



CEO's Report to Members February 13, 2012

This report outlines the activities of the Federation over the past four months.

Meetings with MPPs

The Federation continues to meet with various MPPs to address our key advocacy issues.

During the past few months, meetings were held with:

- Ted Chudleigh, Conservative Party Culture Critic (Nov 24/11)
- Colin MacDonald, Senior Policy Advisor to Charles Sousa, Minister of Citizenship & Immigration (Dec 6/11)
- Michael Chan, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, and his Deputy Minister, Steven Davidson (Dec 14/11)
- Michael Coteau, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport (Jan 23/12)
- Rachel Levy, Advisor to Eric Hoskins, Minister of Children & Youth Services (Jan 30/12)

Over the next few weeks, meetings are confirmed with:

- Mike Maka, Special Assistant – Policy to Harinder Takhar, Minister of Government Services (Feb 16/12)
- Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Infrastructure & Transportation (Feb 21/12)
- Paul Miller, NDP Party Culture Critic (Feb 23/12)
- Melanie Wright, Senior Policy Advisor to Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance (Feb 23, 12)

5-Year Implementation for PLOG Proposal

When the Federation met with the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport in December 2011 to discuss our proposed model for increasing public library operating grants (PLOGs), his staff suggested that putting forward a proposal with a longer implementation plan would perhaps be more amenable to government.

As a result, Federation staff developed a revised funding proposal which was subsequently approved unanimously by the Board of Directors and then submitted to the Ministry for

consideration. The reason for moving so quickly to submit the revised proposal was to ensure it was taken into account as the 2012 Ontario Budget is being developed.

Basically, the revised proposal uses different per capita rates and supplement amounts that result in a straight line increase in the funding envelope from \$18.7 million to \$43.9 million over five years. In a given year, the per capita rates and area supplements are fixed, which is consistent with the concept originally approved by Federation members.

Our proposal was submitted to the Ministry with the following conditions:

- Year 1 funding is announced as an ongoing, sustainable, increase, not one-time.
- The Ministry declares its commitment to implementing the remaining four years.
- Funding goals are updated with new population and inflation figures upon release of 2011 census data.
- Pay equity funding is excluded from these calculations and continues to be paid at current rates.

Available in the member's area of the Federation's website <http://fopl.ca/news/5-year-implementation-plan-for-plogs/> [login required] are:

- The presentation on this topic given at the AGM, and
- The revised proposal sent to the provincial government.

Advocacy for First Nation Libraries

We continue to support our First Nations Caucus in advocating for increased funding of on-reserve libraries. The Federation facilitated meetings with:

- James Cutfeet, Director of Education and Social Programs, Ontario Region, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (Oct 19/11)
- Lori Jacobs, Executive Director of Chiefs of Ontario (Nov 24/11)
- Walter Manitowabi, COO of the Union of Ontario Indians (Feb 1/12)

In addition, the Federation:

- Made a submission to the National Panel on First Nation Elementary and Secondary Education on Nov 30/11;
- Drafted a resolution in support of First Nation Public Libraries, which was passed by the Special Chiefs Assembly on Dec 7/11;
- Participated in meetings of the newly formed National Aboriginal Public Library Organization on Jan 11/12 and Feb 21/12; and
- Arranged a meeting with the federal Conservative Aboriginal Caucus on Mar 7/12.

Results of Capital Needs Analysis

Members will recall that the Federation 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 is now completed. Monteith Brown’s report was accepted by the Board of Directors on Jan 17/12 and the study results were presented at the OLA Super Conference on Feb 2/12.

Monteith Brown 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. Monteith Brown’s report has been forwarded to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport for consideration in the development of the 2012 Ontario Budget.

Interim Report on Literacy Programs Outcomes Research

Members will recall that the Federation retained the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), to undertake early literacy research, specifically the examination of preschool literacy programs in Ontario public libraries that contribute to participating children’s early literacy development and readiness for kindergarten. The study is covering preschool children ages 3-4 years of age. Differences and gains in skill sets are being recorded at on-site visits during the second and final weeks of the programs. The following ten libraries committed to participating in the study:

Ajax Public Library	Ottawa Public Library
Chatham-Kent Public Library	Thunder Bay Public Library
Clarington Public Library	Toronto Public Library
Markham Public Library	Whitby Public Library
Niagara Falls Public Library	Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library

OISE produced an interim report on Jan30/12. However their final report will not be submitted until May 2012.

