

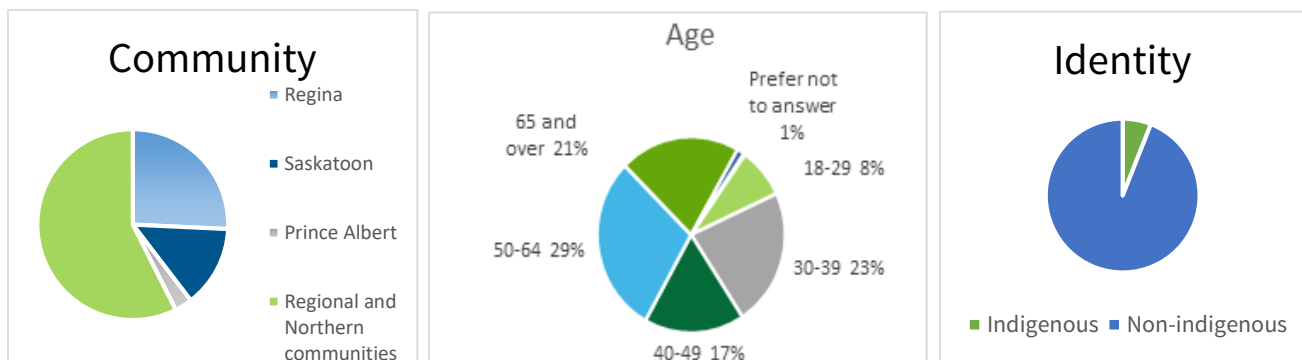
Public Engagement on Public Libraries Survey

Between October and December 2018, the province undertook an engagement process with the northern, municipal and regional public library systems and key stakeholders. The meetings were led by Ministry of Education Legislative Secretary Terry Dennis and supported by a Panel composed of two Public Library Directors and the Provincial Librarian. The Panel report identified eight themes common to library systems and stakeholders, ranked by importance.

An online public survey was conducted from January 10 to January 25, 2019. All public responses to the survey were reviewed to confirm that the public agreed with the themes identified. The online survey results, discussions with the public library sector and stakeholder groups, as well as written submissions, will inform the continuing discussion about public libraries in Saskatchewan.

Who responded?

- 5,800 survey responses

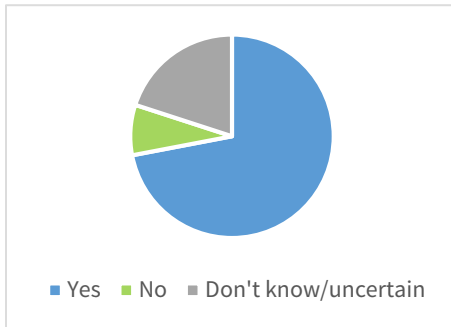


What was heard?

Over 5,300 comments that expanded on the primary themes were received.

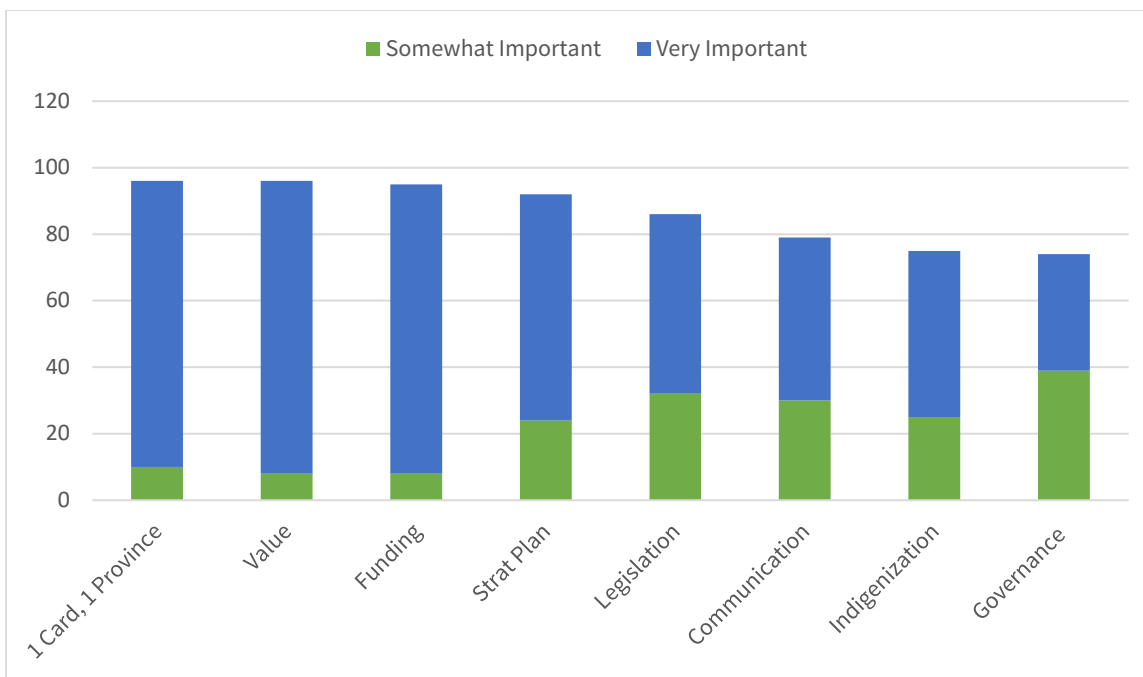
- Respondents shared personal stories about their library experience, and discussed the role of the public library as a transformational and community-building force. Many advocated for youth, newcomer and at-risk populations.
- People talked about the value of libraries (28 per cent) personally and to the local community.
- Respondents felt investing in the provincial library system was investing in the greater good (16 per cent).
- 13 per cent of comments referenced increasing need and use, and the value of future planning to support the role of the public library as a valued and trusted institution.

Do the 8 themes reflect the main areas of concern?



- Theme 1 Funding Structure and Predictability
- Theme 2 Provincial Public Library Strategic Plan
- Theme 3 One Card, One Province
- Theme 4 Communication with Provincial Library
- Theme 5 Governance Training
- Theme 6 Indigenization
- Theme 7 Value of Public Libraries
- Theme 8 Legislation

Almost three quarters of respondents agreed that the eight themes reflected key concerns for Saskatchewan public libraries. Those who said that they did not feel the themes fully reflected their concerns often expanded further on the themes of the value of libraries in building community (28 per cent), and the need for stable, formula based funding (16 per cent).



Over 90 per cent of respondents felt that the top four themes were either *somewhat important* or *very important*. The bottom four themes were supported by over 70 per cent of respondents.

In the majority of cases, age, geographic location and whether a respondent declared themselves as Indigenous did not affect the results except that 84 per cent of those who identified as Indigenous agreed that Indigenization was either *somewhat or very important* compared to 75 per cent of the rest of the population.

Over the coming months, the ministry will work with the public library systems to develop a sector plan to determine priorities moving forward based on the themes and public responses.