

**Ministry of Heritage,
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September 9, 2021

Subject: The Ontario Public Library Service Awards

Dear library partners,

I hope that this finds you well.

First of all, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge your incredible work throughout the pandemic. Under challenging circumstances, you have found ways to continue providing new and ongoing library services to your communities. My staff and I are deeply impressed by your dedication and innovation.

As you know, at this time of year, the Ministry and peer jury would normally be reviewing submissions for the Ontario Public Library Service Awards (PLSAs), which include the Angus Mowat Award of Excellence and the Minister's Award for Innovation.

I am writing to inform you that we will not hold the awards in 2021. We know that many of you are re-opening your doors to the public after months of closures. At this time, your effort to safely reopen is a key priority and we do not wish to take anyone away from that critical work.

I want to assure all of you that we intend for the PLSAs to return in 2022. Next year, we encourage you to nominate your peers or submit your most outstanding projects, whether COVID-related or not, for a Ministry award.

With hope, we will be back together in-person at the 2023 OLA Super Conference Public Library Awards Gala where we can pay tribute to the outstanding work you have done over the past couple of years.

In the meantime, stay safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Kevin Finnerty".

Kevin Finnerty
Deputy Minister