

FEDERATION OF ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARIES
Q3 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2024 - 10:00 AM
SPRINGWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY – ELMVALE BRANCH
[JOIN VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM](#)

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

DOC 1

3. REGRETS

4. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 17, 2024 BOARD MEETING

DOC 2

THAT this Board approve as circulated the minutes of the FOPL Board Meeting of May 17, 2024.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

THAT this Board approve as circulated the FOPL Board Agenda for September 20, 2024.

PROPOSED MOTION TO MOVE IN CAMERA.

IN-CAMERA SESSION

EXIT IN-CAMERA SESSION

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

C. MOSKAU

DOC 3

THAT this Board receive this report as information for the period ending August 31, 2023.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

D. STEVENS

DOC 4

THAT this Board receive the Executive Director's report as information.

9. WORKING GROUPS AND COMMITTEES – REPORTS AND UPDATES

a. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

D. STEVENS

DOC 5

THAT this Board receive the Research and Development Working Group's report as information.

b. STRATEGIC PLANNING PROJECT TEAM

PLANNING TEAM

i. DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN	D. STEVENS	DOC 6
c. FRENCH TRANSLATION WORKING GROUP	C. MOSKAU	DOC 7
d. INDIGENOUS LIBRARIES PARTNERSHIP WORKING GROUP	F. MARACLE	DOC 8
10. DEFERRED BUSINESS		
a. CELUPL TERMS OF REFERENCE	LARGE URBAN CAUCUS REPS	
b. INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM STATEMENT / ADOPTION	L. RADHA	DOC 9
11. NEW BUSINESS		
a. FALL/ WINTER ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN	D. STEVENS	DOC 10
b. MUNICIPAL ENGAGEMENT – CONFERENCES	D. STEVENS	DOC 11
c. SMALL / MEDIUM CAUCUS ELECTION	D. STEVENS	DOC 12
d. PREPARATION FOR ATTENDING TEA AND CHATS	K. COPEGOG	
e. 2025 SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS	D. STEVENS	DOC 13
f. FOUR SEASONS OF RECONCILIATION	D. STEVENS	
12. NEXT MEETING:		
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2024		
10:00AM		
VIRTUAL ONLY		
13. ADJOURNMENT		

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: May 17, 2024

Meeting Time: 10:00a.m.

Location: Hybrid – Ansley Grover Library, Virtual via Zoom

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

In Attendance: **First Nations Caucus:** Feather Maracle

Francophone Caucus: Catherina Moskau

Large Urban Caucus: Wayne Greco, Margie Singleton, Sarah Vaisler

Small & Medium Caucus: Jodie Delgado, Anne Smith

Northern Caucus: Rebecca Hunt

Rural Caucus: Susan McGibbon, Jennifer LaChappelle

Toronto Caucus: Paul Ainslie, Lisa Radha Vohra, Jonathan Hoss

Former Library Leaders: None

Guests: Devan Sommerville, Council Public Affairs

Regrets: David Harvie, Kathleen Copegog, Alicia Subnaik-Kilgour, Kathy Fisher, Matthew Corbett, Sue Melcher, Vickery Bowles,

Absent: Nadine Williams

FOPL Team: Dina Stevens, Executive Director

Prepared By: Diana Chiavaroli, Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

The Q1 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 of the January 24, 2024 Board Meeting

Amendments to incorrect dates and regrets were made.

Moved by Jodie Delgado and seconded by Margie Singleton, THAT this Board approves the minutes of the January 24, 2024 board meeting, as amended. CARRIED.

6. Approval of the Minutes of the April 15, 2024 Audit Approval Board Meeting

Amendments to dates made.

Moved by Sarah Vaisler and seconded by Catherina Moskau, THAT this Board approves the minutes of the April 15, 2024 Audit Approval Board Meeting, as amended. CARRIED.

