



January 26, 2015

Good morning,

As you know, the University of Alberta has been considering options regarding how best to serve the Francophone community both at the institution, and across Alberta. Following extensive consultation with the Francophone community over the past year, we have determined that our best path forward will take us online, and we will be closing the physical space of the Librairie le Carrefour.

Given the fiscal realities of both educational institutions and the retail book industry, we are re-imagining our concept of a bookstore. Budget issues did have an impact on the decision. It is no secret that independent bookstores have been struggling as book buying habits have changed, and le Carrefour has been struggling since at least 2008 when the University took it over from a private operator. In order to restore viability, we are transforming and expanding the services we currently offer to reach more of western Canada's Francophone community. Before the start of the next school year, the physical space will be closed and Librairie le Carrefour will be re-opened as a comprehensive, online bookstore.

We are committed to the region's Francophone community and place tremendous value on our relationship. We will continue to be accessible and available, and the current Librairie le Carrefour staff will continue to work with students, residents in the Campus St. Jean area, and schools across Edmonton to meet their needs. We will also be establishing a consultative committee to meet annually and advise the University on Francophone bookstore services and we will continue to be present at community events whenever appropriate.

At the heart of every decision, you'll find our students. The need to serve Campus Saint-Jean students is well-recognized by the Dean, Pierre-Yves Mocquais, who is exploring options with the Bookstore for providing an on-campus location for the sale of textbooks and other materials.

This solution is both responsible and innovative, especially in light of the financial strain currently being experienced by Alberta's post-secondary sector. We look forward to the next chapter Librairie le Carrefour with your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Gerald Beasley'.

Gerald Beasley
Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian