



**Subject: FOPL Executive Director CELUPL Update**

**Date: March 5, 2018**

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**Prepared for: CELUPL Meeting, APRIL 6, 2018**

It’s a pleasure to be invited to update CELUPL Group. This report is being written on March 5, 2018 before the PC Party leadership is announced on March 10th as well as before the expected Liberal Government pre-election Provincial Budget shortly afterwards so we may have a lot more to chat about in April as we approach the election on June 7th (and the municipal elections on Oct. 20th, 2018).

To begin the FOPL executive director’s top priorities in 2018 are:

1. *Addressing our sector’s needs with respect to the Public Library Program Funding Review under the Ontario 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 in our mutual strategies.*

These four priorities comprise the Board direction to the Executive Director.

It has certainly been a busy time! Here’s just a short list of some of our activities and successes since last we met.

**The BIG Stuff:**

1. **FUNDING: FOPL/OLA 2018 Provincial Budget “ASK”. (attached)**
2. **Library Day at Queen’s Park, MPP videos, Mayoral videos, etc. and lots of follow through**
3. **Municipal and Library Board resolutions supporting the “ASK”**
4. **Library Board Legacy Year Planning**
5. **Provincial Election Toolkit (June 7) planning**
6. **Municipal Election (Oct. 20) Toolkit planning**
7. **Leadership Summit planning for Autumn 2018**
8. **AMO, ROMA, ONN, etc. presence.**
9. **Lobbying for First Nation Public Libraries, Ontario Digital Libraries, Public Library Program Funding Review, Community Hubs, Middle Years, Culture Strategy.**
10. **ORION broadband Pilot Initiative.**
11. **Updated Peer Measurements & Statistics for Ontario Public Libraries 2018 (2016 data)**
12. **Reorganized FOPL into Working Groups**
13. **Working on the concept of an Ontario Digital Library**

More Detail:

* We hired a professional lobbying form, Counsel Public Relations, in partnership with OLA, and they are already gaining wins for us.
* We attended AMO, had a booth presence. Wellington Libraries provided shiny things like video, wireless and 3D printing which gained attention. We made a number of videos with mayors and councillors. I had many meetings with ministers including Minister McMahon and gained her commitment for an in person delegation. I also talked to the Premier, Brad Duguid, and Karen Petrie of the Community Hubs secretariat. We gained support of an AMO council member to bring forward a motion to support library funding.
* We were successful in getting the CELA funding renewed along with CELA. We have sent a letter of support for the 2018 budget.
* We were successful in getting the connectivity funding restored in partnership with others.
* We had a Library Day at Queen’s Park on Nov. 23, 2017. Counsel is having weekly meetings with FOPL and OLA to build success through this initiative.
* We (ARUPLO, SOLS, OLA, and FOPL) partnered on a booth for ROMA in Toronto in January 2018.
* FOPL consulted with the Ministry of Culture on the process for the PLPFR consultations and FOPL had two attendees (including our FOPL Chair) at all consultations (Community Hubs & Leadership/innovation as well as Standards and Measurements and Digital Services.)
* Attended and spoke at two Provincial Budget consultations. Counsel is assisting us and we have had meetings with many ministries and MPPs and civil servants focused on policy (including Finance for our detailed 2018 Budget ‘ASK’).
* Ontario Digital Library. FOPL was consulted on this visionary initiatives at our Ministry and we are looking forward to the report and funding.
* We are preparing Election Readiness Kits in partnership with OLA, SOLS and OLS-North. We are encouraging all-candidate meetings at your library(ies).
* We were successful in gaining $1 million in #BudgetTalks funding and are advising the Ministry on this project over the summer.
* We were successful in an additional $2.0 million in funding. We were consulted on this and it will be available to our libraries in September 2017 for technology programs.
* The Indigenous Libraries review by external consultants was released quoting FOPL widely.
* Released 2018 Ontario Public Library Statistics Report to all members in Jan. 2018, mere months after the data release. Members continue to use these data well and request customer peer analyses.
* Submitted and wrote documents for the Community Hubs secretariat. Meet regularly with Karen Petrie and her staff. She has requested more information and been provided with a lot.
* Attended the Community Hubs Summit. Our program and speaker ideas were accepted. They indeed worried there would be too many librarians there! I gave a short talk and spoke often with Minister McMahon as well as other cabinet members and senior staff. I also got two other CEOs on panel discussions.
* Working with ORION as an advisory group for libraries. I am now advising the ORION CEO and key team members.
* We have initiated discussion on a pilot for high broadband with ORION using Thunder Bay Public Library as a northern partner. Our goal is to prove the viability of better broadband in the north and to moderate pricing for libraries and their communities.
* Support First Nations libraries with national and provincial advocacy
	+ Provided statistical analyses of the performance, value and impact of First Nations Libraries.
	+ Engaged in Federal-provincial activities regarding funding opportunities and education/library issues to address weaknesses in the support for First Nation communities and learners.
	+ Organized and promoted Twinning and Sponsorships for EVERY Ontario First Nation reserve public library.
	+ Participated in the FN Consultations with the province. Provided data and documentation.
	+ FOPL was well quoted in the final recommendations of the report, Assessment of First Nations Public Libraries.
* We have revitalized our Task Force structure and moved them to Working Groups. These are seeking FOPL member volunteers and are:
* **Indigenous Library Partnerships Working Group**
* **Marketing and Communications Advisory Working Group**
* **Government Relations Working Group**
* **Library Provincial People Capacity Working Group**

***We encourage more volunteers!***

* We are have three 2018 cohorts of OMD training. We have done two OMD satisfaction surveys with the member libraries and have had huge success.
* OPLW was planned and the new Minister did attend. We are continuing to mine the tagline we designed two years ago.
* We have made great progress on a book about library cards (Art in your Wallet) as a tool to leave behind in meetings and promote card ownership. Deborah Duce at Huntsville PL is leading this with one of her cardholders and it is great!
* We WILL be ready to form a social media response to government funding activities and the election in 2017/8! We are also developing election kits for all public libraries.
* Released and empowered the “One Voice for Ontario’s Public Libraries” tagline and implemented the French and English reports on the website. Two websites are relevant to these activities: <http://www.ThinkAboutLibraries.ca> and <http://www.oplw.ca>

# “A **Visit** Will Get You **Thinking**.”

# or “Une **visite**: ça fait **réfléchir**.”



* FOPL coordinated a full meeting of FOPL, OLA, SOLS, OLS-North, CULC, and CFLA to coordinate Canadian Library Month and Ontario Public Library Week. Big changes and strategies coming here!
* Building measurements and measureable success as well as an LDRI platform and provincial dashboard.
* Working closely with our partners to ensure “One Voice for Ontario’s Public Libraries” and success
* We held symposia at the iSchool on the topic of “2020 & Beyond: Strategies & Practices for Library Impact” which was well reviewed.
* Enhanced the LearnHQ Trustee Training modules.