



**FEDERATION OF ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARIES
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

A G E N D A

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024 AT 10:00 AM

Registration opens at 9:30am on Zoom

Draft Agenda as at First Notice on March 20, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER/CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

P. Ainslie

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Doc. 1

P. Ainslie

3. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

P. Ainslie

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

P. Ainslie

Recommended Motion:

THAT the FOPL AGM Agenda of April 26, 2024, be approved as circulated and described in the Notice of AGM.

5. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS AGM MINUTES

Doc. 2

P. Ainslie

Recommended Motion:

THAT the FOPL AGM minutes of April 21, 2023, be approved as circulated.

6. FOPL CHAIR'S REPORT

Doc. 3

P. Ainslie

Recommended Motion:

THAT the 2023 report of the FOPL Chair be received as circulated.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Doc. 4

D. Stevens

Recommended Motion:

THAT the 2023 report of the FOPL Executive Director be received as circulated.

8. TREASURER’S REPORT

Doc. 5-7

W. Greco

Recommended Motion:

THAT the Treasurer’s Report be received as circulated.

Recommended Motion:

THAT the Audited Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023 be received as circulated; and

Recommended Motion:

THAT the FOPL budget for fiscal year 2024 be received as circulated.

9. CONFIRMATION OF ACTS OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

P. Ainslie

Recommended Motion:

THAT all acts, contacts, by-laws, proceedings, appointments, elections and payments, enacted, made, done and taken in good faith by the directors and officers of FOPL to the date of this meeting, as the same are set out or referred to in the resolutions to the board of directors, the minutes of the meetings of the board of directors or in the financial statements of the federation, are approved, sanctioned and confirmed.

10. REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS AND COMMITTEES

Docs. 8-13

- (a) Indigenous Library Partnerships Working Group
- (b) Marketing and Communications Advisory Working Group
- (c) Government Relations Working Group
- (d) Research and Development Working Group
- (e) French Translation Working Group
- (f) CELUPL

F. Maracle
D. Stevens
M. Singleton
S. McDonough
C. Rouse
L. Jessop

Recommended Motion:

THAT the Reports of all Working Groups and Committees be received as circulated.

11. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS TO THE BOARD FOR 2023

Deadline for Nominations was April 1, 2024 at 4:00pm.

Francophone Caucus CEO	
Francophone Caucus Trustee	
Large Urban Caucus Trustee	

Large Urban Caucus CEO	
Northern Caucus Trustee	

Recommended Motion:

THAT That the names of those appointed and elected to the FOPL board of directors by the various caucuses be received.

12.OTHER BUSINESS

A. Member Motions

Deadline for member motions was March 27, 2024 at 4:00pm.

According to FOPL Bylaw, Section 9.2, resolutions shall be prepared and submitted to the Board no later than 30 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. Resolutions, other than resolutions proposed by the Board, may not exceed 200 words in length, and shall be signed by the presiding officer and the secretary of the submitting body.

B. Emergency Motions

According to FOPL Bylaw, Section 9.2.1, Emergency resolutions shall have the same requirements as regular resolutions, respective of word length and signatories. Emergency resolutions may be presented to the Annual General Meeting where the matter provoking the resolution could not reasonably have been known by the submitting body more than 30 days prior to the Annual General Meeting, subject to the approval of the Board.

13.ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion:

THAT That the Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries be adjourned at ____ p.m.

A SHORT MEETING OF THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE AGM FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING OFFICERS.

WE, the public libraries of Ontario acknowledge that the lands now referred to as Ontario have been inhabited by many distinct Nations since time immemorial. The Original Peoples have been and continue to be the traditional custodians of this land. Ontarians, as well as Canadians, need to remember and reaffirm our accountability to these Indigenous Nations, and the lands, resources and waters which nourishes life. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work in the community, on this territory. FOPL acknowledges the lands and treaties upon which our public libraries across Ontario prosper.

Federation of Ontario Public Libraries

Meeting Date: April 21, 2023

Meeting Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Secretary: Dina Stevens, Executive Director/Secretary of the Board

Prepared By: Hannah Saunders, Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order & Confirmation of Quorum

The 2023 Annual General Meeting was called to order at 10:23 a.m. by the Chair. The meeting was delayed in order to meet quorum.

2. Land Acknowledgement

See attached Agenda Package.

3. Acknowledgement of Guests

The Board Chair extended a warm welcome to all attendees of the AGM.

4. Approval of Agenda

FOPL-Resolution-2023-AGM-01

Moved by Margie Singleton and seconded by Mary Chevreau, THAT the FOPL AGM Agenda of April 21, 2023, be approved as circulated and described in the Notice of AGM. CARRIED.

5. Approval of Previous AGM Minutes

An amendment was made to Section 7 - Executive Director's Report, approved by *Margaret McClain*.

FOPL-Resolution-2023-AGM-02

Moved by Margie Singleton and seconded by Mary Chevreau, THAT the FOPL AGM minutes of June 10, 2022, be approved as circulated including any additions or amendments. CARRIED.

6. FOPL Chair's Report

The Chair provided a summary of the distributed report. The report highlights the significant role of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL) in supporting public libraries across Ontario amidst various challenges. Despite facing obstacles, public libraries have demonstrated adaptability and resilience, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Librarians have been proactive in transitioning to virtual programming and bridging the digital divide, especially in rural and underprivileged communities. FOPL has collaborated with various organizations to

advocate for critical funding, including maintaining provincial funding levels, establishing sustainable funding for libraries on reserves, and creating an Ontario Digital Public Library for fair access to digital resources. The Chair emphasized the importance of continuous advocacy for public libraries, especially amidst budget freezes, to remind local politicians of their significance in communities. FOPL acknowledges its ongoing efforts in advocating for public libraries and pledges continued support in addressing future challenges.

FOPL-Resolution-2023-AGM-03

Moved by Wayne Greco and seconded by Stephanie Claire, THAT the 2022 report of the FOPL Chair be received as circulated. CARRIED.

7. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director provided a summary of the distributed report. The report highlights the organization's activities and achievements in 2022. FOPL focused on advocacy, government relations, and membership engagement throughout the year. Advocacy efforts were a priority, with FOPL engaging with government officials and submitting budget requests to maintain funding for public libraries, particularly emphasizing support for libraries on reserves and the creation of an Ontario Digital Public Library. FOPL participated in pre-budget consultations and received endorsements from major political parties leading up to the provincial election. Membership engagement was strengthened through bi-annual Caucus meetings and exclusive webinars covering various topics relevant to library management and advocacy. FOPL also joined The National Indigenous Knowledge and Language Alliance (NIKLA) to support First Nations communities and libraries. Looking ahead, FOPL plans to continue advocating for critical funding for public libraries, sustainable funding models for First Nations libraries, and the creation of an Ontario Digital Public Library. The report concludes with gratitude to the Ontario library community for their support and excitement for future accomplishments.

FOPL-Resolution-2023-AGM-04

Moved by Kathy Fisher and seconded by Matthew Corbett, THAT the 2022 report of the FOPL Executive Director be received as circulated. CARRIED.

8. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer provided a summary of the distributed report. The financial reports include a draft audit for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022, and the 2023 operating budget. Several financial updates are noted: the contracting of Stripe for credit card payments, completion of a digital migration project, acquisition of cell phones for the Executive Director and Administrative Assistant, contracting of website support services, and the maturation of a GIC which was moved to a high-interest savings account. Budgets for audit/accounting and Board expenses exceeded expectations due to a double audit and increased Board expenses in 2022. Some libraries declined membership while others joined FOPL in 2022. The surplus revenue for 2022 was \$35,009, with 50% allocated to internally restricted funds. Requests for proposals were sent out for auditing services for the 2023 fiscal year end, with Ouseley Hanvey Clipsham and Deep LLP proposed for appointment based on evaluations.

FOPL-Resolution-2023-AGM-05

Moved by Kelly Bernstein and seconded by Todd Kyle, THAT the Treasurer's Report be received as circulated. CARRIED.

FOPL-Resolution-2023-AGM-06

Moved by Kelly Bernstein and seconded by Todd Kyle, THAT the Audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022, be received as circulated; and

FOPL-Resolution-2023-AGM-07

Moved by Kelly Bernstein and seconded by Todd Kyle, THAT the firm with Ouseley Hanvey Clipsham and Deep LLP be appointed to conduct and audit for the next three fiscal years, starting with December 31, 2023; and

FOPL-Resolution-2023-AGM-08

Moved by Kelly Bernstein and seconded by Todd Kyle, THAT the FOPL budget for fiscal year 2023 be received as circulated. CARRIED.

9. Confirmation of Acts of Directors & Officers

FOPL-Resolution-2023-AGM-09

Moved by Chris Stephenson and seconded by Rebecca Hunt, THAT all acts, contacts, by-laws, proceedings, appointments, elections and payments, enacted, made, done and taken in good faith by the directors and officers of FOPL to the date of this meeting, as the same are set out or referred to in the resolutions to the Board of directors, the minutes of the meetings of the Board of directors or in the financial statements of the federation, are approved, sanctioned and confirmed. CARRIED.

10. Confirmation of Acts of Directors & Officers

a. Indigenous Library Partnerships Working Group

Feather Maracle, Chair of the Working Group, provided a verbal update. The Working Group convenes based on specific topics of interest. In the Fall, they organized an information session on incorporating Truth and Reconciliation practices into library spaces, which was recorded and made available on the FOPL website. The group remains dedicated to advocating for First Nations Public Libraries. Prior to COVID, there were 46 First Nations libraries, but the number has decreased to 39, emphasizing the closure of 13 Public Libraries on reserve since the pandemic began. The language in the land acknowledgement has been updated to reflect all of Ontario, as most meetings are now virtual with members joining from across the province, unlike the previous Toronto-centric focus during in-person meetings.

b. Marketing and Communications Advisory Working Group

Sabrina Saunders, Chair of the Working Group, provided an update. The 2022 Working Group encompassed both Board Members and Operational Members. Board Members

focused on enhancing communication and marketing efforts, including website improvements, providing updated infographics to member libraries, developing a communication package, and creating a primer video on public libraries. They also participated in Caucus meetings for recruitment purposes. Meanwhile, Operational Members managed FOPL's social media presence and crafted infographics. Despite facing challenges due to staff turnover, they significantly bolstered FOPL's social media impact. However, with a decrease in volunteers, the group seeks new members, particularly those with social media expertise, to ensure continued success in 2023.

c. Government Relations Working Group

Margie Singleton, Chair of the Working Group, provided an update. The Working Group discussed various topics, notably addressing the growing concern of violent incidents and disturbances in libraries across the province. Safety and security for library staff and patrons have become significant issues, with libraries resorting to hiring external security and providing additional staff training. The root of the problem lies in the lack of support for individuals with mental health or addiction issues, exacerbated by underfunded or closing social services, leading them to seek refuge in public libraries. In April 2022, the Toronto Public Library (TPL) identified an advocacy opportunity to increase investments in mental health and addiction crisis intervention services. The Government Relations Working Group endorsed TPL's advocacy priority, recommending the FOPL Board to adopt it, which was agreed upon and adopted in November 2022.

d. Research & Development Working Group

Shawn McDonough, Chair of the Working Group, provided an update. The Working Group has completed an interactive dashBoard to replace the annual data report sent to FOPL members. They plan to update the 2022 Ministry of Sport, Culture, and Tourism - Annual Survey of Public Libraries (ASPL) once the Ministry completes its annual update. The group is in discussions with the Toronto Public Library to merge data from the IMPACT survey with Ministry survey results and explore adding additional datasets from Statistics Canada. They are considering hiring support staff through grant initiatives and expanding the group's composition by two members, including adding a Co-Chair. Next steps include preparing training webinars, finalizing the group's composition, and enhancing the dashBoard capabilities. Information sessions and webinars to members in 2023 will cover topics like the ramifications of Bill C-23, asset management legislation, and artificial intelligence.

e. French Translation Working Group

Catherina Rouse, Chair of the Working Group, provided an update. In 2022, the French Translation Working Group convened three times, identifying various items for translation, which were then assigned as homework to group members. The translation of the new FOPL infographics remains outstanding.

f. CELUPL

The Executive Director provided an update. Throughout 2022, the CELUPL Group convened twice, focusing on key topics and activities. In their April meeting, Ministry staff provided updates on the Annual Survey and encouraged ongoing suggestions. Additionally, Ontario Library Service celebrated its first anniversary, while discussions in

the FOPL Caucus meeting touched on various subjects such as elections toolkit, CELA funding, and pandemic recovery efforts. Many libraries reported post-pandemic activities like hiring new staff and facility renovations. On November 4, marking CELUPL's first in-person meeting since November 2019, discussions revolved around Ministry nominations for the Ontario Public Library Service Awards and FOPL's advocacy initiatives, including the Data DashBoard introduction. Other topics included OLS collaboration with the ministry on broadband access and addressing safety and security concerns in libraries. Discussions also involved the impact of Bill 23 More Homes, Built Faster Act on Development Charges.

