Federation of ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARIES

La Fédération des BIBLIOTHÈQUES PUBLIQUES DE L'ONTARIO

June 2, 2015

Karen Pitre
Special Advisor to the Premier on Community Hubs
Government of Ontario
Toronto, ON

Dear Karen:

Thank you for the great conversation on the telephone and thank you for this opportunity to provide input from our sector that has focused on Public Libraries as community hubs for centuries. We heard that you wanted to hear from us and to specifically highlight our views about the provincial barriers to successful community hubs.

We certainly agree with Premier Wynne that:

> "Community hubs are an important part of our efforts to make public services more accessible and efficient for the people of our province. - - - we can ensure our framework will drive economic competitiveness, foster social cohesion and make communities more liveable."

Our message is that Ontario's Public Libraries are, and have always been, vital community hubs in the fabric of Ontarian's lives and critical infrastructure in the delivery of social services for all levels of government. We have the diversity of locations, talent, programming, and open hours to accomplish more for Ontario and Ontarians. We have a long history of community partnerships and working on a collaborative basis, cooperative partnerships with both government, not-for-profit and business entities, and within shared governance models. By embedding public and school libraries into the planning cycle and considerations of all ministries, there is a huge opportunity to ensure improved success of government policies, programs and goals in a cost effective and more efficient way.

A 2015 Market Probe Canada opinion poll shows that Public Libraries top the majority of Ontarians' lists of valued and important public services.

There are many barriers including funding, policy, zoning, insurance, etc. However, the primary barrier is the lack of an integrated planning process between government ministry siloes that recognizes the roles of existing community hubs in the multifaceted mosaic of community services. Public Libraries have a long history of successful alliances to support our community needs as well as to implement government (provincial, federal and municipal) programs and priorities. That said, there are many ways to make this more effective and efficient and – at the

same time – improve the success and performance of Ontario residents of all kinds and in all types of communities

You specifically asked us not to focus on funding formulas and we will respect that. That is likely a detail that requires more context to be discussed properly in the future. Suffice it to say that we note that there are many opportunities for inter-ministry cooperation and collaboration that will:

- Increase the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the delivery of services through coordinated inter-ministry efforts through the network of Ontario Public Library systems and school libraries.
- Enhance the ability of government programs and policies to have greater positive impact and implementation through Ontario's Public Libraries in every city, town, or reserve – all of our communities.
- Increase the ability of Ontarians to compete and learn on an international scale through a collaborative effort with Ontario's Public Library systems.
- Achieve savings while increasing strategic impact on lifelong learning, the economy, and the social good.

Some of these opportunities are highlighted in this submission.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit this short submission that highlights some of our ideas that could foster greater success when aided by cabinet level leadership. We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss and clarify our suggestions and evidence and can make ourselves available at your convenience.

We are ready to support your efforts as you study the opportunities within community hub strategies. As you noted, we have a great deal of experience in this area. Should you require consultation spaces as you continue your deliberations, in any place in Ontario, we're here to help.

Sincerely,

Stephen Abram

Stephen Abram
Executive Director
Federation of Ontario Public Libraries
"One Voice for Ontario's Public Libraries"

Submitted by:

Ontario Library Association

Ontario Public Library Association

Ontario School Library Association

The Association of Library Consultants and Coordinators of Ontario

Ontario Library Boards Association

Canadian Urban Libraries Council

In consultation with:

Southern Ontario Library Service

Ontario Library Services - North

Community Hubs and Ontario's Public Libraries

Submission to:

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/ o l a
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:. ontario library boards' association

/ o s l a
:. ontario school library association

The Association of Library Consultants and Coordinators of Ontario
Leadership for School Libraries

Canadian Urban Libraries Council
Conseil des Bibliothèques Urbaines du Canada

In consultation with:

Southern Ontario Library Service

Service des bibliothèques de l'Ontario-Sud

Ontario Library Service – North
Service des bibliothèques de l'Ontario – Nord

Ontario's Libraries are Community Hubs

Ontario's publicly funded library sector includes academic, school and public libraries. For the scope of this consultation we recognize public libraries as a leading community hub, with opportunities to leverage school spaces and programs.

We have a number of observations and recommendations due to our experiences as vital community hubs.

