

Mr. Mike Haugen
Chief Administrative Officer
Kneehill County
PO Box 400,
Three Hills, AB T0M 2A0

February 6, 2024

Dear Mike,

Enclosed with this letter is a Schedule C – Requisition for Marigold Library System outlining the per capita levy rates that will appear on requisitions in 2025 and 2026. Since your municipality is a member of Marigold Library System, as per the Agreement by and between the Parties comprising the Marigold Library System (enclosed for reference), the Marigold Library Board is submitting Schedule C for municipal approval.

The proposed levy rates were given careful consideration by the Marigold Board. As we prepare the 2025-2026 budget projections, we anticipate increased costs for utilities, equipment, digital subscription contracts, library collections, software licensing contracts, salaries, and supplies. The Board has approved a revised levy schedule for municipalities without library boards that will be a \$0.22 per capita levy increase (\$11.18 per capita for 2025), and a \$0.28 increase from 2025 to 2026 (\$11.46 per capita for 2026).

Marigold strives to respond to the needs of our members and support our service population in 42 municipalities. We are the operational hub for the system. Our services do not overlap with what public libraries provide to their communities. Marigold provides the IT infrastructure (including internet and wi-fi), collections, a delivery system, the library software system, and so much more that allow your residents to access library services and resources, whether in a library or online. Marigold has been able to sustain services, although rising costs and inflation will continue to impact our service provision capacity.

Marigold maximizes the financial investment of our members by pooling resources, through bulk purchasing, and by capitalizing on partnerships to obtain the most valuable products and services at the lowest cost. Marigold membership provides more than any one library or municipality could achieve, and at a fraction of the cost of doing it alone.

Following our AGM in April, Marigold will distribute Value of Your Investment reports for member municipalities and library boards. These reports demonstrate how your levy investment has been spent. The value of membership to your community members is significant. The provincial government deemed library services to be essential to daily living. Marigold, in collaboration with our member libraries, will continue to provide cost-effective services for diverse communities in rural and urban areas. The value of Marigold is to enhance the depth and breadth of quality public library resources to your community, no matter where you live.

We appreciate the support for library services that your municipality provides. Thank you for your consideration of the attached Schedule C documents.

Pending approval, please apply the municipal signature. Once complete, please retain a copy for your files, and forward one copy to Marigold Library System:

Marigold Library System
B 1000 Pine Street
Strathmore, AB, T1P 1C1
Attention: Lynne Price
lynne@marigold.ab.ca

Please contact me with any questions or for further information.

Sincerely,



Lynne Price, CEO
Marigold Library System