FOPL-Resolution-2023-AGM-10

Moved by Matthew Corbett and seconded by Rae-Lynne Aramburo, THAT the Reports of all Working Groups and Committees be received as circulated. CARRIED.

11. Nominations & Elections to the Board for 2023

The Deadline for Nominations was February 13, 2023, at 4:00pm.

First Nations Caucus CEO	Kathleen Peters [acclaimed]
Large Urban Caucus CEO	Margie Singleton [acclaimed]
Large Urban Caucus Trustee	<i>remains open</i>
Northern Caucus CEO	Rebecca Hunt [acclaimed]
Rural Caucus Trustee	<i>remains open</i>
Small Medium Caucus Trustee	<i>remains open</i>
Small Medium Caucus CEO	Matthew Corbett [elected November 2022]
Former Library Leaders Rep	David Harvie [acclaimed]
Toronto Public Library MGMT	Lisa Radha Vohra [appointed]

Members were encouraged to connect with their Board members following the appointment of the new Board, to identify potential candidates interested in filling open positions on the FOPL Board.

FOPL-Resolution-2023-AGM-11

Moved by Sarah Andrews and seconded by Todd Kyle, THAT That the names of those appointed and elected to the FOPL Board of directors by the various caucuses be received. CARRIED.

12. Other Business

a. Member Motions

Deadline for member motions was March 22, 2023, at 4:00pm.

According to FOPL Bylaw, Section 9.2, Resolutions shall be prepared and submitted to the Board no later than 30 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. Resolutions, other than resolutions proposed by the Board, may not exceed 200 words in length, and shall be signed by the presiding officer and the secretary of the submitting body.

None.

b. Emergency Motions

According to FOPL Bylaw, Section 9.2.1, Emergency resolutions shall have the same requirements as regular resolutions, respective of word length and signatories. Emergency resolutions may be presented to the Annual General Meeting where the matter provoking the resolution could not reasonably have been known by the submitting body more than 30 days prior to the Annual General Meeting, subject to the approval of the Board.

None.

13. Adjournment

FOPL-Resolution-2023-AGM-12

Moved by Paul Ainslie and seconded by Sam Coghlan, THAT That the Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries be adjourned at 10:40 a.m. CARRIED.

Paul Ainslie, Board Chair

Dina Stevens, Board Secretary



Board Chair's 2024 AGM Report

Report to: The FOPL Board and Members
Prepared by: Paul Ainslie, Chair
Prepared on: April 12, 2024

Recommendation

THAT the FOPL board and members receive the chair's report as information.

Report

Dear FOPL Members,

Dear Fellow FOPL Board Members,

It has been another remarkably busy year for the FOPL Board!

As a Board I think we have accomplished a lot this past year in meeting our mandate to be a strong advocate for public libraries across Ontario.....even as we were thrown some curve balls along the way.

We had an excellent Advocacy Day last Fall in Queen's Park in conjunction with the Ontario Library Association! It was great to see so many of our Board Members actively involved in getting our message across to M.P.P.s of all political parties about the importance of public libraries to the residents of Ontario, from one end to the other. I think except for some politicians who shall remain nameless.....our talking points were understood and well received by everyone we talked with. The only downside was taking librarians to Question Period to see the antics of our elected representatives. Actions and words which no one expects to hear on TV....and never in a public library!

Kudos to Dina for all her hard work and dedication organizing the day with the Ontario Library Association to make it so successful!

Another highlight of this past year was the OLA Super Conference which was very appropriately entitled "Get Loud"Which as we get further away from COVID and more in person events was very well attended.

Our booth was in an excellent location, receiving lots of traffic and interaction with conference attendees. Dina represented us admirably during the conference attending a number of sector



meetings, including with AMPLO and ARUPLO. She gave a packed-room presentation on behalf of the Intellectual Freedom Committee for the CFLA.

I was very honoured to receive the James Bain Medallion for Library Board Advocacy! I often joke as being high school student employed by the Scarborough Public Library my main goal was to make sure the Librarian knew I understood the Dewey Decimal System. I do not think I had ever heard of a Library Board of Directors and how important they were...especially for advocacy work!

With the imminent launch of the Provincial government's budget, it is safe to say we were anticipating seeing the fruits of our labour. I was very hopeful, especially since Dina was invited by Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport staff to sit in the Public Gallery to listen to the budget presentation and by Ministry of Finance staff to sit in the embargoed session prior to the launch! So, it was with much consternation to not see monies announced for public libraries.

Saying all of this, we were all overly excited to learn the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport will be providing additional funding for First Nations Public Libraries. An additional investment of 1.25 million per year for a total of 3.75 million over three years will be allocated through the First Nations Salary Supplement and Provincial Libraries Operating Grant. This is an increase of almost 300% of what these libraries are currently receiving.

I can not say enough good things about all the meetings, presentations, and delegations our Executive Director Dina Stevens has been leading over the past year. She has done a tremendous job in advocating across the Province of Ontario for FOPL has been making progress on so many fronts!

In conclusion I can not say enough positive words about the tremendous work being done individually and collectively by all the Board Members of FOPL. It is very satisfying to see how much we have all accomplished in the past year in advocating for our amazing public library systems. In my opinion, FOPL has grown by leaps and bounds since I first joined the Board. I am immensely proud to be the Chair of the Board of such a dynamic organization.