About Public Libraries in Ontario:

For just 49 cents per capita public libraries offer:

- Access to public library service for 99.34% of Ontarians and 444 municipalities offer public library service through 1,157 service outlets (with the exception of First Nation reserves, where there are limited public library services, there is a public library in every community).
- Public libraries are non-partisan and are free of charge by law.
- Almost 5.0 million Ontario residents have *active* library cards and over 75% of Ontarians used their library last year
- Ontarians borrow over 131 million items a year.
- Ontario's public libraries provide access to 11,500 public computer workstations, and hundreds of online resources.
- Ontario's public libraries offer 203,964 programs with annual attendance of 3,719,083 people.
- There are over 175,000,000 visits to libraries a year – in person and digitally.
- Many public libraries are located with other community hubs: in recreation centres, malls, and schools.

Source: 2013 Ontario Public Library Statistics, Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport.

Based on your question framework, here are our initial thoughts in anticipation of future consultations:

1. **What are the best or most promising things that community hubs can accomplish? Why did you/would you get involved in a community hub?**

Community Hubs strengthen communities by providing free, interactive, socially engaging, learning, collaborative, recreational and welcome spaces and services. Community hubs provide the opportunity to leverage public dollars and to support a common approach to community development.

Community Hubs need to offer the following – Public Libraries do this:

- Business and Economic development: support for small business including resources and space
- Employment support and resources
- Newcomer programs

- Early literacy development
- Access to e-government
- Leisure (reading and activities)
- Education and learning
- Outreach services to nursing homes, hospitals, shelters, etc.
- Leveraged resource coordination

School Libraries are recognized as a complementary hub reflecting much of what public libraries offer, but to a more specific audience:

- Providing equitable access to leveraged physical/virtual resources to meet the needs of differentiated learners, engaged in inquiry-based learning across the JK to gr 12 spectrum
- Foster collaborative teaching and learning practices/environments as represented in the library learning commons
- Reading engagement/literacy development through reading clubs and family reading/literacy programs/evening events
- Integrate digital learning
- Parent volunteer involvement

2.   What have been the biggest challenges or hurdles in creating, managing, sustaining your community hub? For example, what are the funding and administrative opportunities, issues and challenges related to supporting the creation, development or sustainability of community hubs? (Be as specific as possible).

We see great opportunities and many examples in the library sector for collaboration and use of community spaces, and a provincial approach to leveraging local resources.

We believe that successful *community hubs* are based on several philosophical assumptions that can underpin their long term success:
- An open, non-partisan space that welcomes all.
- A dynamic space for learning programs, social engagement, and recreation.
- A space that is staffed with trained professionals.
- A space that is community led and models shared governance.

As a sector with long and deep experience with community hub strategies, and with regard to Community Hub explorations and discussions, we note the following opportunities to ensure greater success and impact on Ontarians lives – learning, recreation, economic and social vitality.

2.1 Political and Bureaucratic Barriers: Remove political and policy barriers to success with examples or guidelines. We would recommend a cross ministerial strategy aligning the opportunities across Community Hubs.

The role of public libraries as a coordinator or participant with other provincial and community agencies in poverty reduction and services, employment, community and social services, new Canadian services, seniors' services, children and youth services and cultural institutions can be central and/or strongly contributory to making government programs work.

An example of success of this approach was the inter-ministerial session hosted at the OLA Super Conference (Canada's largest library sector conference) in 2014 coordinated by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport with the library community. At this half-day symposium, 10 ministries and representatives from more than 40 Ontario public library systems were in attendance. The goal was to demonstrate the potential for public libraries to support government priorities to help Ontarians.

Recommendation: That the cabinet consider directing key ministries to develop cooperative frameworks that respect – and fund, liaise and communicate – the role of Public Libraries in their program plans. This should include, but be not limited to:

- Role of Libraries strategy Ministry of Education
- Role of Libraries strategy Ministry of Culture, Recreation, and Sport
- Role of Libraries strategy Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities
- Role of Libraries strategy with Ministry of Finance consultations
- Role of Libraries with ministries involved in municipalities, economic development and business
- Role of Libraries in public health at the municipal and provincial level.
- Role of Libraries strategy with Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (First Nations services and reserve schools and libraries)
- Role of francophone libraries and Minister responsible for francophone affairs
- Role of Libraries strategy in Northern Development
- Role of libraries in Poverty reduction and services
- Role of Libraries strategy in Ministry of Labour
- Role of Libraries strategy in Community and Social Services
- Role of Libraries in Seniors Affairs
- Role of Libraries in Children and Youth Services

2.2 Revitalization and support of public space: There are any number of initiatives centered on the Ministry of Infrastructure that offer financing for municipal infrastructure that leave out Public Libraries as essential components of communities and key players as magnet sites for development of revitalized communities – especially in our smaller and rural communities where traditional infrastructure that adds vitality to our communities (like post offices, schools, banks, retailers, etc.) are shrinking and/or closing.

