beginning.



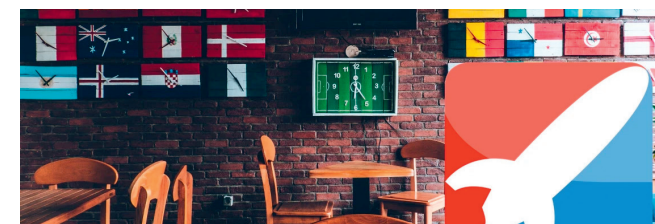
Pronunciator is another innovative program that gives learners access to over 140 languages, including lessons for ESL learners and tools for Indigenous

languages. With drills, videos and personalized learning paths, it's ideal for newcomers, travelers or anyone looking to expand their communication skills.



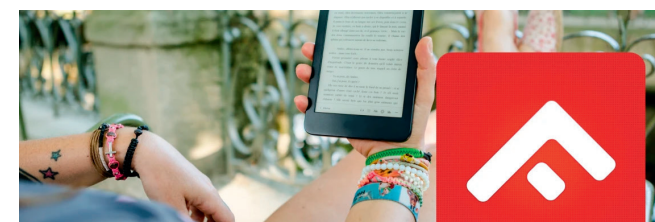
For those interested in reading the latest news from around the world, **PressReader** offers digital access to thousands of global newspapers and magazines. From *The*

Guardian to *National Geographic*, readers can stay current on global issues or browse lifestyle content—right from their personal devices.



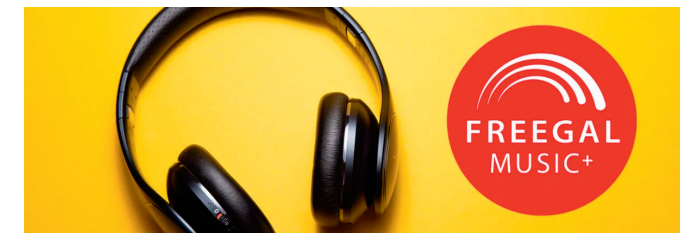
Rocket Languages provides comprehensive courses in 15 languages with downloadable lessons, culture notes and voice

recognition tools to help with pronunciation. It's an engaging way to prepare for travel, reconnect with your heritage or simply explore something new.



Freading offers eBooks without the frustrating waitlists. Each patron receives a weekly token allotment they can use to borrow instantly—no

delays, no holds. The collection spans fiction, non-fiction and popular titles, giving readers on-demand access to an extensive digital library.



And for music lovers? There's **Freegal Music**. Patrons can stream unlimited music and download five songs a week to keep forever.

With a library of millions of songs and artists, it's a free and legal way to build your playlist—powered by your library card.

"These online services expand what our libraries can offer far beyond the walls of any building," said Cameron Cardinal, an MCLC Board

Member representing Fort Vermilion. "They provide opportunities for education, creativity and connection for everyone in the region."

The consortium's commitment to service doesn't stop there. MCLC is currently inviting residents to participate in a community survey, open until the end of August, to gather feedback that will guide their next five-year plan.

"We want to hear from 10% of the population—that's the goal," said Wardley. "Your voice matters. And when you fill out the survey, your library gets \$2 to spend on books, programs or fundraising. Plus, you can win some great prizes!"

The survey only takes about 10 minutes, and whether you're a current library member or not, the MCLC wants your thoughts. They want to know what's working,

what's missing and how they can make Mackenzie County libraries even better for everyone.

With plenty of services, a passionate board and a strong commitment to community engagement, the Mackenzie County Library Consortium is more than just a place to borrow books—it's a dynamic, essential resource that enriches lives and strengthens the region.

So, whether you visit in person or connect online, the MCLC encourages you to get involved, explore their offerings and help shape the future of your local libraries.

Visit **mclboard.com** to learn more and take the survey today!