7. Approval of the minutes of the April 26, 2024 post AGM board meeting

Moved by Jonathan Hoss and seconded by Catherina Moskau, THAT this Board approves the minutes of the April 26, 2024 Post AGM Board Meeting. CARRIED.

8. Approval of the Agenda.

Moved by Jonathan Hoss and seconded by Lisa Radha Vohra, THAT this Board approve as circulated, the FOPL Board Agenda of January 24, 2024. CARRIED.

Motion to move to In-Camera Session

Moved by Wayne Greco, seconded by Sarah Vaisler THAT this Board go into Closed Session at 10:13 a.m. CARRIED.

In- Camera Session

The board discussed the current provincial priorities and was provided guidance by council public affairs for the fall 2024 legislative session. The board also discussed a personnel matter.

Exit In- Camera Session

[Devan Sommerville left the meeting]

Moved by Anne Smith, seconded by Sarah Vaisler, THAT the Board approve the adopted 2024-2025 provincial priorities and receive the administrative report as information. CARRIED

9. Treasurer's Report - Deferred

10. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director has provided a summary of the report, highlighting a few key points.

Moved by Margie Singleton and seconded by Jonathan Hoss, THAT this Board receive the Executive Director's Report as information. CARRIED.

11. Working Group and Committees – Reports and Updates

a. Research and Development Working Group

The Executive Director provided a summary of the distributed report.

Margie Singleton requested that the feedback to the Ministry of Tourism regarding the Annual Survey of Public Libraries be brought to the board for approval prior to being delivered to the ministry.

The Executive Director noted that the conversion of the Data Dashboard from Google Analytics to Power BI will come at a minor cost that is within Working Group's budget. This means it will be owned by FOPL.

Moved by Margie Singleton and seconded by Susan McGibbon, THAT this Board receive the Research and Development Working Group's report as information, and that a draft on the feedback to the Ministry of Tourism be sent to the board before submission. CARRIED.

[Paul Ainslie left the meeting]

Wayne Greco assumed duties as Chair

b. Strategic Planning Project Team

i. Draft Strategic Plan

The Draft Strategic Plan was summarized by the Executive Director.

Lisa Radha Vohra requested 'Ontario Public libraries support, defend, and advocate for intellectual freedom' statement be included within the Strategic Plan. This was discussed and decided that the statement be included within the Vision portion of the Strategic Plan. Sarah noted that this should be integrated into multiple sections. The Draft of the Strategic Plan will be revised and presented to the board again at the September board meeting. The timeline of the Strategic Plan will also be reviewed and revised.

Moved by Jodie Delgado and seconded by Sarah Vaisler THAT the Draft Strategic Plan be received by the Board. CARRIED.

12. Deferred Business

a. CELUPL Terms of Reference

Deferred to next meeting.

b. Intellectual Freedom Statement / Adoption

Deferred to next meeting.

13. New Business

a. Spring Caucus Meetings Feedback

The Executive Director summarized the spring Caucus meetings and feedback. Attendance rates being lower than desired was noted. Wayne Greco suggested a survey to gather feedback on meeting attendance.

Moved by Susan McGibbon and seconded by Jonathan Hoss THAT the Board receive the Spring Caucus Meetings Feedback as information. CARRIED

c. Proposed resolution of support for library CEO

Margie Singleton noted that previous requests of FOPL to support individuals were not executed as it was not within the purview of FOPL, and this request should be treated similarly. Jodie Delgado noted she is not in support of the motion. The Executive Director noted Vickery Bowles sent in a vote electronically recommending the board not support the motion.

The Executive Director noted that the reason for the suggestion of a deferral of this item was due to David Harvie not being in attendance at this meeting, and this motion was put forward by him.

Wayne Greco noted there is nothing in the by-laws to support this action.

