

**AGENDA ITEM DOC4**

**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, Nov. 15, 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.

**A separate document is provided for goals for 2019-2020 for discussion at this board meeting.**

My top priorities and time commitment in 2018-19 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 simpler quarter, driven by the province’s shut down for the federal election. We are now seeing things ramp up exponentially.**

* For the 2019-2020 budget, we (in alliance with OLA and using the services of Counsel Public Affairs) are building and testing an ASK paper, attending multiple budget consultations and advising on several issues. For some of these we are under an NDA.
* The current Minister Lisa McLeod is proving difficult to get a meeting with. I attended the Economic Council of Canada lunch at the Royal York last week to hear her speak. I was able to introduce myself and get a few minutes to chat. I have also met with her chief policy advisor, Dr. Michael Bonner with Kevin Finnerty and have met with her communications director.
* The regional government review has ended with a decision by the government to not proceed. We are wary like most municipalities.
* We expect to see additional municipal downloading in the coming budgets but there was some good news of delays in the agenda in the Fall Economic Statement last week.
	+ We have let the contract for the Development and CBC Charges Review to Hemson and await the promulgation of the regulations (or at least the draft – expected within 10 days) to proceed.
	+ Library Lobbying at Queen’s Park and in the Ridings
* We continue to focus on ILLO, the SOLS/OLS North cuts, lobbying for First Nation Public Libraries, Ontario Digital Library, broadband funding, Public Library Funding including the PLOG, Community Hubs, School GSN, Middle Years. We continue to realign and try to make 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. This has had its first initiation meeting with the partners and we have engaged staff of high quality. MINE stands for Mobile Information for Newcomer Employment.
* 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 now. We have supported pilots in 21 libraries in the North and more in the South will start soon.
* 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 was 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 soon.
* 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 2020 budget and have had an initial meeting with their new executive director.
* 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.

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, my granddaughter, Sage Violet Abram Byrne is awesome and continues to live with us!