

October 19, 2010

News Release

Environics President Michael Adams headlines library futures symposium

Edmonton Over 200 library community members will come together to help shape the future of Alberta's libraries at *NEXT: A Library Futures Symposium*, October 21 and 22 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel - Chateau Lacombe.

Writer and public opinion researcher Michael Adams, President of the Environics Group, headlines day one speakers who will focus on the cultural, demographic and economic shifts affecting libraries and communities in the 21st century. Other speakers include:

- Thomas Frey, Executive Director, DaVinci Institute
- Mike D'Abramo, Strategist, Fresh Squeezed Ideas
- Patricia Graham, Editor-in-Chief, The Vancouver Sun
- R. David Lankes, Director, Information Institute, Syracuse University.

Building on insights from day one, participants - including public, post-secondary and school library representatives - will address issues in small group discussions.

Outcomes for the symposium include articulating a roadmap for libraries across Alberta, contributing to the vision and strategic planning process of libraries, and sparking innovation, learning and creativity.

The symposium is presented by The Alberta Library, a consortium of library community members across the province.

"We are a knowledge-based community, charting a course in an increasingly information-based society," says Maggie Macdonald, Chair of The Alberta Library Board. "To continue to be successful, we must build on the insights, ideas and expertise of our colleagues and stakeholders. The quality of our engagement with each other will have a lot to do with our success as individuals, as organizations, and as communities."

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For information:

Bill Rice
Communications, The Alberta Library
780-414-0805 ext. 232, (cell) 780-218-5339
brice@thealbertalibrary.ab.ca