Moved by David Harvie and seconded by Margie Singleton THAT the Board support the Niagara -On-The-Lake CEO. No one spoke for or against. All were opposed to the motion. Motion is LOST.

d. Administrative assistant position

Moved by Sarah Vaisler and seconded by Jennifer LaChapelle THAT the Board approve the proposed increase in annual budget for the position of Administrative Assistant. CARRIED.

e. Trademark renewal

Moved by Lisa Radha Vohra and seconded by Jonathan Hoss THAT the Board receive the Trademark Renewal documents as information. CARRIED.

14. Next Meeting

Friday, September 20th, 2024

10:00AM

Hybrid – Springwater Public Library – Elmvale Branch. 50 Queen St. W. Elmvale.

15. Adjournment

The Board meeting was called to adjourn by the Chair at 12:52.

Paul Ainslie, Board Chair

Dina Stevens, Board Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Report To: The FOPL Board
Prepared by: Dina Stevens and Diana Chiavaroli on behalf of Catherina Moskau
Prepared on: September 10, 2024

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the FOPL Board receive this report as information for the period ending August 31, 2024.

BACKGROUND

This report covers the period January 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024 to present finances to date within the current fiscal year. This reflects an unaudited representation of FOPL finances.

REPORT

Financial Reports (attached):

- Comparative Income Statement, now known as "Budget vs. Actuals": Provides FOPL's operating revenue and expenditures from January 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024.
- Balance Sheet: Provides information on FOPL's full financial situation as of August 31, 2024 including accounts and investments.

Revenue to Note:

- \$261,025 in paid memberships

Expenditures to Note:

- \$999 Websites Valley
- \$7966.50 Audit

Total Assets at a glance, as of August 31, 2024:

- Total Cash (chequing account): \$ 118,213.91
 - Total Savings: \$ 125,671.21
 - Visa Holding Investment Account: \$ 10,002.13
 - Total Receivable: \$ 20,102.89
-

FINANCIAL UPDATES

1. In 2024, we invoiced \$280,400 in membership fees. We have onboarded three new members; Oxford County, Clarington Public Library, and Tudor and Cashel Public Library (invoiced in September 2024, not reflected in above income).
2. Members lost in 2024: Grimsby Public Library, Welland Public Library, Quinte West Public Library, County of Simcoe Co-Op. Despite this loss in membership, our new members balance the amount in lost revenue and we continue to come close to our budgeted revenue. However, this is about \$3500 less than the amount we invoiced last year.
3. Current Accounts Receivable is \$20,102, meaning this amount is currently in unpaid memberships. This is much higher than usual at this time of year but can possibly be attributed to a change in administration on our end. Diana is currently following up with all unpaid members.
4. Bookkeeping software was migrated from Sage to QuickBooks. This switch will allow us to easily attach invoices and receipts to the transaction themselves, cutting down on administrative time bookkeeping and filing, the subscription itself is less expensive and will reduce audit fees during our annual audits since all the information is stored on QuickBooks itself.

Federation of Ontario Public Libraries

Balance Sheet

As of August 31, 2024

	TOTAL
Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalent	
1010 Scotia Chequing Account	118,213.91
1011 Cash Investment Account Scotia	10,000.53
1020 Scotia Savings Account	126,038.11
Total Cash and Cash Equivalent	\$254,252.55
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	
Accounts Receivable	20,102.89
Total Accounts Receivable (A/R)	\$20,102.89
1040 Payroll Clearing	0.00
1110 Investments	0.00
1201 Accounts Receivable Adjustments	0.00
1210 Interest Receivable	0.00
1320 Prepaid Expenses - 1	1,401.92
Total Current Assets	\$275,757.36
Total Assets	\$275,757.36
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable (A/P)	
Accounts Payable	179.67
Total Accounts Payable (A/P)	\$179.67
Credit Card	
2021 Visa 9458	7,146.61
Total Credit Card	\$7,146.61
2011 Accounts Payable Adjustments	0.00
2015 Accrued Liabilities	6,999.74
2110 EI Payable	0.00
2120 CPP Payable	0.00
2130 Federal Income Tax Payable	0.00
2140 Federal Tax 2016 Adjustment	0.00
2210 Vacation Payable	0.00
2320 GST Paid on Purchases	0.00
2610 Deferred Revenue	150.00
Total Current Liabilities	\$14,476.02
Total Liabilities	\$14,476.02
Equity	
Opening Balance	4,088.06
Retained Earnings	144,754.72
Profit for the year	112,438.56
Total Equity	\$261,281.34
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$275,757.36