Member Survey re: Municipal Funding Changes

In the midst of all the media coverage of budget deliberations in the City of Toronto, it was important to get a clear picture of how municipal budgeting is affecting public libraries across

the province. Last month the Federation quickly conducted a member survey to gauge whether public libraries are expecting their municipal funding in 2012 to increase, decrease or stay the same, compared to 2011. The results of the survey are posted on the Federation's website.

Evaluation of Provincial Elections Toolkit

Development of the 2011 Provincial Election Toolkit was a major effort. So immediately after the election on Oct. 6/11, the Federation conducted an online member survey to evaluate its usage and effectiveness. Respondents said they used the following components of the toolkit most often:

- Letter to Municipal Councils
- Sample Letter to the Editor
- Letter to All Candidates
- Candidate Survey Questionnaire
- Sample Questions for All Candidates Meetings

Launch of Ontario Public Library Week

Whitby Public Library in collaboration with other Durham Region public libraries hosted the OPLW launch on Oct 17/11. Minister Chan attended as did several Durham Region provincial and municipal politicians. Links to local media coverage:

<http://www.durhamregion.com/news/article/1228259--durham-libraries-encourage-patrons-to-explore>

<http://www.durhamregion.com/opinion/editorial/article/1228260--perfect-time-to-celebrate-vitality-of-public-library-in-whitby>

Annual Report

Later this month the Federation will release its second Annual Report on the State of Public Libraries in Ontario. This year we have incorporated more graphics and less text so that the report can serve better as a marketing tool.

AGM Highlights

The Federation's Annual General Meeting went well. Quorum was easily established with 51 delegates attending in person and 42 delegates voting via proxies. These 93 delegates represented 68 member libraries.

The following libraries became paying members of the Federation for the first time in 2012:

- Biindigen Learning Centre (Wauzhushk Onigum First Nation)
- Guelph Public Library
- Kettle & Stony Point Public Library
- Lambton County Public Library

- Lanark Highlands Public Library
- Petawawa Public Library
- Thessalon Union Public Library
- Wasuksing First Nation Public Library

The composition of the Federation's Board of Directors remains largely unchanged, with almost all incumbents returning to complete or renew their terms. Jennifer La Chapelle, CEO of Clearview Public Library becomes a Director representing the Rural Caucus on April 1/12 upon Marzio Apolloni's retirement. A vacancy exists for a Director representing the Francophone Caucus.

At the AGM, a lifetime designation of Honorary Member was conferred on Barbara Clubb and Marzio Apolloni in recognition of their longstanding service to the organization. This is the first time ever that the Board of Directors has conferred the title of Honorary Member.

Following the AGM, the Board met to elect its officers for 2012. The results of the elections are:

- Jim Bennett, Chair of the Board (Vice Chair of the Ottawa Public Library Board)
- Mary Baxter, Vice Chair of the Board (CEO of Georgina Public Libraries)
- Ian Ross, Vice Chair of the Board (CEO of Whitby Public Library)
- Linda Mackenzie, Treasurer (Director of Research and Reference Libraries, Toronto Public library)
- Sandra Weitzel, Secretary (CEO of Dryden Public Library)
- Larry Stewart, Chair of the Advocacy Task Force (Chair of County of Brant Public Library Board)
- Bill Manson, Chair of the Marketing Task Force (CEO of Caledon Public Library)

The position of Chair of the Research Task Force is currently vacant.

Accreditation Awards

At the OLA Super Conference's Public Library Awards Dinner, the following libraries were honoured with accreditation certificates:

- Barrie Public Library (re-accreditation)
- Brockville Public Library (re-accreditation)
- Haldimand County Library (re-accreditation of Dunnville, Selkirk, Hagersville, Caledonia and Jarvis branches; accreditation of Cayuga branch)
- Innisfil Public Library (re-accreditation of Churchill, Lakeshore and Stroud branches; accreditation of Cookstown branch)
- Lincoln Public Library (re-accreditation of Fleming and Rittenhouse branches)
- Six Nations Public Library (accreditation under the 5th edition of the Ontario Public Library Guidelines)

Meetings with Partner Organizations

Noteworthy presentations to or meetings with partner organizations included:

- Trustee Councils: #6 – Napanee Area (Nov 5/11); #1 – St. Thomas Area (Nov 12/11)
- Hamilton Public Library Board (Nov 23/11)
- CELUPL (Nov 4/11)
- AMPLO/ ARUPLO (Dec 2/11)
- OLA's Executive Director (Dec 19/11)