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One Voice for Ontario Public Libraries

Nov. 30, 2016

[Address block]

Dear FOPL Member:

It is that time of year when we renew our commitment to FOPL as the voice for Ontario’s public libraries.

I have served you as the Executive Director of FOPL for over three years focusing our board’s leadership on issues important to you. In that time it has brought me great satisfaction to work with our members and Board to represent the public libraries of Ontario and to meet your needs.

This is a very important year in the progress of Ontario’s public libraries and FOPL is there for you. Indeed the province’s Public Library Funding Review is a great sector for our community to communicate with our provincial funders. We need you there as members and participants!

**This letter is to ask for your continued support and membership as an investment in the success of public libraries in Ontario. Here’s why:**

In the past year, as a member, you’ve seen the strides we’ve made together. We have focused on the important issues identified by your board and members to move public libraries forward in our province. To that end we have:

* FOPL has provided leadership and allied with everyone in our sector to respond to the Culture Strategy Public Library Funding Review that is taking place into the New Year. Now- more than ever before – FOPL membership is vital and the groundwork we’ve done in recent years is about to play a key role including:
* FOPL’s 2015 **longitudinal analysis of the Ontario Public Library Statistics** that the Ministry of Culture collects from you. FOPL has committed to update these analyses in 2017 for members with the release of the 2015 data and to provide a custom reports service.
* Our **major 2015 public opinion poll about our public libraries** with a wide sample of Ontarians that updates to inform our government about our critical role and impact in Ontario.
* FOPL was at the table in consultations with the provincial government on key issues to public libraries. We made submissions to the Premier’s advisory council on **Community Hubs** and continue to participate in their discussions on public policy in this area. We were consulted and made submissions to the first **Ontario Culture Strategy** and look forward to displaying the role of public libraries in our provincial cultural fabric. We have also made submissions on your behalf in the **Municipal Act** consultations.
* FOPL participated in the Budget Consultations over the years and provided written commentary as well as advice.
* We received funding from the Ontario Culture Development Fund to increase and enhance the **sustainability of trustee and board training in Ontario**. The 5 LearnHQ models are now in full release and bi-weekly announcements are delivered to members and boards.
* FOPL is intimately involved in the **Libraries 2025 Summit** and this was a resounding success and laid the groundwork for our next strategic initiatives. The website has been released and your goals are driving our activities.

FOPL is focused on communicating the difference we make as library workers, leaders, and trustees for our communities and province and educating about the need for appropriate funding and support for public libraries to influence key decision makers.

In 2017 you can expect to see many more strategic initiatives on your behalf and an increase in **assertive communications** to, in a non-partisan way, position libraries well and educate about our vital role in Ontario’s social, cultural and economic fabric.

We will continue to invest membership dollars and seek additional grants to do collaboratively what none of us can really do alone. We are investing in building a very large public library marketing effort for an Open Media Desk to use social media skills and channels to inform the Ontario resident as well as opinion and political leaders about our value and impact.

We have meet with like organizations, political leaders and civil servants and are expanding our reach into government and other partners. We are working cooperatively with other partner organizations such as OLA and its divisions, SOLS, OLS-North, AMPLO, ARUPLO, U of T, CULC, and others. We will strive to speak with ***one voice*** and with power. We are too important to our communities to do otherwise.

So, we need you. We need your support and membership. We need your trust and confidence that we can make a difference to enhance the success of the institutions and the province we care so deeply about.

Please renew your membership – not as a membership fee but as a collaborative investment in research and lobbying for your interests and those of your board and public libraries in Ontario. Attached is your invoice for 2016. We think we’re delivering value for money and making a difference now and in the future. We need your voice on side!

It is clear that the more libraries we can represent, the stronger our important voice will be with the key audiences who influence our success, funding, and role in society. **Please renew today.**

Thank you for your support of FOPL over the years. I am always available to chat via e-mail or telephone at the contact information below. If I can be helpful in any way, please don’t hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Stephen Abram, MLS

Executive Director, Federation of Ontario Public Libraries

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*The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries is a non-profit with a mandate to benefit Ontario public libraries through advocacy, research, and marketing.*

*La Fédération des bibliothèques publiques de l'Ontario est un organisme à but non-lucratif. Elle a comme mandat, de répondre aux besoins de toutes les bibliothèques, en concentrant leurs efforts dans la recherche, en marketing et en agissant comme plaidoyeur.*