

## Federation of Ontario Public Libraries

Meeting Date: December 1, 2023

Meeting Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Virtual via Zoom

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

In Attendance: **First Nations Caucus:** Kathleen Copegog

**Francophone Caucus:** Catherina Moskau

**Large Urban Caucus:** Wayne Greco, Alicia Subnaik-Kilgour, Margie Singleton

**Small & Medium Caucus:** Matthew Corbett, Jodie Delgado

**Northern Caucus:** Rebecca Hunt, Sue Melcher

**Rural Caucus:** Susan McGibbon

**Toronto Caucus:** Paul Ainslie

**Former Library Leaders:** David Harvie

Regrets: Jennifer LaChappelle, Feather Maracle, Nadine Williams

Absent: Vickery Bowles, Mary Chevreau, Alim Remtulla, Anne Smith, Lisa Radha Vohra

FOPL Team: Dina Stevens, Executive Director  
Hannah Hunter, Administrative Assistant

Prepared By: Hannah Hunter, Administrative Assistant

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### 1. Call to Order & Roll Call

The Board meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by the Chair.

### 2. Land Acknowledgement

### 3. Regrets

As noted above.

### 4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

None.

### 5. Approval of the Minutes – September 8, 2023

The approval of the Minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

## 6. Approval of Agenda

### FOPL-Resolution 2023-047

Moved by Wayne Greco and seconded by Margie Singleton, THAT this Board approve as circulated, the FOPL Board Agenda of December 1, 2023. CARRIED.

## IN-CAMERA SESSION

### FOPL-Resolution 2023-048

Moved by David Harvie and seconded by Matthew Corbett, THAT this Board go into Closed Session at 10:12 a.m. CARRIED.

*[Dina Stevens and Hannah Hunter left the meeting]*

## 7. Personal Matter – Performance Review

A summary of the Executive Director's performance review content was shared with the Board by interim Vice Chair Margie Singleton.

### FOPL-Resolution 2023-049

Moved by David Harvey and seconded by Catherina Moskau, THAT this Board receive for information the verbal report of highlights of the performance review of the Executive Director for 2023. CARRIED.

### FOPL-Resolution 2023-050

Moved by Paul Ainsley and seconded by Jodie Delgado, THAT this Board return to Open Session at 10:30 a.m. CARRIED.

*[Dina Stevens and Hannah Hunter return to the meeting]*

## EXIT IN-CAMERA SESSION

### FOPL-Resolution 2023-051

Moved by Matthew Corbett and seconded by Catherina Moskau, THAT this Board accept the resolutions made in closed session. CARRIED.

## 8. Treasurer's Report

### a. Draft 2024 Budget

The Treasurer provided a summary of the distributed report.

#### **FOPL-Resolution 2023-052**

Moved by Wayne Greco and seconded by David Harvie, THAT this Board receive this report as information for the period ending October 31, 2023; and THAT this Board approve as circulated the proposed Budget for 2024. CARRIED.

### **9. Executive Director's Report**

#### **a. Annual Work Plan**

The Executive Director provided a summary of the distributed report. During the busy fall season, FOPL made significant progress in advancing its government relations priorities and advocacy goals. The Executive Director attended the Ontario Public Library Week event with Minister Lumsden, followed by a productive meeting where they discussed the Ontario Digital Public Library (ODPL) and hardware-related concerns for smaller libraries. FOPL also met with Ministry staff to brief them on ODPL and their advocacy efforts. A major highlight was the Library Days at Queen's Park, where FOPL has a positive response from NDP members and garnered support from PC Party champions. FOPL continued pursuing meetings with other PC members, attended question period, and sent follow-up packages to all MPPs. FOPL held caucus meetings to brief members on their government relations strategy and are preparing for municipal conferences and the OLA Super Conference, where they will present a session on intellectual freedom. Additionally, FOPL is gearing up for winter advocacy efforts, including deputations to committees and preparing for the Ministry of Finance Pre-Budget submission.

#### **FOPL-Resolution 2023-053**

Moved by Jodie Delgado and seconded by Susan McGibbon, THAT this Board receive the Executive Director's Report as information. CARRIED.

### **10. Working Group Reports**

#### **a. Research & Development Working Group**

The Executive Director provided a verbal update. The team is currently engaged in several initiatives. First, there was a debrief on the AI webinar with Avery Swartz, which drew an impressive attendance of over 100 participants. The next Info Series webinar is scheduled for December 14th, focusing on Asset Management, and all Board members are encouraged to attend. Additionally, the Executive Director is actively pursuing two grant applications from Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs for administrative support for Data Dashboard and other technical projects. The Chair is also in communication with an organization called "Data For Good," which provides free consultations for non-profits. Lastly, the team is working on a report highlighting the significance of libraries in communities across Ontario for municipal conferences.

#### **FOPL-Resolution 2023-054**

Moved by David Harvie and seconded by Sue Melcher, THAT this Board receive the Research & Development Working Group update as information. CARRIED.

**b. Government Relations Working Group**

Margie Singleton, Chair of the Working Group, provided a summary of the distributed report. The Executive Director wrote a letter of support regarding adding libraries as consumers to the Consumer's Protection Act. The Working Group was invited to participate in Queens Park, all members attended and supported the initiative.

**FOPL-Resolution 2023-055**

Moved by Margie Singleton and seconded by Jodie Delgado, THAT this Board receive the Government Relations Working Group Report as information. CARRIED.

**c. French Translation Working Group**

Catherina Moskau, Chair of the Working Group, provided a summary of the distributed report. This year, the Working Group has experienced a relatively light workload. The Working Group has reached a consensus to translate the Government Relations document.

