

CELUPL Chair's Board Report

Report To: FOPL Board and Members, Annual General Meeting
Report Name: CELUPL – AGM 2026
Report Prepared by: Alicia Subnaik Kilgour– WG Chair

Recommendation

THAT the CELUPL Chair's Board Report be received as information.

Key Messages for the Board

- CELUPL is making steady progress on its two strategic priorities: Funding Sustainability & Advocacy and Polarization (Civil Discourse/Civic Literacy).
- The “*Doing Less with Less*” advocacy paper is in development and will support coordinated provincial and municipal advocacy aligned with Federation of Ontario Public Libraries priorities.
- Both priority committees are actively developing a joint learning and training opportunity for members, to be delivered at an upcoming in-person session.
- A full-day CELUPL meeting is being planned for May 22 or May 29, 2026, with a focus on business alignment in the morning and sector learning in the afternoon.

Overview and Progress

Since the launch of the 2025–2027 Work Plan, CELUPL has advanced work under its two priority areas through dedicated committees that meet regularly.

- **Funding Sustainability & Advocacy**

A draft advocacy paper, “*Doing Less with Less*,” is currently under executive review. The paper highlights increasing service demand, constrained funding environments, and rising operating pressures facing large urban libraries. It is intended to support consistent, sector-wide advocacy messaging.

The committee is also contributing to the development of learning content focused on strengthening advocacy capacity and funding sustainability strategies.

- **Polarization & Civil Discourse**

Work in this area is focused on training and professional development to support libraries in addressing increasing polarization within their communities. Emphasis is placed on practical approaches to fostering respectful dialogue, supporting civic literacy, and maintaining inclusive public spaces.

This committee is also contributing directly to the design of the upcoming in-person learning program.

- **Engagement**

Both committees continue to expand participation and engage members in shaping deliverables, supporting a collaborative and sector-informed approach.

Upcoming In-Person Meeting and Learning Day

CELUPL is planning a full-day, in-person meeting at North York Central Library, tentatively scheduled for May 22 or May 29, 2026.

- Morning: CELUPL business, roundtable discussions, and caucus input.
- Afternoon: A coordinated learning program led by both committees, focusing on funding sustainability, advocacy, and approaches to managing polarization. External speakers and peer learning opportunities are being explored.

Logistics, including budget, catering, and speaker coordination, are in progress.

Next Steps

- Confirm meeting date, agenda, and speakers
- Finalize advocacy paper for broader use
- Deliver a coordinated, high-impact learning session for members

CELUPL's work remains on track and continues to align with sector priorities, positioning the caucus to contribute meaningfully to system-wide advocacy and leadership across Ontario.