Recommendation: Include, where appropriate, public library buildings (new and renovations) in the eligibility requirements for public sector infrastructure grants.

2.3 A plan for removing barriers to access and usage of existing public facilities across jurisdictions.

Public Libraries across the province are pressed for space for enhanced and expanded programming that meet their community's needs.

We have facilities that are not available due to policy, insurance or access restrictions. In addition, there may be requirements for additional costs for security and caretaking.

Public Libraries need access to additional programming delivery facilities - including classrooms, meeting spaces, recreational spaces (gyms, fields, parks, pools, etc.), auditoriums, parking, etc. This includes evening and weekend use of public and Catholic board schools and other community facilities that has had the result of under-utilization or non-use by the communities that invested in these facilities.

Recommendations:

- Ensure a province-wide policy for usage of public facilities to avoid 'paying twice' for use of public buildings by public sector organizations.
- Address the building support, insurance and liability needs of public spaces at the provincial level. This serves as too high a barrier for many small and large communities to surmount. Consider the model used for major cultural events and museums/art galleries that allow these community events to succeed. The result will be more dynamic communities through effective use of community hubs and livelier events.
- A province-wide plan to support AODA compliance. Public Libraries are just one example of a public institution that struggles to fund compliance and retrofit facilities affecting the ability to provide services to everyone equitably.
- Many libraries are using bookmobiles, outreach and community liaison librarians, mobile technology, Pop-Up facilities, to address these shortcomings and these models should be studied for cost-effective implementation of community hub activities to pilot programs without the upfront commitment to physical facilities.

2.3   **Digital Success and Inclusion:** Ubiquitous access to digital learning, learning resources and leveraging public investment.

We need to ensure all Ontario residents have equitable access to quality digital resources – learning, e-books, articles, databases, streamed media, video, audio, and more. Public Libraries are leaders in this space by far but the mosaic of resources in individual communities can vary too widely depending on the financial abilities of the local community.

There is not seamless or equitable access to most types of digital experiences needed by Ontarians. For example:

K-12 Success: Database licensing of digital articles, research material, streamed media, and e-books that are required to support the curricular needs and success of our K-12 students is a patchwork quilt. There are large inequities between larger urban communities and smaller or more rural communities. For the most part database resources for schools are licensed at the local board level with a small set of province-wide database resources provided through OSAPAC (at this time limited to 3 products: Britannica Online; BookFlix; Learn360; Naxos Music) and there is no real provincial leadership for licensing a suite of resources of articles and e-books that ensures every student in Ontario has access in their community - seamlessly from home, school, their school library and a seamless experience at their Public Library for 24/7 access to homework, project and learning support - especially for those students who do not have full digital access at home with the learning supports delivered by trained public and school library staff.

Digital learning is now a key requirement of society requiring support for a provincial initiative to ensure that Ontarians have 24/7 access to learning that supports their goals. Examples are

Lynda.com that can deliver hundreds of free technology training classes to Ontarians through Public Libraries or hundreds of courses available (e.g. Gale Courses) to support adult and student learners in their acquisition of life, work, business and play/hobby skills.

Approximately 24% of Ontarians do not have access to the web at home or at work. The province has the infrastructure already (with some accommodations) to accomplish this through the Public Library collaboration agencies (SOLS/OLS-North) and several key consortia in the Higher Ed space (OCUL).

Recommendations:

- Collaborative and consortial purchasing/licensing of databases and learning resources at the provincial level. Both the public and school library sectors require access to online databases (research, reading and career resources). The public library sector created a consortial purchasing model facilitated by Southern Ontario Library Services (SOLS) to leverage resources and access across the province. Teacher Librarians from 30 school boards recognized the need for many of the same resources for school use, contacted SOLS and arranged for inclusion. In the first year, the costs for school boards actually came down. Greater access, efficiency, and savings will be realized if schools can negotiate with this consortium at the provincial level via the Ministry of Education (rather than one school board at a time).
- Recognize the key role Public Libraries play in Distance Education strategies. Indeed, it appears that the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities is encouraging the development of far more e-learning courses in our colleges and universities and the Ministry of Education is studying various options for an online high school curriculum delivered digitally and the potential to not recognize the role Public Libraries play in supporting Ontario residents is risky. As noted above, approximately 24% of Ontarians do not have access to the web at home or at work.