**FOPL-Resolution 2023-056**

Moved by Catherina Moskau and seconded by David Harvie, THAT this Board receive the French Translation Working Group Report as information. CARRIED.

**d. Strategic Planning Project Team**

The Executive Director provided a verbal update. The group is yet to convene; their upcoming meeting is scheduled for next week, during which they will discuss their priorities and outline the next steps for the strategic plan. They will also be reviewing the survey responses, which have already amassed over 120 submissions.

**FOPL-Resolution 2023-057**

Moved by Rebecca Hunt and seconded by Alicia Subnaik-Kilgour, THAT this Board receive the Strategic Planning Project Team Report as information. CARRIED.

**11. Deferred Business**

**a. ONCA Compliant Bylaws**

The Executive Director provided a verbal update. The Executive Director took part in a webinar hosted by ONCA regarding updating organization by-laws to meet compliancy; however, our existing by-laws were already in compliance. In December, a workshop will be held, inviting members to bring their own by-laws for review and discussion.

**FOPL-Resolution 2023-058**

Moved by Margie Singleton and seconded by Susan McGibbon, THAT this Board receive the ONCA Compliant Bylaws update as information. CARRIED.

**b. CELUPL Terms of Reference**

No update to report.

**c. Intellectual Freedom Statement / Adoption**

Deferred to next meeting.

## 12. New Business

### a. Drag Queen Story Time Talking Points

The Executive Director provided a summary of the distributed report. The Executive Director will verify if CELUPL has submitted a motion. There was discussion on FOPL creating a database of talking points for staff concerning the response to Drag Queen Story Time. FOPL could assume a leadership role in assembling a unified provincial response to address comments and inquiries, this would be provided to members. The Executive Director will explore potential partnerships and existing documents with collaborating organizations.

#### FOPL-Resolution 2023-059

Moved by Margie Singleton and seconded by Jodie Delgado, THAT this Board accept the discussion on Drag Queen Story Time Talking Points as information. CARRIED.

### b. Expense Claim Increase – Daily Meal Allotment

The Executive Director provided a summary of the distributed report.

#### FOPL-Resolution 2023-060

Moved by Wayne Greco and seconded by Margie Singleton, THAT this Board approve an increase to the allotted daily maximum for meals to \$100, amending the Finance Policy. CARRIED.

### c. Library Days at Queen's Park Debrief

The Executive Director provided a summary of the distributed report. FOPL and OLA conducted two in-person lobbying days involving Board and members to raise awareness and advocate for government relations priorities related to public libraries. Preparation included virtual training, comprehensive meeting toolkits, briefing materials, and coordination efforts. Thank-you emails were sent to those they met with, and "Library Days Packages" were emailed to PC Caucus members. Meetings with PC Caucus members are ongoing, and chance encounters with MPPs at Queen's Park have been leveraged.

#### FOPL-Resolution 2023-061

Moved by Catherina Moskau and seconded by Sue Melcher, THAT this Board receive the report on Library Day's at Queen's Park as information. CARRIED.

### d. Chair & Vice Chair Succession

The Chair and Executive Director provided a verbal update. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for April 2024, and there is a need to address vacancies on the Board. Specifically, there is a need for a Francophone Trustee and a Large Urban Trustee. It is essential to spread the word that FOPL has openings on its Board. Board members whose terms are expiring are encouraged to contact the Executive Director via email if they wish to continue serving on the Board. Formal notice will be sent to members, and elections for these positions will take place during the AGM. The upcoming Executive succession plan is as follows: Paul Ainslie will serve another term as

Chair, Wayne Greco will transition to Vice Chair, and Matthew Corbett will take on the responsibilities of Treasurer.

**FOPL-Resolution 2023-062**

Moved by David Harvie and seconded by Catherina Moskau, THAT this Board receive the Chair & Vice Chair Succession discussion as information. CARRIED.

**e. Schedule of 2024 Meetings**

OLA's dinner meeting has been scheduled for January 24<sup>th</sup>, with the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting transitioning to a virtual format due to scheduling constraints. Additionally, FOPL is asking Board members to please note in their calendar that 2024 lobbying dates may fall on November 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>, as well as November 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>.

**FOPL-Resolution 2023-063**

Moved by Rebecca Hunt and seconded by Susan McGibbon, THAT this Board accept the upcoming Board meeting dates as amended. CARRIED.

**f. Temiskaming Shores Letter of Support**

Rebecca Hunt provided a verbal update. In May, Temiskaming Shores Public Library presented its annual report to their Council, during which a council representative inquired about the funding breakdown for the library between Council and the Province. It was revealed that the government's funding model had remained unchanged for many years. In response, the Library's Board initiated the creation of a resolution, which was subsequently approved by the City Council. This resolution was shared with FONOM and other associations. Notably, this development occurred concurrently with FOPL's advocacy efforts, although it was not intentional. The situation is particularly significant in Northern Ontario, where numerous libraries are facing financial strain, with municipalities reducing their funding and only being supported on the PLOG.

**FOPL-Resolution 2023-064**

Moved by Rebecca Hunt and seconded by David Harvie, THAT this Board receive the Temiskaming Shores Letter of Support as information. CARRIED.

**13. Next Meeting**

- OLA Super Conference – January 24, 2024 (in the evening, time TBD, dinner provided)

**14. Adjournment**

The Board meeting was called to adjourn by the Chair at 12:12 p.m.

**FOPL-Resolution 2023-065**

Moved by Matthew Corbett and seconded by Catherina Moskau, THAT this Board does now adjourn. CARRIED.

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Paul Ainslie, Board Chair

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Dina Stevens, Board Secretary