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## **New library program helps people with print disabilities access books**

TORONTO, ON (9/28/10) – With the launch of a new provincially-funded library program, public libraries across Canada are enabling Canadians with print disabilities to access literature like never before.

Thanks to funding from the government of Alberta public library patrons in Lac La Biche County now have the opportunity to borrow from the 80,000-title collection of alternative-format materials at the CNIB Library, including audio, braille and descriptive video.

For people who can't read print, the news means unprecedented access to a broad collection of accessible materials - books, magazines and newspapers - through their local library.

According to CNIB President and CEO John M. Rafferty, the exciting new partnership between CNIB and local public libraries represents a victory for all people with disabilities.

"Just because you can't read print doesn't mean you don't deserve the opportunity to read," he says. "I want to congratulate these libraries for making these resources available and, in doing so, helping uphold every Canadian's basic right to information."

The program is available at Lac La Biche County Libraries main branch Stuart MacPherson and hundreds of other public libraries. All library users who have difficulty reading conventional print due to visual, physical or learning disabilities are eligible to participate.

### About print disabilities

- Less than 5% of published literature is available in formats people with print disabilities can read.
- Over 3 million Canadians have a print disability; 1 in 10 Canadians has trouble seeing, holding or comprehending a book in print form.
- A person may be unable to read conventional print due to a physical, learning or visual disability (e.g., blindness).

### About the CNIB Library

- Canada's largest collection of literature for people with print disabilities (stocks more than 80,000 titles)
- Circulates 2 million books across Canada annually



- Funded largely by public donations

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