2.4 **Digital Learning Strategies: The Ontario Common Curriculum – understanding the online learning and training needs for Ontarians**

STEM and STEAM positioning in our learning goals from K-12 and in Higher Ed are major thrusts of government policy. Public and School Libraries are strong adopters and implementers of key initiatives with magnet environments like IDEALabs, Makerspaces, Digital Innovation Hubs, and more. These spaces in Public Libraries and many school libraries support our goals to create a more STEM literate population and encourage learners to choose STEM careers. They also support local business as well. Examples abound with the internationally known IDEALab in Cambridge Public Library, Innisfil Public Library's Hacker Lab and Digital Media Lab, Sudbury Public Library's *Makerspace*, and Toronto Public Library's Digital Innovation Hubs. All of these spaces support business, school, hobby and lifelong learning activities that offer support for STEM, STEAM and digital career and education exploration.

The Ontario Common Curriculum's emphasis on the flipped classroom, critical thinking, inquiry-based and experiential learning puts added strain on school and public libraries and library staff and this is not being fully addressed in a comprehensive fashion. There is a guideline for digital and information literacy curriculum but there needs to be firmer standards – not guidelines – for

school libraries, for the role of Public Libraries, and the importance of digital literacies and information fluency as graduation outcomes.

Public Libraries have stepped up to the plate but there has been inadequate training in supporting the education goals and understanding the needs of our learners in the curriculum context as they study, prepare reports and presentations, and need the evening and weekend services of Public Library infrastructure to succeed. The Swiss cheese access to the web, digital resources, equipment and support across Ontario's communities creates an inequity that is dangerous and unsustainable for Ontario's long term social and economic success.

Recommendations:
- Build Public Libraries into education strategies in this province. Recognize this through joint funding (since it is more cost-effective) and ensure that School Libraries and educators are allied with Public Library strategies.
- Increase bandwidth in rural communities to facilitate access to learning, resources and communication across the province.
- Create training and program development opportunities for school library staff and public librarians to deliver homework and curricular support at a higher scale.
- Protect the school library positions in all of our schools – where they have proven impact on student performance – and ensure that school administrators understand the value of these key contributors.

2.5   First Nations Libraries on Reserve

The majority of our reserves in Ontario do not have libraries - school or public. This is tragic and unacceptable. Often reserve schools do not offer education through the grade 12 level, which causes family separation and social upheaval. Public and School libraries – sometimes in joint facilities – provide a safe place to learn, play and succeed. It appears that this is primarily an example of lack of joint federal/provincial cooperation and more effort needs to be applied to use libraries as a lever to improve opportunity, community vitality, and social equity on reserve.

Recommendation: Set standards for library services on reserves of all sizes and achieve joint planning and cooperation with band councils and all levels of government to ensure that equitable access to resources, technology, programs and learning are available to Ontario's reserve residents. Fund libraries, digital and print access to collections, and connectivity on reserve. The First Nations Library Association and FOPL's First Nations Caucus stand ready to assist.

2.6 Rural Ontarians

Our rural community hub infrastructure is inadequate to allow these Ontarians to participate fully in the riches of Ontario libraries, education, and economic development. Too many rural communities lack broadband connectivity with the library being the only place for many to get access. Indeed many homes are still on dial-up. Low or seasonal employment creates higher demand for library services with their technology, service and connectivity. Yet many rural libraries can only offer service for 24 hours per week.

Recommendation: Ensure our rural community hubs of all types including libraries are empowered and resourced for the benefit of their communities.

3. What is your best advice to the Ontario government on specific decisions or changes that can be made to enable community hubs in Ontario? (Be as specific as possible: regulation, policy or regulation changes? Cross Ministry coordination? Program staff? Etc.)

As noted in section two there are a number of processes that could be implemented to strengthen community hubs:

- Cross-ministerial collaboration on opportunities. This could be a combination of online participation, a physical forum/event, working with non-profit sector organizations.
- Evaluation of purchasing processes to leverage cost and access to resources.
- Increase in bandwidth to rural areas and reserves.

