

June 25, 2019

The Hon. Lisa MacLeod
Minister, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport
438 University Avenue, 4th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2A5

Via email: minister.mtcs@ontario.ca

Dear Minister MacLeod:

RE: Congratulations and Invitation to Library Building Awards in Ottawa on July 10, 2019

On behalf of the Ontario Library Association (OLA) and the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL), I would like to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Minister of Tourism Culture and Sport. On behalf of our members across the province, we work with the Ministry to ensure Ontarians have access to exceptional public library services.

Public libraries are Ontario's farthest-reaching, most cost-effective local resource for Ontarians. Ontario's libraries help residents of all ages thrive, providing programming that responds to local needs, including job and skills training, small business support, language education, and children and youth programming, regardless of where they live. We recognize the Ontario government's commitment, as reflected in the 2019 Budget, to maintain its critical operating funding investment in local public libraries, reflecting the essential role they play for people living in communities in every corner of our province.

We are looking forward to working with you and would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to share our insight into the impressive, locally-driven impacts that Ontario's public libraries are having in municipalities of all sizes, as well as the challenges that these public libraries are facing. We are happy to work with your office to coordinate the details.

We want to take this opportunity to invite you to join us at the Ontario Library Association Library Building Awards in Ottawa on **July 10, 2019** at the Ottawa Marriott Hotel (100 Kent Street). These awards showcase excellence in library building design in communities across Ontario. This would include the opportunity to deliver remarks and bring greetings on behalf of the government, as well as join the leadership of Ontario's public libraries for a brief post-event reception.

The awards ceremony is scheduled to begin at 4:00pm followed by the reception at 5:30pm. We will coordinate with your office to confirm the details.

We wish you the best success in your new role and look forward to working with you and your team to continue to ensure that Ontario's libraries remain strong and able to support the learning, employment, and community development of Ontarians in the communities where they live.

Sincerely,



Richard Reid
President
Ontario Library Association



Julia Merritt
Chair
Federation of Ontario Public Libraries

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The Ontario Library Association (OLA) is a centre of excellence for the library and information sector, with over 5,000 members who work in public, school, academic and special libraries. OLA members work to ensure that individuals have free and equitable access to information to support their work and life-long learning goals. Our members conduct research, and develop and participate in educational programs designed to provide exemplary library services. Signature OLA events include the annual Super Conference and the Forest of Reading® program.

The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL) represents 246 public library systems in Ontario, including 45 First Nations public libraries, in communities throughout the Province.