

The Greater Edmonton Library Association (GELA) facilitates interaction between librarians, library technicians, library staff, students and other interested parties in Edmonton and surrounding areas. GELA also promotes continuing education opportunities and assists members in their professional development endeavours.

To become involved or get more information about the prison project, please contact:

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Or visit our blog:

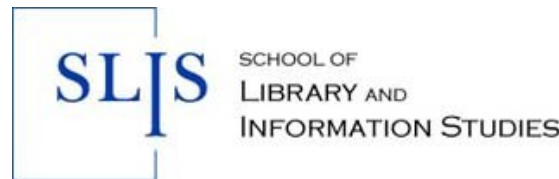
<http://gelaprison.wordpress.com>

Thanks to

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Correctional Service
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Future Librarians for Intellectual Freedom (FLIF)
University of Alberta Bookstores
Upper Crust Café & Caterers

GELA Women's Prison Library & Reintegration Project



“ The prison librarian was my first job and a title I was very proud to hold [...] I have always believed the women who are within the prison system are those who are in the most need of all the resources a library and community can and should provide. ”

- Susanne, former inmate librarian
EIFW Fireweed Library

<http://gelaprison.wordpress.com>

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The Edmonton Institution for Women

GELA's Prison Committee organized this project for the federal women's prison located in Edmonton. The women need a wide range of materials and information to support courses, rehabilitation programs, and to improve literacy skills. Many prisoners enjoy reading, and having access to books and ideas helps to alleviate the boredom of prison life. Prison libraries contribute to the successful reintegration of offenders to the outside world.

Current Projects:

- Storybook Project—We record women reading aloud to their children, burn their readings onto a CD and then mail the CD and a copy of the book to the child. Over 90 women have participated to date.
- Bookclub—meeting twice a month, the book club has read over 15 titles!
- Computer literacy training
- Reintegration booklet listing community resources and sources of help for inmates re-entering society

“Unfettered access to information is essential [to] those who wish to prosper within a democratic society [...] Suppression of ideas does not prepare the incarcerated for transition to freedom.”

-Prisoner's Right to Read Statement (ALA 2010)

Recent Achievements:

- A very successful ongoing book drive and recent book sale to raise funds for new materials for the EIFW library.
- The development of collection and acquisition policies for the library and the inmate librarian at the EIFW.
- Cultural programming at the prison with the screening and discussion of “100 Stories about my Grandmother” by artist Peter Kingstone.
- Prison tours for new committee members and other interested members of the library community
- Presentations at the Alberta Library Conference (April 2009) and the Canadian Library Association Conference (June 2010).

The Prison Committee is open to ideas for new projects with the prison library. If you have an idea and would like to become involved—contact us!

Yes, I Want to Donate!

I want to sponsor...	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> A book	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> A 1-year magazine subscription	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> One-time donation of: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual donation of: _____	

I would like my donation to go to:

- EIFW Library project (general)
- Storybook project
- Other: _____
- YES**, keep me informed about the project.

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE/EMAIL

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