3. **If your advice were implemented, what would success look like? How will we know this worked? (Be as specific as possible: Time freed up? Resources accessed by different people? Improved service delivery? Etc.)**
   - Elimination of duplication of effort and resources to allow organizations to develop new resources for community hubs.
   - Costs savings though joint, collaborative licensing.
   - Ontarians fully leveraging resources available to them.
   - Cost savings and more successful implementation of Ontario's e-government implementations.

4. **Do you have a story or example of a community hub that can be shared? If so, please provide a brief summary and contact information.**

   Selected Examples:

   Public Libraries have a strong history of supporting all levels of government and strategic initiatives. Some examples include:

   - Libraries adopted the Ontario government's Early Years strategies. According to FOPL-funded OISE-led research, there have been positive, measureable impacts on school-readiness and long term learner performance.
   - Libraries host a great number of LINC programs (*Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada*).
   - Libraries support Settlement Houses and offer many programs for New Canadians to assist their integration in Canadian society.
   - Libraries are a major supporter of the federal government's CAP (Community Access Program – now Youth Internship Program) that added digital resource and training support to communities.

- Libraries support many business and economic development programs for all levels of government to assure the success of local businesses.
- Library branches as economic hubs and revitalization centres in communities are common.
- Libraries are a key and important node for Ontarians access to e-government at all levels.

The Library as Community Hub: Video Examples

- **A Day in the Life of Northern York Region Libraries**

  (Public Libraries in Whitchurch-Stouffville, Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Newmarket, Georgina, King Township Libraries) – 2:42 minutes

  http://stephenslighthouse.com/2015/05/06/a-day-in-the-life-of-niagara-region-libraries/

- **Innisfil Public Library: 2014 Year in Review** (4:16 minutes): examples of why and how people use the library (new business, learning, crafts, games, how schools use the library).

  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ym85gTlKBiA

- **Building Strong Communities (5 minutes): (local health unit partnership, newcomers)**

  https://www.accessola.org/web/OLAWEB/Super_Conference/Video/Community_Development.aspx

The Library as Community Programmer:

Examples:

Haliburton County Library programs community events for the whole community to avoid duplication and overlap. "It was observed that many of the organizations offering March Break programming both for free and a fee were doing so on overlapping dates," library CEO Bessie Sullivan wrote in the [Annual] report. "This was creating unnecessary competition and less choice for people in the Haliburton Highlands." Last fall, the library contacted organizations including The Art Hive, Abbey Gardens, Rails End Gallery, the Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve, the Haliburton Highlands Museum, the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, and Municipality of Dysart et al to ensure that in 2015 there was programming throughout the week of March Break and that the county's free programming was not competing with programs trying to recoup costs. "This did involve some long range planning and the participation of all organizations to create the schedule," Sullivan wrote.

Middlesex County Library is enacting a plan to build "comprehensive libraries" that are spread out across the County in 5 different communities. These libraries not only offer traditional library services and programming, but also office space for social and government services to create a "one-stop shop" in their rural communities. Some of the groups that book office and programming space at the library include Service Canada (passports, employment insurance,

etc.), Ontario Works, Tyke Talk (speech therapy), Family Services Thames Valley, Thames Valley Children's Centre, and Community Employment Choices. This service model was recognized with a "Local Municipal Champion" award from the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association.

This project demonstrates that when libraries outside of major urban centres have the funding to improve facilities to make more community services available in bookable office space, residents can remain in their home communities for service, the province can save on infrastructure funding, and the library spaces can adapt to the changes of services available, or the changing needs of their community.

Summary of Recommendations:

1. **Recommendation**: We recommend that the cabinet consider directing key ministries to develop cooperative frameworks that respect – and fund, liaise and communicate – the role of Public Libraries in their program plans. Particular focus is needed on the relationships between Culture, Tourism and Sport, Education, Training, Colleges and Universities, Aboriginal Affairs, Citizenship and Immigration, Labour, Health, and Economic Development and Infrastructure.

2. **Recommendation:** Include, where appropriate, public library buildings (new and renovations) in the eligibility requirements for public sector infrastructure grants.

3. **Recommendation:** Finish the retrofitting of our current building infrastructure (schools, libraries, community centres, etc.) by ensuring that our public buildings are accessible to all and meet AODA requirements. Community Hubs must be accessible to all. Too many libraries don't have access to necessary funding for accessibility changes at the municipal or provincial level.

4. **Recommendation:** Ensure a province-wide policy for usage of public facilities in their role as community hubs – which may be secondary to their primary role. Too many Ontario residents are paying twice or more times for use of their public buildings.