Federation of Ontario Public Libraries

Budget vs. Actuals:
January - December 2024

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Income				
4000 Revenue				
4010 Sponsorships		0.00	0.00	
4015 Gifts & Donations	450.00	0.00	450.00	
4020 Membership Fees	279,227.50	280,000.00	-772.50	99.72 %
4030 Grants		0.00	0.00	
4040 Sale of Material		0.00	0.00	
4050 Other Revenues	3,920.19	0.00	3,920.19	
4051 Special Peer Comparisons Fees	225.00	0.00	225.00	
4061 Library Training & Development Fees		0.00	0.00	
4070 Interest Income	2,659.76	3,200.00	-540.24	83.12 %
Total 4000 Revenue	286,482.45	283,200.00	3,282.45	101.16 %
Discounts	-50.85		-50.85	
Total Income	\$286,431.60	\$283,200.00	\$3,231.60	101.14 %
GROSS PROFIT	\$286,431.60	\$283,200.00	\$3,231.60	101.14 %
Expenses				
5050 Office Consultants				
5055 Executive Director	75,905.77	113,366.00	-37,460.23	66.96 %
5060 Administrative Assistant	13,476.00	23,400.00	-9,924.00	57.59 %
5065 Marketing & Social Media	4,300.00	9,000.00	-4,700.00	47.78 %
Total 5050 Office Consultants	93,681.77	145,766.00	-52,084.23	64.27 %
5100 Administrative Expenses				
5110 Admin Meeting		200.00	-200.00	
5115 Admin Travel	13,872.65	6,500.00	7,372.65	213.43 %
5120 Admin Professional Development	2,260.00	2,260.00	0.00	100.00 %
Total 5100 Administrative Expenses	16,132.65	8,960.00	7,172.65	180.05 %
5155 Board Expenses				
5160 Board Travel	2,660.33	6,000.00	-3,339.67	44.34 %
5165 Board Meeting	3,008.63	2,000.00	1,008.63	150.43 %
5170 Board Professional Development		0.00	0.00	
5175 Board Recruitment		0.00	0.00	
5180 Annual General Meeting	33.99	0.00	33.99	
5185 Legal	1,629.80	0.00	1,629.80	
5190 Board Appreciation		500.00	-500.00	
Total 5155 Board Expenses	7,332.75	8,500.00	-1,167.25	86.27 %
5200 Committee Work				
5205 CELUPL		500.00	-500.00	
5210 Working Groups		0.00	0.00	
Total 5200 Committee Work		500.00	-500.00	
5250 Operational Expenses				
5255 General Office Supplies	42.64	500.00	-457.36	8.53 %
5260 Postage & Courier	1,009.88	500.00	509.88	201.98 %
5265 Photocopying Supplies		150.00	-150.00	
5270 Printing	1,937.01	500.00	1,437.01	387.40 %
5275 Telephone	1,977.72	2,000.00	-22.28	98.89 %
5280 Telecommunication		200.00	-200.00	