All my Best,

Paul Ainslie
FOPL Chair



Executive Director's 2024 AGM Report

Report to: The FOPL Board and Members
Prepared by: Dina Stevens
Prepared on: April 19, 2024

Recommendation

THAT the FOPL board and members receive this report as information.

Report

Executive Director's Report for the 2023 Fiscal Year

It is my privilege to present the Executive Director's Report for the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL) for the year 2023. As 2023 was our first full year out of the pandemic, we saw much more activity, advocacy, engagement and success than we had in my previous two years with FOPL. We were able to make real and impactful progress with this provincial government and move our provincial asks forward.

Advocacy at the beginning of 2023 kicked-off with sector consultations with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. After preliminary meetings in the fall of 2022 during the Ontario Public Library Week event in Hamilton, Minister Lumsden, new to the MTCS portfolio, was interested in getting to know library stakeholders and learning about our provincial asks. FOPL, along with several other stakeholders, were invited to provide input on modernizing support for Ontario's Public Libraries.

In addition to these lengthy consultations, January through to March saw deputations to both the Minister of Finance and the Standing Committee of Economic Affairs and Finance. For the 2023 budget season, FOPL and members from across the province gave 6 deputations in total, speaking to our provincial budget asks and highlighting the value of public libraries. Deputations culminated in a formal pre-budget submission at the end of March to the Ministry of Finance, focusing on creating an Ontario Digital Public Library (ODPL), emergent funds for the First Nations Salary Supplement, and maintaining critical provincial operating grants. Also in March, an article by the Canadian Press featured FOPL in 56 news outlets, leading to further interviews and spotlights on our activities as well as an interview from FOPL board members on The View stimulated discussions about our sector within the Ministry. This has led to a fantastic level of engagement that we have



maintained throughout the year, with an open and frequent line of communication to MTCS policy advisors and staff.

The spring and summer are predominately dedicated to municipal stakeholder outreach and education. FOPL attends several municipal conferences throughout the year with the majority happening between May and August. I was able to attend the AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario), AMCTO (Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario), FONOM (Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities) and ROMA (Rural Ontario Municipal Association) Conferences in 2023. Each conference has several hundred if not thousands of delegates attend and with a booth in the tradeshow, we are able to have conversations with municipal councilors, CAOs, mayors, clerks and treasurers from around the province. Conversations with delegates ranged from positive to neutral with many asking questions about library boards and the nuances of the Public Libraries Act. Many were curious about the overall trends and issues libraries in Ontario are seeing as of late and were generally supportive of our two main campaigns, “The Value of Public Libraries” and “Keeping Public Libraries Independent”. We had very valuable discussions about our Government Relations priorities and the impact the ODPL would have on their communities. This is a noticeable shift from the atmosphere last year when many delegates avoided our booth and were wary in speaking to us. The AMO Conference in August was a hugely positive experience and saw the same upward trend from when we attended last year. There were over 3000 delegates that attended this year and we spoke to everyone from local councilors and mayors to ministers and Marit Stiles. All were supportive of public libraries, our government relations priorities and wanted to know more about how they could support their own local public libraries. We heard from many who were facing challenging library board situations that are typical of the first year a board comes together. We heard repeatedly that their “library is so much more than books!” which really paved the way for conversations about enhancing PLOG funding and the Ontario Digital Public Library.

We also worked throughout the summer to reframe our government relations priorities and strategize our way ahead of the 2024 Ministry of Finance budget submission. We have refocused on asking for an additional \$25 million for the Public Libraries Operating Grant which would bring the current envelope of \$21 million up to today’s value. Feedback from the Ministry of Tourism Culture and Sport regarding earlier consultations from March had been positive and they showed keen interest in the idea of an Ontario Digital Public Library. We leveraged this interest and went forward into the next legislative session to embark on a determined advocacy campaign.



During the 2023 Ontario Public Library Week event, we were able to have a lengthy meeting with Minister Lumsden to talk about our provincial asks and what these would mean for public libraries across the province. The Minister was very interested in hearing about our libraries and what his ministry could do to support this important piece of social infrastructure. Minister Lumsden was well briefed on our provincial asks and came prepared with some insightful questions, paying particular interest in the Ontario Digital Public Library. With this new momentum, FOPL amped up our advocacy efforts into the fall legislative session. We began to aggressively pursue advocating for the ODPL, First Nations Salary Supplement increase and an increase in the Public Libraries Operating Grant (PLOG). FOPL and OLA engaged in a two-day advocacy event at Queen's Park where members met with a variety of stakeholders from all parties includes ministers, MPPs, and MTCS staff. We had a very impactful presence and overall, the advocacy effort was very positive and moved the needle over in the right direction. We had a very positive response from all NDP members that we met with, including Marit Stiles. Most were supportive but a few expressed their interest in taking supportive action, which is what we're looking for. During this advocacy event Minister Lumsden made it clear that we need to specifically get support from PC Caucus members. With out next steps clearly outlined, we quickly began an aggressive PC Caucus outreach campaign. We identified 70 PC MPPs that we didn't previously meet with during the advocacy days at Queen's Park and reached out to library CEOs local to those MPPs. We were able to meet with 32 MPPs in total, most of which said they would support our priorities. At the same time, through December and January of 2024, we starting applying for deputations to the Standing Committee of Economic Affairs and Finance and coordinated library CEOs to make local deputations as well. We were able to secure 11 deputations and one presentation to the Minister of Finance, an outstanding level of engagement.

After a very successful fall and winter, we were able to secure funding for two different grant streams! This is an incredible accomplishment that could not have been done without the collective efforts of all who were involved. In mid-February of this year, Minister Lumsden announced a \$122,000 increase to the existing Internet Connectivity Grant! This new investment of funds will enable up to 155 of Ontario's more rural, northern and First Nations Public Libraries to be fully reimbursed for their connectivity costs under the Internet Connectivity Grant. This increase will provide the funding certainty these libraries need to maintain a crucial broadband lifeline for their communities. This exciting announcement was only the precursor of more to come. An additional investment of 1.25 million per year for a total of 3.75 million over three years will be allocated through the First Nations Salary Supplement and Provincial Libraries Operating Grant, an increase of almost 300% of what these libraries are currently receiving. While we do not have the details of this commitment as of yet, the MTCS has said that we can share this fantastic news with our



members and a formal, public news release will be forthcoming. I want to congratulate our board and members for your hard work in achieving this goal! Thank you for all the meetings, emails, phone calls, follow-ups, deputations, and presentations you have made to your MPPs and other stakeholders. The province has heard our provincial budget requests and delivered on our request to increase funding for First Nations Public Libraries by an additional (almost) 2 million annually.

