

Calgary's new Central Library
IN THE NEWS

Aldermen agree on new library plan

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Aldermen laid a conceptual cornerstone Tuesday for a new central library and the redevelopment of Bow Valley College in downtown Calgary. City council agreed to co-ordinate with the province, the college and the Calgary parking authority to move forward with a plan for a site directly north of City Hall to become home to the library and an expansion of the college.

"This is a decision that says we are going to work with the province and Bow Valley to have two users on a very key site in the downtown core as part of a major redevelopment project," Mayor Dave Bronconnier said. "It's a significant first step towards the redevelopment of that project."

Bronconnier said the development is contingent upon funding for the library, which is to open within four years. Council has so far committed \$40 million to a new central library, which has an estimated price tag of between \$130 million and \$150 million.

It's hoped Bow Valley College will soon secure funding for its part of the project.

Downtown Ald. Druh Farrell welcomed Tuesday's progress. "Right now, our library looks like a jail and we have a parkade that looks like a library," she said. "Maybe it will show that our priorities are more balanced."