Federation of Ontario Public Libraries

Budget vs. Actuals:
January - December 2024

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
5285 Insurance (DS)	1,927.80	2,000.00	-72.20	96.39 %
5290 FOPL Memberships	500.00	3,700.00	-3,200.00	13.51 %
5295 Subscriptions		0.00	0.00	
Total 5250 Operational Expenses	7,395.05	9,550.00	-2,154.95	77.44 %
5300 Furniture and Equipment				
5310 Furniture		0.00	0.00	
5315 Equipment	342.34	0.00	342.34	
5320 Information Technology Hardware		1,000.00	-1,000.00	
5325 Information Technology Software	1,538.81	1,700.00	-161.19	90.52 %
Total 5300 Furniture and Equipment	1,881.15	2,700.00	-818.85	69.67 %
5500 Finance				
5510 Bank Charges & Interest	540.75	600.00	-59.25	90.13 %
5515 Credit Card Charges	150.00	100.00	50.00	150.00 %
5520 Audit	7,966.50	8,200.00	-233.50	97.15 %
Total 5500 Finance	8,657.25	8,900.00	-242.75	97.27 %
5600 Marketing and Promotions				
5525 Services & Consultants	734.51	0.00	734.51	
5610 Conferences & Exhibitions	10,249.93	20,000.00	-9,750.07	51.25 %
5615 Advertising & Promotions		250.00	-250.00	
5620 Special Events	29.84	0.00	29.84	
5625 Publications & Printing	19.00	500.00	-481.00	3.80 %
5635 Presentation Supplies	714.16	500.00	214.16	142.83 %
5640 Indigenous Language Translation		3,000.00	-3,000.00	
5641 French Language Translation		1,000.00	-1,000.00	
5645 Website	1,421.46	750.00	671.46	189.53 %
Total 5600 Marketing and Promotions	13,168.90	26,000.00	-12,831.10	50.65 %
5700 Programs and Projects				
5710 Contract Services		0.00	0.00	
5715 Research & Development	282.50	600.00	-317.50	47.08 %
5720 Statistician Fees		0.00	0.00	
5725 Library Member Training		0.00	0.00	
5730 Working Groups - 1		5,000.00	-5,000.00	
5735 Legal Opinions		0.00	0.00	
5740 Public Relations Services	35,338.30	50,000.00	-14,661.70	70.68 %
5990 Write-off		0.00	0.00	
Total 5700 Programs and Projects	35,620.80	55,600.00	-19,979.20	64.07 %
5950 UNKNOWN EXPENSE	303.83	0.00	303.83	
Total Expenses	\$184,174.15	\$266,476.00	\$ -82,301.85	69.11 %
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$102,257.45	\$16,724.00	\$85,533.45	611.44 %
Other Expenses				
5000 Payroll Expenses				
5010 Part-Time Permanent Salaries		0.00	0.00	
5020 Contract & Temporary Staff		0.00	0.00	
5025 EI Expense		0.00	0.00	
5030 CPP Expense		0.00	0.00	

Federation of Ontario Public Libraries

Budget vs. Actuals:

January - December 2024

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Total 5000 Payroll Expenses		0.00	0.00	
Total Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
NET OTHER INCOME	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
NET INCOME	\$102,257.45	\$16,724.00	\$85,533.45	611.44 %

Executive Director's Report

Report to: The FOPL Board
Prepared by: Dina Stevens, Executive Director
Prepared on: September 12, 2024

Recommendation

THAT the FOPL board receive this report as information.

Report

I am pleased to provide an update on our recent activities and initiatives as we continue to advance our strategic objectives and strengthen our advocacy efforts.

Strategic Planning and Action

- **Non-Member Campaign:** We have initiated a campaign to engage non-members by distributing a flyer that highlights the benefits of FOPL membership and our recent successes. We plan to follow up with these non-members in October and November to encourage new memberships.
- **Library Closure Data Investigation:** We are currently analyzing data on libraries that have closed since 2019, including those no longer reporting on the Annual Survey of Public Libraries. This information will be crucial in discussions with Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) to advocate for library support. We have engaged OLS and our Research and Development Working Group to assist.

Board Support and Member Participation

- **Board Member Resignation:** Matthew Corbett has resigned from his position as the Small/Medium Caucus CEO representative. His resignation follows his decision not to return to his position at Bradford Public Library. We thank Matthew for all of his contributions to the board and wish him the best of luck in the future.
- **New Treasurer:** We are pleased to announce that Catherina Moskau has agreed to serve as our new Treasurer. She will join the executive committee and will be added to our signing authority and banking as per our finance policy. Catherina will be formally elected at our next AGM.