I'm excited to continue our advocacy efforts and leverage this momentum into the 2024 fall advocacy season. We have made significant progress in our advocacy efforts, building relationships with government stakeholders, and engaging in strategic partnerships. Thank you to the Ontario library community and our members for your ongoing support of FOPL. Our efforts have a very real impact on creating a sustainable future for our public libraries. I am excited to see what we can accomplish next.

Kind Regards,

Dina Stevens, MLIS
Executive Director

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Treasurer's Report

Report To: 2024 FOPL Annual General Meeting
Prepared by: Dina Stevens on behalf of Wayne Greco
Prepared on: March 21, 2024

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the FOPL Members and Board receive this report as information.
2. That the Audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023 be received as circulated.

REPORTS

Financial Reports attached:

- Draft Audit for the December 31, 2023 fiscal year end
- 2024 Operating Budget

FINANCIAL UPDATES

1. Slightly more than 104k of reserve funds is currently in a high interest savings account. The account accrues \$3500 in interest annually. These funds are set aside for large projects and advocacy initiatives and will be allocated in-part in 2024 to support FOPL's new strategic plan and upcoming initiatives.
2. Membership fees were increased in 2023 after nearly 12 years. This resulted in \$46k more revenue than 2022, however, due to inflation, rising costs, and increased commitments, this resulted in only \$35.5k of net income, only 2k more from 2022.
3. There was a slight dip in revenue (\$6k) from what was projected in 2023 when members were initially invoiced. This is due to the natural ebb and flow of gaining and losing members.
4. Libraries new to membership in 2023: Hearst Public Library, Deseronto Public Library, and Lambton County Public Library.
5. Libraries that declined membership in 2023: Gananoque Public Library, Val-Rita Harty Public Library, Belleville Public Library, West Lincoln Public Library and Clarington Public Library.



6. Many budget lines have been both overspent and underspent. This was FOPL's first full year out of lockdown and returning to normal advocacy activities. The most significantly overspent budget line is Marketing and Promotions which encompasses several municipal conferences which are difficult to predict as cost depends on location, hotel bookings, etc. Most significantly underspent is Programs and Projects which encompasses our government relations firm fees. These are currently underspent due to a delay in billing.
7. In 2023 the board motioned that FOPL would retain three distinct accounts held in the name of FOPL: General Fund/ Operational Chequing account, Internal Restricted high interest savings account, and an Investment Savings Account which is used as credit card security; and that 50% of end of year surplus revenues would be transferred from the General Fund to the Internal Restricted annually unless directed by resolution otherwise.
8. Due to resignations on the board, authorized signatories were adjusted and now include: Paul Ainslie, FOPL Chair, Wayne Greco, FOPL Treasurer and Incoming Vice-Chair, and Margie Singleton, Interim Vice-Chair and Past Chair.

**FEDERATION OF ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARIES/
FÉDÉRATION DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES PUBLIQUES DE L'ONTARIO**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members,
FEDERATION OF ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of FEDERATION OF ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARIES ("the Entity"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023, and the statements of changes in net assets, operations and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at December 31, 2023, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other matter

The financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2022 were audited by another auditor who expressed an unqualified on those financial statements on March 17, 2023.

Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity, or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

OHCI LLP

OUSELEY HANVEY CLIPSHAM DEEP LLP

Licensed Public Accountants

Ottawa, Ontario

April 15, 2024

**FEDERATION OF ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARIES /
FÉDÉRATION DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES PUBLIQUES DE
L'ONTARIO**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2023

	2023	2022
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash (note 2)	\$ 63,226	\$ 34,114
Cash - internally restricted - internal (note 1)	104,717	83,683
Accounts receivable	2,086	125
Prepaid expenses	9,246	1,402
	\$ 179,275	\$ 119,324
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 38,895	\$ 16,669
Deferred revenue	150	150
	39,045	16,819
Net assets		
Internally restricted reserve (note 1)	104,716	83,682
Unrestricted	35,514	18,823
	140,230	102,505
	\$ 179,275	\$ 119,324

Approved on behalf of the Board

Approved on behalf of the Board

**FEDERATION OF ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARIES/
FEDERATION OF ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	2023		2022	
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED RESERVE				
Balance - beginning of year	\$	83,682	\$	-
Transfer from unrestricted assets		21,034		83,682
Balance - end of year	\$	104,716	\$	83,682
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS				
Balance - beginning of year	\$	18,823	\$	67,496
Net revenue (expenditure) for the year		37,725		35,009
Transfer to internally restricted		(21,034)		(83,682)
Balance - end of year	\$	35,514	\$	18,823

**FEDERATION OF ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARIES /
FÉDÉRATION DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES PUBLIQUES DE L'ONTARIO**

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Budget 2023 (unaudited)	2023	2022
REVENUE			
Membership fees	\$ 285,025	279,775	233,400
Interest	-	3,913	2,168
Other income	-	662	1,169
	285,025	284,350	236,737
EXPENDITURE			
Office consultants and staff	139,400	144,175	115,978
Public relations and contract services	37,400	37,100	34,190
Marketing and promotion	17,750	22,129	16,177
Audit and accounting	6,800	6,271	13,736
Board expenses	12,200	10,591	8,525
Administration	6,700	8,316	-
Membership	3,400	3,753	3,566
Telecommunications	200	5,814	4,030
Office equipment and supplies	3,500	2,810	3,133
Working groups	-	3,288	-
Insurance	1,700	1,906	1,688
Bank charges and interest	7,115	472	705
	236,165	246,625	201,728
NET REVENUE (EXPENDITURE)			
FOR THE YEAR	\$ 48,860	\$ 37,725	\$ 35,009

