

October 2012

Federation's Key Accomplishments in the Past Year

During the past year, the Federation can point to a number of deliverables that demonstrate the value of membership.

- We secured approximately 30 different face to face meetings with MPs, MPPs and senior bureaucrats to discuss our top four priorities:
 - Increasing the provincial Public Library Operating Grant (PLOG) and overhauling its allocation formula;
 - Gaining access to government funding streams related to emergent/early literacy programming;
 - Obtaining Ontario public library infrastructure support; and
 - Seeking federal funding dedicated exclusively to First Nation public libraries.

These priorities are now on government's radar.

- We modified our proposed funding model for PLOGs on the advice of Ministry staff, so that its implementation period is now five years rather than two, and 2011 Census and CPI figures are used rather than 2006 figures. The funding envelope now being sought is \$50.9 million, a \$32.2 million increase from its current \$18.7 million.
- We retained the University of Toronto's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) to research the outcomes of preschool literacy programs delivered by public libraries. The following are highlights of the evidence gathered:
 - Participating children demonstrated many early literacy behaviours and understandings considered by leading early researchers and experts to be foundational to later literacy success.
 - Early literacy library programs were particularly strong in meeting parents'/caregivers' goals of fostering children's school readiness and their motivation to read.
 - Library staff served as excellent literacy models for parents/caregivers, enabling them to make reading with their children more engaging and more productive.

OISE's research will soon be published in the peer reviewed magazine, *Partnership: the Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research*. OISE researchers will present their findings at the OLA Super Conference.

- We retained Monteith Brown Planning Consultants to identify the condition of existing Ontario public library facilities and to place a dollar value on the infrastructure obligation required to ensure those facilities meet current and future community needs. The study concluded that:
 - Ontario's public library infrastructure is in crisis and needs immediate attention.
 - The estimated public library capital infrastructure obligation in Ontario is \$1.4 billion at present.
 - If not properly addressed, this obligation will grow to \$2.1 billion by 2021.The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries is advocating for the creation of an ongoing sustainable senior government funding program designated exclusively for proper maintenance, renewal, renovation, rehabilitation and expansion of Ontario public libraries.
- We supported First Nation public libraries by making a submission to the National Panel on First Nation Elementary and Secondary Education, and by drafting a funding proposal to Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada on behalf of the National Aboriginal Public Library Organization (NAPLO).
- We developed the second Annual Report on the State of Ontario Public Libraries, summarizing key issues that public libraries are facing and what is needed to deal with those issues.
- We were exhibitors at the 2012 conferences of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO).
- We took responsibility again for the theme, promotional material and provincial launch of Ontario Public Library Week, which is a key vehicle for raising the profile of our sector.
- We oversaw the development and release of the 6th Edition of the Accreditation Guidelines for Ontario Public Libraries. The 6th Edition includes a number of changes to update language choices and reflect technological developments.