- **Small/Medium Caucus Election:** Following Matthew Corbett's resignation, we held an election for his replacement. Heather Ratz (Brighton), Jennifer Murley (Blue Mountains), and Beverly King (Halton Hills) were candidates. After a two-week voting period with 25 members participating, Beverly King was elected and will join us at our next board meeting. Welcome Beverly!

3. Government Relations and Advocacy

- **Cabinet Shuffle:** The recent cabinet shuffle has resulted in significant changes: Minister Stan Cho now oversees Tourism, Culture, and Gaming while Minister Lumsden remains the Minister of Sport. Todd Smith was briefly made the Minister of Education however, he resigned shortly thereafter. Jill Dunlop is now the new Minister of Education. We have reached out to both Ministers to congratulate them and request meetings. The cabinet shuffle also resulted in significant changes in ministerial staff for Tourism, Culture and Gaming; every person within this ministry has turned over and can be attributed to the delay in Minister Cho accepting our requests for a meeting. We are also pursuing meetings with Creed Atkinson, Chief of Staff and Rebecca, Director of Stakeholder Relations.
- **Fall/Winter Advocacy:** We are preparing to request meetings with PC Caucus MPPs to revisit support for the Ontario Digital Public Libraries (ODPL) before they return to Queen's Park for budgetary discussions. Emails have been sent to all previously engaged library CEOs, and those in new positions with PC Caucus MPPs, to once again reach out and remind them of our requests for the ODPL and PLOG increase. New priority and ODPL documents have been created and distributed to members.
- **Info Session:** We are hosting an information session on September 10th, 2024, for library CEOs to discuss our advocacy strategy and updated priorities as we approach the fall legislative session.
- **Conferences:** This year, I attended the FONOM, ROMA, AMCTO, and AMO Conferences, focusing on educating and engaging our municipal stakeholders. We focused on our strategic priorities and a new campaign called "Libraries are for Everyone". I was also fortunate to be invited to the First Nations Spring Gathering, a conference hosted by the Ontario Library Service. This was a gathering of First Nations Librarians and staff from all over the province and was an excellent opportunity for learning, growth and meeting some great FOPL members.
- **First Nations Funding Clarification and Announcement:** We have received details on the breakdown of the new funding for First Nations public libraries. An announcement was initially anticipated at Wahta Mohawks FNPL but has yet to be confirmed. The planned event to announce increased funding



for First Nations public libraries has been indefinitely postponed. However, a recent conversation with MTCS staff has led us to believe an event might be on the horizon for early October. Until then, information about the funding is considered confidential.

Marketing and Communications

- **Highlighting Ontario Libraries:** Mark has launched a spotlight series on Instagram and other social media platforms, showcasing the unique features of various library branches. Check out our Instagram for more information.
- **Monthly Blogging and Social Media:** Our regular blogging and social media updates continue to engage and inform our audience.

Research and Development

- **Power BI Dashboard:** The Research and Development Working Group has transitioned our data dashboard from Google software to Microsoft's Power BI. Administrative work has been completed, and the migration to Power BI will proceed over the coming months.

First Nations Public Library Partnerships

- **Partnership Initiatives:** The group recently discussed strategies to foster partnerships between municipal libraries and the First Nations libraries they sponsor. Efforts are focused on creating a letter to introduce these municipal libraries to the corresponding First Nations libraries to strengthen ongoing support.

Administration

- **Onboarding New Staff:** Diana Chiavaroli was hired as our new Administrative Assistant at the end of June. We have been working together throughout the summer to get her up to speed. We are addressing several administrative needs, including AGM minutes, meeting preparation, membership maintenance, and backlog management. Welcome Diana!
- **Bookkeeping Software Transition:** We are transitioning from Sage to QuickBooks for our bookkeeping needs. This change means better ease of use, less administrative time, and leaning audits going forward.