**FEDERATION OF ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARIES /
FÉDÉRATION DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES PUBLIQUES DE L'ONTARIO**

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	2023	2022
CASH PROVIDED BY (USED FOR)		
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net revenue (expenditure) for the year	\$ 37,725	\$ 35,009
Changes in non-cash working capital items:		
Accounts receivable	(1,961)	(125)
Prepaid expenses	(7,844)	786
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	22,226	(12,699)
Deferred revenue	-	(110,235)
	50,146	(87,264)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Change in investments	-	92,697
CHANGE IN CASH FOR THE YEAR	50,146	5,433
Cash beginning of the year	117,797	112,364
CASH END OF YEAR	\$ 167,943	\$ 117,797

FEDERATION OF ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARIES / FÉDÉRATION DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES PUBLIQUES DE L'ONTARIO

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023

The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries / Fédération des Bibliothèques Publiques de l'Ontario is incorporated without share capital under the laws of the Province of Ontario and qualifies as a nonprofit public libraries and the communities they serve by educating the public on the role of public libraries to governments and other public and private sector bodies. As a registered not for profit, the Federation is not subject to income tax.

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and include the following significant accounting policies:

a) Revenue recognition

The Federation follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received and/or receivable, if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Membership fees are recognized as earned over the term of the membership. Membership terms are on a calendar year-basis. Memberships paid in advance of the next fiscal year are recorded as deferred revenue.

b) Internally restricted net assets

As reflected in the statement of changes in net assets, the Federation has internally restricted the use of net assets. This fund is invested in a high interest savings account for use at the Board discretion.

c) Financial instruments

Financial instruments, including cash, investments, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities are recorded at fair value on initial recognition and then subsequently at cost or amortized cost, unless management has elected to carry them at fair value. The Federation has not elected to carry any of its financial instruments at fair value.

Transaction costs incurred on the acquisition of financial instruments measured subsequently at fair value are expensed as incurred. All other financial instruments are adjusted by transaction costs incurred or acquisition and financing costs.

Financial assets are assessed for indicators of impairment annually at the year/period end date. If there is an indicator of impairment, the Federation determines if there is a significant adverse change in the expected amount or timing of future cash flows from the financial asset. If there is a significant adverse change in the expected cash flows, the carrying value of the financial asset is reduced to the highest of the present value of the expected cash flows, the amount that could be realized by selling the financial asset or the amount the Federation expects to realize by exercising its right to any collateral held to secure repayment of the asset. If events or circumstances change in a future period, an impairment loss can be reversed to the extent of the improvement, but not exceeding the initial carrying value.

FEDERATION OF ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARIES / FÉDÉRATION DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES PUBLIQUES DE L'ONTARIO

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

d) Use of estimates

The preparation of these financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

e) Tangible capital assets

The Federation's policy is to expense tangible capital assets in the year acquired.

2. BANK CREDIT FACILITY

The Federation has \$10,000 deposited as security against the Federation credit card facility.

3. TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

During the year, the organization purchased \$2,095 of tangible capital assets.

4. RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Interest rate risk

Cash represents amounts on deposit with financial institutions, earning interest at market rates. The Federation manages its exposure to its interest rate risk by maximizing the interest income earned on temporary excess funds while maintaining the minimum liquidity necessary to conduct operations on a day-to-day basis. Fluctuations in market rates of interest do not have a significant impact on the Federation's results of operations.

Credit risk

Credit risk arises from the possibility that a member will default on its financial obligations. The Federation minimizes this risk via regular review of unpaid accounts. The Federation does not have a significant concentration of credit risk with any one member.

Credit risk associated with cash is minimized substantially by ensuring that it is held in a major financial institution, while excess funds are invested in secure instruments such as guaranteed investment certificates.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Federation will not be able to meet a demand for cash or fund its obligations as they come due. It also includes the risk of the Federation not being able to liquidate assets in a timely manner at a reasonable price. The Federation meets its liquidity requirements by preparing and monitoring an annual financial budget and maintaining its excess cash in investments that are highly liquid instruments.

Federation of Ontario Public Libraries 2024 Budget Proposal

Strat Plan Legend

AI - Advocacy and Influence

MVI - Marketing PL Value and Impact

	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	Comments
REVENUE				
Revenue				
Sponsorships	0.00	500.00	0.00	
Gifts & Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Membership Fees	285,025.00	279,775.00	280,000.00	Based on member renewals from 2023
Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Sale of Material	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Other Revenues	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Special Peer Comparisons Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Library Training & Dev Fees	0.00	162.03	0.00	Small income from webinars
Interest Income	0.00	3,912.53	3,200.00	High Interest Savings Account Revenue
Misc.	0.00	0.01	0.00	
Total Revenue	285,025.00	284,349.57	283,200.00	
TOTAL REVENUE	285,025.00	284,349.57	283,200.00	

EXPENSE

Payroll Expenses				
Part-Time Permanent Salaries	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Contract & Temporary Staff	0.00	0.00	0.00	
EI Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	
CPP Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Payroll Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Office Consultants				
Executive Director	107,000.00	114,869.14	113,366.00	Raise in hourly rate as per contract. Includes HST.
Administrative Assistant	23,400.00	21,370.24	23,400.00	
Marketing & Social Media	9,000.00	7,935.58	9,000.00	
Total Office Consultants	139,400.00	144,174.96	145,766.00	

Administrative Expenses				
Admin Meeting	200.00	0.00	200.00	
Admin Travel	4,500.00	6,056.29	6,500.00	Includes travel for PLA 2024, all municipal conferences and OLA, misc meeting travel
Admin Professional Development	2,000.00	2,260.00	2,260.00	Did not account for HST in previous year.
Total Administrative Expenses	6,700.00	8,316.29	8,960.00	

Board Expenses				
Board Travel	9,000.00	8,887.89	6,000.00	
Board Meeting	3,000.00	1,516.05	2,000.00	
Board Professional Development	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Board Recruitment	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Annual General Meeting	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Legal	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Board Appreciation	200.00	187.32	500.00	
Total Board Expenses	12,200.00	10,591.26	8,500.00	

