

**AGENDA ITEM DOC3**

**Subject: FOPL Executive Director Update based on 2018-19Goals**

**Date: Sept. 13, 2019**

**Prepared by: Stephen Abram, FOPL Executive Director**

**Prepared for: FOPL Board Meeting, Sept. 20, 2019**

Once again, I am reporting my activities based on the 2017/18 ED Goals aligned with our approved (Nov. 18, 2016) FOPL Strategic Plan 2016-2020.

**As was noted at the last Board meeting our strategic plan is showing its age and we will begin the process in September to revise and update these plans and goals. Things have certainly changed with the new provincial budget the lobbying required to deal with a plethora of initiatives by this PC government. It is time for the Board to review the goals for 2019.**

My top priorities and time commitment in 2018-18 were:

1. Addressing the community’s needs with respect to the Public Library Program Funding Review under the Culture Strategy
2. Ensuring the stable and sustainable transfer of financial activities and other operational activities from TPL to the FOPL offices.
3. Managing the OMD project, Statistics, and the marketing campaigns.
4. Working closely with our partners to ensure “One Voice for Ontario’s Public Libraries” and success

**To be frank, it has been a very difficult quarter, driven by the province’s aggressive policy agenda.**

* **For the 2019-2020 budget, we (in alliance with OLA and using the services of Counsel Public Affairs) provided a full briefing, briefing ASK paper, attended and presented at multiple budget consultations, and attended meeting prior to and after the budget. The ED attended the Budget Lock-Up. That said we have been through three minsters with this government and the current Minister Lisa McLeod is proving difficult to get a meeting with.**
  + Regional Consultations and Report
  + Municipal Downloading
  + Development and CBC Charges Review
  + Broadband and Connectivity
  + Library Lobbying at Queen’s Park and in the Ridings
* We staffed booths at AMO (August), AMCTO (June) and also exhibited at ROMA staffed by FOPL and local library staff. Other conferences are on hold due to the SOLS/OLS North cuts.
* Lobbying for First Nation Public Libraries, Ontario Digital Libraries, Public Library Program Funding Review, Community Hubs, School GSN, Middle Years are still in process of realignment and progress.
* We were successful in our application for a $70,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to build a sustainable newcomer employment service involving LSP and PLs.
* Partnered with ORION on a broadband Pilot Initiative in the north – In process – expect $100 million broadband announcement in Thunder Bay. We have a plan of action for improving broadband in Ontario and especially First Nations and the North. The main Yonge (Sudbury to Thunder Bay) broadband connection should be complete by the end of August.
* Still working on the concept of an Ontario Digital Public Library – Content in the Pipes. There is interest with the Minister and the civil service staff and policy staff.
* Delivered on the OMD marketing and branding plan and engaged our members and communities at an increasingly higher level. The Open Media Desk (OMD) project is successfully changing the marketing culture of Ontario public libraries and providing a framework to influence our public and the government. OMD has built and released sustainable e-learning for the project as a legacy. OMD introduced the OMD News Room to source great content on value and impact for our members. We have also integrated the measurements function into our new App eOMD.
* Our OMD contract is up at the end of June. We have great feedback from the cohorts and now must look at a movement forward and changing the structure to a more self-managed approach for sustainability. We have implemented many new cohorts of OMD training. Our OMD project is on track for sustainability. Excitingly we had the majority of libraries covered as measured by population impact by the end of May. We added upgraded sessions for experts and are doing a new program in beta test. OMD has built a sustainable e-learning for the project as a legacy.
* OMD introduced the OMD News Room to source great content on value and impact for our members. We have launched the eOMD app and will promote over the summer.
* We have built a LDii of measurements in an eOMD LDRI platform.
* Accomplished two surveys of high potential leadership candidates in libraries and CEOs expectations. The HR Working Group will do the analysis and gapping insights. We have a New CEOs PeerHQ group as well. This is critical since over 1/3 have changed in the past 24 months!
* We were successful in supporting the CELA funding renewal along with CELA. We sent a letter of support for the 2018 budget and it was funded.
* We are promoting a $10K/month Google AdWords grant to members. FOPL will participate too.
* We continue to use our social media presences and blog to communicate with our members.
* We have an active blog on FOPL.ca as well as active Twitter and Facebook presences.
* Continue to offer symposia in partnership with the iSchool at Toronto.
* I attended the Community-Led Libraries ThinkTank.
* I participated and spoke at the Annual Institute of the Library as Place in Ottawa in July
* I attended the Marketing Think Tank this summer
* I attended the public library adult programs workshop in Vaughan.

As noted earlier it has been struggle to keep up with this provincial government. Our work to expand our presence at MGS and Municipal Affairs and housing is moving forward in addition to extra effort at TCS, Education, and Higher Ed.

And, oh yeah, we had a granddaughter, Sage Violet Abram Byrne!