- **Accounting Support:** Based on the recommendations of the auditor, an accountant has been retained to support financial accountability.

I look forward to discussing these updates in further detail at our upcoming board meeting.

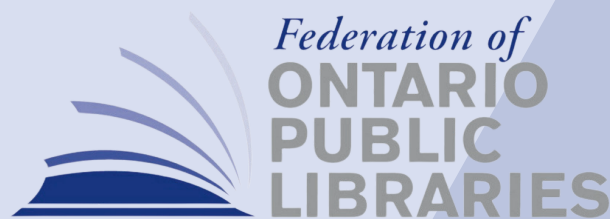
Kind Regards,

Dina Stevens, MLIS
Executive Director

Federation of Ontario Public Libraries
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Join FOPL Today!

FOPL represents Ontario's over 310 public library systems. Of these, 280 are already members. Become a member and join the FOPL community!



Visit our website to learn more! <https://fopl.ca/>

Why Join?

Purchasing a membership is primarily a contribution to the collective goal of furthering the interests of Public Libraries across Ontario. These contributions are important to ensure that we can continue to advocate for our Government Relations priorities. Speaking with one voice has improved the governments awareness of our sector's issues and strengthens the legitimacy of our claims.

Our Mandate



Advocacy

As ONE VOICE, FOPL ensures issues facing public libraries are presented in a consistent manner benefiting all public libraries across Ontario.



Marketing

FOPL promotes the services provided by public libraries in Ontario, highlighting the economic and social value public libraries contribute to the development of our communities.



Research and Development

FOPL engages in research that provides insight into issues facing public libraries. This reliable data can be used by public libraries as a base for strategic and operational planning, and to support advocacy efforts and marketing.

Member Benefits

Communications

- Updates on library issues and lobbying progress

Member Service

- Access to Members-Only resources
- Advocacy, training and research on the website
- Free training sessions and seminars
- Flow-through services for grants such as Trillium
- Consultation on local advocacy and library related issues

Annual Reports

- Access to the FOPL Data Report through the FOPL data dashboard

Representation

- Caucus representatives on the FOPL board
- Bi-annual Caucus Meetings
- Impactful Working Groups
- Voting rights at the annual FOPL AGM

Memberships

- Membership to the Canadian Federation of Library Associations

Contact Us



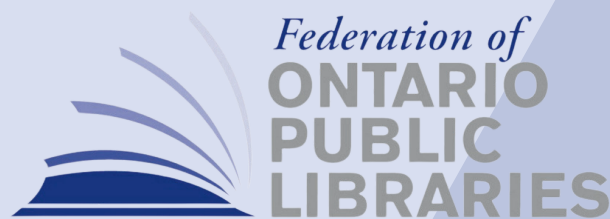
1-647-376-3048



admin@fopl.ca

How FOPL is Working for You

Join FOPL today and experience the benefits of belonging to a community dedicated to your success



Visit our website to learn more! <https://fopl.ca/>

Recent Achievements

FOPL thanks everyone for their advocacy efforts, which collectively allowed the following achievements in 2024

Increased Internet Connectivity Grant

- February 6, 2024: Minister Lumsden announces \$122,000 increase to Internet Connectivity Grant
- New funds will fully reimburse up to 155 rural, northern, and First Nations libraries in Ontario
- Goal: maintain crucial broadband services for these communities
- Positive first step, with hopes for more improvements
- Discussions with the Minister are ongoing

Increased Funding for First Nations Public Libraries

- April 12, 2024: Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport to provide additional \$1.25 million per year for First Nations Public Libraries, totaling \$3.75 million over three years
- Increase of nearly 300% from current funding
- Achieved through extensive advocacy, including meetings with 22 Ministers and MPPs, 32 follow-ups, 11 deputations, and 1 presentation to the Minister of Finance