Committee Work				
CELUPL	500.00	0.00	500.00	
Working Groups	0.00	138.85		
Total Committee Work	500.00	138.85	500.00	

Operational Expenses				
General Office Supplies	500.00	17.86	500.00	
Postage & Courier	500.00	294.00	500.00	
Photocopying Supplies	150.00	55.91	150.00	
Printing	150.00	209.43	500.00	
Telephone	2,000.00	1507.55	2,000.00	Two cell phones
Telecommunication	200.00	0.00	200.00	Zoom subscription
Insurance	1,700.00	1,906.42	2,000.00	
FOPL Memberships	3,400.00	3,753.15	3,700.00	NIKLA, CFLA, Ontario Nonprofit Network, Ontario Library Association
Subscriptions	0.00	0.00		
Total Operational Expenses	8,600.00	7,744.32	9,550.00	

Furniture & Equipment				
Furniture	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Equipment	0.00	2,094.28	0.00	
Information Technology Hardware	2,000.00	1,129.99	1,000.00	Standing budget for repairs or replacements
Information Technology Software	1,500.00	3,176.22	1,700.00	Sage, Hootsuite, Canva
Total Furniture & Equipment	3,500.00	6,400.49	1,700.00	

Finance				
Bank Charges & Interest	600.00	322.17	600.00	
Credit Card Charges	115.00	150.00	100.00	
Audit	6,800.00	8,902.50	8,200.00	New auditor fee increase
Services & Consultants	0.00	-771.58		
Total Finance	7,515.00	8,603.09	8,900.00	

Marketing & Promotion				
Conferences & Exhibitions	12,000.00	21,443.67	20,000.00	Enhanced OLA booth, ROMA, AMO, FONOM, AMCTO, PLA 2024
Advertising & Promotions	250.00	7,031.86	250.00	
Special Events	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Publications & Printing	500.00	145.50	500.00	
Presentation Supplies	500.00	626.54	500.00	
Indigenous Language Translation	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	Standing budget
French Language Translation	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	Standing budget
Website	500.00	725.59	750.00	Annual domain and server costs
Total Marketing & Promotion	17,750.00	29,973.16	26,000.00	

Programs & Projects				
Contract Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Research & Development	600.00	282.50	600.00	
Statistician Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Library Member Training	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Working Groups	5,000.00	3,287.95	5,000.00	Standing budget
Legal Opinions	0.00	0.00		
Public Relations Services	46,000.00	27,784.92	50,000.00	Slight increase in annual fee from CPA, lobby days Queens park
Total Programs & Projects	51,600.00	31,355.37	55,600.00	

Miscellaneous Expense				
UNKOWN EXPENSE	0.00	0.00		
Write-off	0.00	0.00		
Total Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	

TOTAL EXPENSE	247,765.00	247,297.79	255,876.00
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NET INCOME	37,260.00	37,051.78	27,324.00
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TD - Training and Development
OR - Organizational Resilience

Connection to Strategic Plan

OR 1. Seek alternate sources of funding to ensure fiscal stability.
OR 1. Seek alternate sources of funding to ensure fiscal stability.

See Conferences and Exhibitions

OR 5. Overcome challenges of diversity and geography.
OR 5. Overcome challenges of diversity and geography.
MVI 2. Inspire and mobilize the library community. MVI 5. Pursue partnerships beyond traditional library partners such as AMO, school boards, vendors and media.

TD 2. Share expertise at professional conferences and events such as OLA Super Conference and Marketing Think Tank. AI 1. Build relationships with provincial elected officials and civil service to influence government policy and practices. AI 3. Support members' libraries efforts in municipal government advocacy. AI 5. Remain agile to enable timely response to emerging issues and opportunities. MVI 1. Be recognized as the trusted voice of Ontario Public Libraries.
AI 4. Support First Nations libraries with national and provincial advocacy.
OR 2. Grow and retain membership through increased member engagement.

MVI 3. Develop and provide research to inform marketing initiatives.
OR 4. Increase involvement and contribution of FOPL Working Groups.
AI 2. Collaborate with other library associations, organizations, and agencies to lobby for public libraries in provincial political arena such as Library Day at Queen’s Park.

Government Relations Working Group Report

Report To: The FOPL Board
Report Name: Government Relations Working Group Report
Prepared by: Margie Singleton

Working Group Sonia Bebbington, Ottawa PL
Vickery Bowles, Toronto PL
Michael Ciccone, London PL
Jodie Delgado, Springwater PL
Christine Row, Mississippi Mills PL
Stephanie Clare, Georgian Bay PL
Margie Singleton, Vaughan PL (working group Chair)
Dina Stevens, FOPL Staff Resource

Meeting Dates February 10, 2023
April 28, 2023
June 16, 2023
September 14, 2023

Recommendation

THAT the FOPL Board receive this report as information.

Background

The Government Relations Working Group has been a standing committee of FOPL for many years. Since reauthorizing Working Groups in the Fall 2021, this committee has met numerous times and expanded the membership to include a wider representation from FOPL member libraries.

Discussion of Needs, Issues and Work Completed

Various recommendations were discussed and referred to the FOPL Board for approval including:

1. That the FOPL Board work with CULC Safety and Security Task Group to pursue joint initiatives to support Ontario Public Libraries in their quest to deliver safe and secure spaces.
2. That the FOPL Board support by submission of a letter, the Canadian Urban Libraries Council/Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic/Canadian Association of Research Libraries/ Canadian Federation of Library Associations request for changes to the Consumer Protection Act identifying public libraries as consumers and additional sector specific legislation proposals to ensure library protection against unfair digital contracts that target publicly

supported libraries and ensuring public libraries have sustained reasonably priced access to ebooks and eaudiobooks for their customers.

3. That the FOPL Board ensure the FOPL priority of increased Public Library Operating Grant (PLOG) funding be integrated into all future provincial government advocacy initiatives.

A request from an individual citizen for FOPL to oppose Simcoe County Council's request to amend the Public Library Act was denied.

The Government Relations working Group did not support a proposal that FOPL embark upon an advocacy campaign focusing on public libraries as inclusive for all marginalized groups. Rather the Group preferred an advocacy campaign focusing on public libraries are for everyone and support intellectual freedom.