5. **Recommendation**: Basic Resource Licensing for digital resources of all types should use the infrastructure already maintained by SOLS/OLS-North so that equity, learning and development are supported and encouraged. These licenses should be predicated on a seamless experience between school library during the day and Public Library support on nights and weekends for homework support. All databases should be accessible from anywhere. It is fiscal and pedagogical insanity to expect every board to maintain and finance their own licensing teams. This also creates inequities for many school boards – especially the smaller, more rural, francophone, native, and more northern boards. In particular, the current mosaic of digital resource acquisitions strategies can only result in higher basic total costs and considerably higher support costs for purchase and training. This is unacceptable in a society based on equity.

6. **Recommendation**: Consider public and school libraries in the strategies for distance education in Higher Ed as well as online learning in K-12 schools. Understand the training, support, access, and funding implications of this. Not including libraries in the equation doesn't make it go away – Ontarians still come to our doors.

7. **Recommendation**: Build Public Libraries into education and homework strategies – especially the critical thinking, digital literacy, and information fluency strands - in this province. Recognize this through joint funding (since it will be more cost-effective) and ensure that School Libraries and educators are allied with Public Library strategies as a component of their delivery and support strategies.

8. **Recommendation**: Set standards for library services on reserves of all sizes and achieve joint planning and cooperation with band councils and all levels of government to ensure that equitable access to resources, technology, programs and learning are available to Ontario's reserve residents.

Conclusion

Our big message here is that Ontario's libraries already act as community hubs and have the diversity of locations, talent, programming, and open hours to accomplish more for Ontario and Ontarians. We have a long history of community partnerships and working on a collaborative basis and within shared governance models. By embedding public and school libraries into the planning cycle and considerations of all ministries, there is a huge opportunity to ensure improved success of government policies, programs and goals in a cost effective and more efficient way.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to your important work in building a framework for better community hub strategies in Ontario.

The Federation of Public Libraries, the Ontario Library Association (including Ontario Public Library Association, Ontario Library Boards Association, Ontario School Libraries Association), Canadian Urban Libraries Council, and The Association of Library Consultants and Coordinators of Ontario and our partners below, that worked on this submission, stand ready, through our diverse leadership, volunteer boards, members, and partners, to discuss these recommendations at any time.

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Selected References:

The following reports are selected as they may be of interest to the advisory council in their deliberations. Included here are recent studies on the impact of libraries on student performance, impact studies on business and community economic development, as well as independent qualitative and quantitative studies on the impact of libraries on their communities.

Should you require more literature, Ontario's Public Libraries stand at the ready!

Federation of Ontario Public Libraries 2014-2015 Research Package:

Of particular interest to your special advisory position and team is some of the work currently being accomplished by FOPL and which we can share with your team. This includes:

1. A Market Probe Canada 2015 public opinion poll on the attitudes and use of public libraries on Ontario that was recently completed for FOPL.
2. An analysis of public library engagement with their communities from 2001-2013 that will be completed for FOPL ion spring 2015 and released to members.
3. A census of digital presence of all public libraries in Ontario and analysis of the role of digital communities as public library hub strategies.
4. Recent research on the roles of public libraries to measurably contribute to and enhance school performance and readiness, the economic performance of communities, job and career activities, and the health and vitality of Ontarians.

All of these data show the essential relationship of public libraries as key community hubs and existing physical and digital infrastructure that can be exploited further to benefit Ontario

Economic Impact of Milton Public Library:

http://www.mpl.on.ca/documents/2014_10EconomicImpact.pdf

Economic Impact of Stratford Public Library

http://www.stratfordbeaconherald.com/2015/01/27/economic-impact-of-stratford-public-library-estimated-at-nearly-15-million

Economic Impact of Toronto Public Library

http://martinprosperity.org/media/TPL%20Economic%20Impact_Dec2013_LR_FINAL.pdf

Value Research Summary Independent and Academic Studies and Reports of Public Libraries and School Libraries

Value of Libraries Megapost
http://stephenslighthouse.com/2013/08/29/value-of-libraries-megapost/

The Value of Public Libraries
http://stephenslighthouse.com/2010/04/06/the-value-of-public-libraries/

The Value of School Libraries
http://stephenslighthouse.com/2010/04/06/the-value-of-school-libraries/

The Value of Academic and College Libraries
http://stephenslighthouse.com/2010/04/07/value-of-academic-and-college-libraries/

The Value of Special Libraries
http://stephenslighthouse.com/2010/04/07/value-of-special-libraries/

