

Successful Municipal Practices: Responding to New Challenges



Tools for Change

SERVICE SHARING:

South Interlake Regional Library Bookmobile

The RM of Rosser, RM of Rockwood, Town of Stonewall and Town of Teulon

The South Interlake Regional Library (SIRL) has been providing library services to the more than 14,000 residents of the RM of Rosser, the RM of Rockwood, the Town of Stonewall, and the Town of Teulon since 1967. The four municipal councils work together through the regional library board to deliver cost effective and efficient library services to their citizens.

In addition to a library in Stonewall and in Teulon, the SIRL operates a Bookmobile that travels throughout all four member communities. This unique mobile library has been in operation since the establishment of the SIRL in 1967 and provides library service to residents in all areas of these communities who may not easily access the Stonewall or Teulon libraries.

The Bookmobile is a custom-built library branch on wheels, and is one of only two Bookmobiles in Manitoba. It carries approximately 6,000 books and operates on a three week schedule, ten months of the year. It makes thirty two stops once every three weeks at ten schools, seven Hutterite colonies, five seniors' residences, five daycare centres, and five community centers and town halls.

The annual operating cost of the Bookmobile is approximately \$34,000, including the salary of the librarian who operates it. This works out to \$2.44 per capita and is significantly lower than the cost of operating a brick and mortar library branch. The SIRL receives an annual grant from each of the supporting municipalities in the amount of \$15.45 per capita and the matching funding provided by the Province of Manitoba pays the overall cost of providing library services.

Access to a local library service improves the quality of life for the citizens.

By working together, these municipalities are able to reduce costs and bring library services directly to residents through their Bookmobile program.

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The SIRL takes \$10,000 each year from their operating budget and puts it into a capital reserve fund established for the replacement of the Bookmobile. The purchase price of the current Bookmobile was \$175,000, and it is expected to serve for approximately 20 years with considerable residual value at the end of its term.

Sharing the cost of library services enables the councils of these four neighboring municipalities to provide library services to their citizens more efficiently than they would be able to do on their own. Through their innovative Bookmobile program, these communities have reduced costs and enhanced access to library services for residents that might not otherwise be able to use them. These municipalities are proud to provide a valuable service to all their residents, regardless of their location and agree that the Bookmobile has enhanced the quality of life for their citizens.

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Manitoba
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