Members of the Government Relations Working Group enthusiastically participated November 14 and 15, 2023 at *Library Days at Queens Park* meeting with numerous MPPs and staff and attended the preceding advocacy training with Counsel Public Affairs consultants. The clear message of FOPL's three priorities for increased First Nations Public Libraries' funding, creation of the Ontario Digital Public Library (ODPL) and increased operating funding for public libraries was confidently delivered by all Working Group members participating.

The Government Relations Working Group Terms of Reference were edited several times however have not yet been forward to the FOPL Board for approval.

The leadership of this Working Group changed and April 28, 2023 and Margie Singleton was appointed as Chair.

Working Group Report

Report To: The FOPL Board
Report Name: Research and Development Working Group Report
Prepared by Shaun McDonough, Sarah Roberts

Working Group: Alicia Kilgour, Niagara Falls Public Library
Megan Legg, Innisfil idealAB & Library
Rahul Sabu Joseph, Brampton Library
Rosemary Minnella, West Perth Public Library
Shaun McDonough, Richmond Hill Public Library
Sarah Roberts, Vaughan Public Libraries
Dina Stevens, FOPL Staff Resource

Location: Via MS Teams

Recommendation

THAT the FOPL Board receive this report as information.
THAT the FOPL Board accepts the updated Terms of Reference for this working group.

Purpose

Purpose The Research and Development working group has a mandate to:

- (1) Identify and coordinate training opportunities for FOPL Members such as seminars, workshops, symposia, and webinars
- (2) collaborate in creation of FOPL Trustee training tools
- (3) increase awareness of professional development grant and subsidy opportunities
- (4) create content for the FOPL website relevant to ongoing advocacy initiatives

The Research and Development Working Group continues to meet on a quarterly basis, with additional working meetings held as needed. The members have engaged in discussions around the implications of Artificial Intelligence on the public library, and are currently researching different perspectives on this

Activities 2023

- Brooke McLean, Monika Machacek, have stepped down from the Working Group after having served as a member of the work group since 2021.
- Sarah Roberts joined the Working Group in January of 2023 and will serve as the co-chair with Shaun McDonough. Rosemary Minnella, West Perth Public Library joined in April 2023.

- The Working group launched the data dashboard using 2021 MTCS data in December of 2022. Shaun McDonough presented on the topic at OLA Super Conference in February 2023.
- Shaun McDonough and Sarah Roberts represented the committee at Digital Odyssey with a presentation on the implications of AI for Public Libraries.
- The group commissioned technology communicator Avery Swartz to lead a webinar on October 19, 2023, on the topic of AI in public libraries.
- The Working Group also continues to monitor the implications of Asset Management Legislation & Consolidated Financial Management for libraries and is in the process of organizing a webinar on this topic for this coming fall.

Next Steps

- ***Review & finalize 2024 Workplan.***
- ***Upgrade data dashboard with 2023 ministry data***
- ***Identify areas of interest for professional development in 2024***

Working Group Report

Report To: FOPL Board and Members, Annual General Meeting
Report Name: French Translation Working Group – AGM 2023 Report
Prepared by: Catherina Rouse – WG Chair

French Translation Working Group:

Catherina Rouse	Clarence-Rockland Public Library
Gwen Boyd	Ontario Library Service
France Séguin	Township of Russell Public Library

Location: Virtually

Recommendation

THAT the French Translation Working Group Report be received as information.

Purpose

FOPL endeavors to provide equitable access to all its services, documents, and research. As such, the French Translation WG provides translations for items identified and requested by our members on an ad hoc basis.

Activities of the Working Group 2023

The French Translation Working Group met once in 2023.

Work was done outside of the meetings such as the translation of the Truth and Reconciliation document by Catherina and Hannah (FOPL Admin). A meeting was scheduled in February but was cancelled due to change in membership. During the September 11 meeting a discussion was had about reaching out to the marketing group to complete the French infographics that were translate by this working group in 2022, and it was agreed that the pre-budget submission will eventually need to be translated once the final version is available.

Next Meeting date:

Month April 9, 2024 (virtual)

Federation of Ontario Public Libraries

CELUPL's Report to the AGM: 2023 Activities

April 10, 2024

The CELUPL Group met twice in 2023. Key topics and activities from the meetings are noted below:

April 14, 2023

- Ministry staff provided an update on the Annual Survey and asked for a CELUPL volunteer for the Library Service Award review committee
- CELUPL asked for and received clarity from the Ministry regarding public library participation in municipal asset management
- D. Stevens provided an overview of FOPL strategic priorities and advocacy for 2023. Discussion focused largely on advocacy for the Ontario Digital Public Library
- A review of the Terms of Reference was conducted; however, more work may need to be done to bring the CELUPL Terms of Reference in line with other FOPL working groups
- Provided feedback on the FOPL 2024 budgetary request
- Assisted in finding a new representative for the Accreditation Council

October 20, 2023

- A portion of this meeting was devoted to Large Urban Caucus; led by CELUPL/FOPL Board representative M. Chevreau
- Discussion centred around the Budget Priorities ((increase to PLOG; funding for Ontario Digital Public Library [ODPL], immediate and sustainable funding for First Nations Public Libraries)
- CELUPL had a discussion about intellectual freedom, with a focus on the challenges libraries are facing particularly around Drag Storytimes. The following motion was passed:
 - *CELUPL requests that FOPL initiate an investigation to explore potential partnerships and the hiring of a public relations agency to help develop a strategy to support libraries with matters of Intellectual Freedom, including costs and timeline.*
 - Further follow up/discussion on this item is required

2024 Meeting dates:

April 19, 2024 (virtual)

The Chief Executives of the Large Urban Public Libraries that comprise the CELUPL Working Group are committed to serve as a strong voice on behalf of the Federation and look forward to continued collaboration and alignment this year and beyond.

This report is circulated on behalf of the current CELUPL Executive:

Lauren Jessop	Barrie Public Library	Chair
Lita Barrie	Burlington Public Library	Vice-Chair
Rae-Lynne Aramburo	Brantford Public Library	Secretary