Cheryl Stenström's PhD dissertation on Politicians' and senior civil servants' views of Public Libraries
http://eprints.qut.edu.au/59510/

School Readiness – Research and Infographic

FOPL has been investing in research on our members' behalf. This week we will mail this report to all members and we are excited to share digital copies with the library community at large:

Preschool Early Literacy Programs in Public Libraries
by Drs. Shelley Stagg Peterson and Eunice Jang
Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning
OISE/University of Toronto

http://fopl.ca/news/school-readiness-research-and-inforgraphic/

OLA, OSLA and Ministry of Education School Library Guidelines

Together for Learning: School Libraries and the Emergence of the Learning Commons

A VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY (OSLA)

https://www.accessola.org/web/Documents/OLA/Divisions/OSLA/TogetherforLearning.pdf

Leading Learning: Standards of Practice for School Library Learning Commons in Canada 2014 (CLA)

http://clatoolbox.ca/casl/slic/llsop.pdf

Treasure Mountain

http://tmcanada.pbworks.com/w/page/22304836/FrontPage

Here are two articles published in *Municipal World* by Anne Marie Madziak.

Public Libraries: Where impromptu exchanges build community and belonging (Sept. 2014) 3 page PDF

MW-Sep2014-Madziak (1)

Public Libraries: Helping communities thrive in a changing world (July 2012) 2 page PDF

MW-July2012-Madziak_helping communities thrive (1)

More Examples

Library employs new event-planning strategy

May 26, 2015   http://haliburtonecho.ca/?p=14788

By Chad Ingram

The Haliburton County Public Library changed the way it planned events for 2015, co-ordinating with community groups in order to prevent overlapping of programming.
The library recently released its 2014 annual report.

"It was observed that many of the organizations offering March Break programming both for free and a fee were doing so on overlapping dates," library CEO Bessie Sullivan wrote in the report. "This was creating unnecessary competition and less choice for people in the Haliburton Highlands."
Last fall, the library contacted organizations including The Art Hive, Abbey Gardens, Rails End Gallery, the Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve, the Haliburton Highlands Museum, the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, and Municipality of Dysart et al to ensure that in 2015 there was programming throughout the week of March Break and that the county's free programming was not competing with programs trying to recoup costs.

"This did involve some long range planning and the participation of all organizations to create the schedule," Sullivan wrote.

Circulation grew by two per cent in 2014, from 144,925 items to 147,649. The library added more than 7,200 items to its catalogue, bringing total holdings to more than 50,000 items.
The library has eight branches throughout the county.

Continuing to partner with community organizations – the library has more than 50 strategic partnerships – a highlight of 2014 was work with the Ontario Early Years Centre, which helped provide various programming including a family literacy day, Baby Share a Book, Reading and Parent Program and Two Week Trip on a Reading Rocket Ship.

"Community partnerships continue to be an excellent way to provide quality programming while investing limited staff time and resources," the report reads.
Another highlight of 2014 was the opening of the new branch in Wilberforce, a creation of Fleming College's sustainable building design and construction program.

Library staff were busy, with Sullivan presenting a session called 50 Ways to Run a Library on a Shoestring at the Ontario Library Association's Super Conference. Sullivan and branch services librarian Erin Kernohan-Berning presented Using Local Media to Promote Your Library Collection at the University of Western Ontario. Both Sullivan and Kernohan-Berning made presentations at a number of other conferences as well and as co-chair of the Ontario Library Association's advocacy committee, Sullivan was part of a delegation of library leaders who met with MPPs and ministers at Queen's Park, emphasizing libraries' link to community-building and economic development.

Provincial Inter-Ministerial Public Library Discussion Forum, January 29, 2014, OLA Super Conference

Co-hosted and co-sponsored by Administrators of Medium-sized Public Libraries in Ontario (AMPLO) and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

https://www.accessola.org/web/OLAWEB/Super_Conference/Provincial_Inter_Ministerial_Public_Library_Discussion_Forum.aspx

This session was a facilitated discussion about common themes and interests between Ontario provincial ministries and Public Libraries. Objectives included informing staff in key ministries about existing and potential partnership opportunities and providing information about government goals, policies, and programs to consider how Public Libraries and ministries can work together.

