



FOPL CHAIR REPORT

Subject: FOPL Chair Report
Date: Jan 17, 2019
Prepared by: Julia Merritt, Chair, FOPL; CEO, Stratford Public Library
Prepared for: FOPL AGM, Jan. 30, 2019

2019 was a busy and challenging year, requiring significant shifts in focus from FOPL as an organization. Both of the staff at FOPL have done an admirable job of keeping up and adapting, and on behalf of the Board I would like to thank them for their perseverance.

Special highlights of the 2019 work include:

1. The FOPL staff worked quickly and diligently to respond to the changes to the OLSs' budgets, and the impacts that had on the Library community. FOPL continues to advise and collaborate with Ministry staff on the important issues to libraries including ILLO, Community Benefit Charges, corporate regulations, and the Provincial budget.
2. The award of an Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant application, to further the development of the connection between public libraries, new Canadians, and employment/economic success.
3. The completion of a sustainable e-learning platform for Open Media Desk, so that the training can continue for any new or existing library, to keep building the knowledge now that the training pilot has concluded.
4. The HR Working Group completed a survey of library staff, and we now have an updated basis for understanding the development needs for managerial succession planning in the sector.
5. The Board reviewed and revised its strategic priorities, in order to give clear direction during the ongoing disruption in the political sphere.
6. FOPL has continued to work collaboratively with OLA and the OLSs, for maximum effect.

Finally, many thanks are due to the Ontario library community for its ongoing support of FOPL – together we are building on the traditions of excellence and resilience in our sector.