Setting the context: Examples of Public Library programs and initiatives matched to government priorities (videos), and Ministry presentations (PowerPoint presentations).
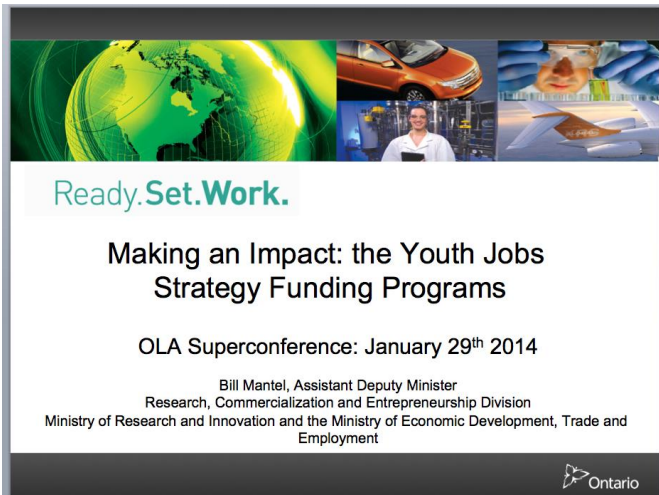
Economic Development (**Video**)

Sharing knowledge and communicating ideas at the library. Develop your skills, create, and become an entrepreneur. Libraries are helping to drive innovation in communities.
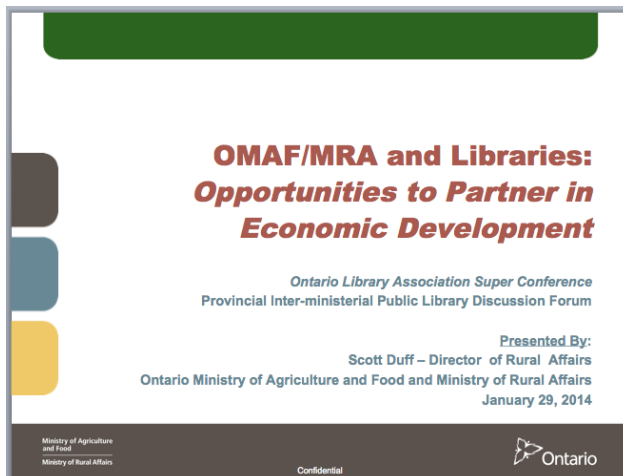
(Presentation):
Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs: Aboriginal Economic Development Supports

(Presentation):
Ministry of Research and Innovation and the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Employment

(Presentation):
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Ministry of Rural Affairs

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Building Strong Communities (video)

The library can be a welcoming and socially inclusive place for families. Examples: a place to get referrals to other community services, a place for specialists to visit with families (nutritionists, early childhood education, etc.), a place for young parents and their children. The library can offer a multitude of services for people new to Canada.

(Presentation):
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Health Promotion Priorities: Building Healthy Communities

(Presentation):
Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI)

Lifelong Learning and Literacy ([Video](#))

Programs for babies, pre-school children, and youth in the library and with community partners. Children can even read a story to a non-judgmental dog! The library provides services for people who have disabilities, job seekers, and those looking to upgrade their skills and education.
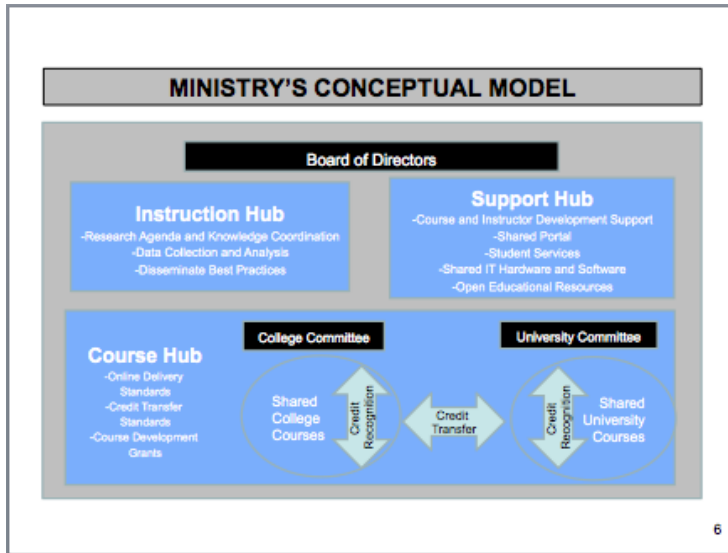
(Presentation):
Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities: Strategic Policy and Programs Division

Early Years Division, Ministry of Education (**pdf**)