Highlights

Data Dashboard

- FOPL analyzes annual public library data to showcase community benefits.
- Data allows precise measurement of services, revealing regional needs like job creation or digital literacy.
- The report aims to improve support based on community needs

Info Series

- Webinars, free to members, focused on furthering advocacy
 - Service Ontario Partnership
 - Asset Management
 - Understanding AI
 - Furthering Truth and Reconciliation
 - Advocating for Development Charges
 - Building Partnerships with First Nation Public Libraries

Truth and Reconciliation Plan

- The FOPL Truth and Reconciliation Plan considers the 94 Calls to Action from a library service lens, and provides recommendations to our Member Libraries.

Contact Us

1-647-376-3048

admin@fopl.ca

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

A. Recommendation

THAT the FOPL Board receive this report as information.

B. Background

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

C. Activities 2024

- Megan Legg, Innisfil ideaLAB & Library has stepped down from the Working Group.



ONE VOICE FOR ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARIES

- The Working group is developing an updated dashboard with 2023 Annual Survey of Public Libraries Data. The group has identified key ratios and metrics to highlight in the dashboard.
- The Working group is exploring cross promotion opportunities and join analysis of data with the Bridge Survey Platform with Toronto Public Library's Library Impact Ontario.

D. Next Steps

- Next Working Group meeting in Q4

Strategic Plan 2024 – 2026

Vision: One Voice for Ontario's Public Libraries

The purpose of FOPL is to strategically support and advocate for Ontario Public Libraries so that libraries can support the communities they serve. To strengthen and improve the provision of public library service, FOPL acts cooperatively with other organizations to market public libraries' value and collaboratively, coordinate opportunities to build people capacity within Ontario's public libraries. A resilient federation will support our own research and build a sustainable public library sector founded in the principles of intellectual freedom and truth and reconciliation.

Commented [DS1]: Language was added to include a commitment to Truth and Reconciliation and Intellectual Freedom

Strategic Objectives and Initiatives 2024-2026

Advocacy & Influence

Positively influence legislation and government initiatives impacting Ontario Public Libraries, especially surrounding the global pandemic and its impact periods.

1. Build relationships with provincially elected officials and staff to influence government policy and practices.
2. Inspire and mobilize the library community by working together to achieve our collective provincial goals.
3. 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.
4. Support members' libraries efforts in municipal government advocacy.
5. Engage in proactive advocacy that includes educating and reaching out to municipal stakeholders to promote the value of public libraries.
6. Support First Nations libraries with national and provincial advocacy.
7. Remain agile to enable timely response to emerging issues and opportunities.

Commented [DS2]: Do we still want to include the pandemic here? Many are still feeling the pandemic echo and municipalities are still in pandemic recovery.

Act as a conduit for government to supply information to Public Libraries.

Strategic Initiatives:

- Participate in the education of new boards and new councils across the province.
- Partner with OLA (and involve other Ontario associations) to speak with a united voice and provide trusted resources to the library community.
- Work with our professional government relations counsel and utilize our working groups for direction and feedback.

Marketing Public Library Value & Impact

Coordinate and assist in the implementation of strategic marketing for Ontario Public Libraries.

1. Increase member engagement by being recognized as the trusted voice for Ontario's public libraries.
2. Develop and provide research to inform marketing initiatives that also provides valuable resources for members.
3. Develop province-wide social media marketing campaign tools that promotes the value of public libraries.
4. Pursue partnerships beyond traditional library partners to bring opportunities to members and broaden the scope of public libraries.
5. Collaborate with other provincial organizations such as OLBA and OLS to create consistent promotional messaging for use by Public Libraries.
6. Communicate the unique role that FOPL plays in the library community and the value we bring to the sector.

Strategic Initiatives:

- Attending municipal conferences to promote the value impact of Ontario's Public Libraries on their local communities.
- Provide the Data Dashboard to member libraries so they may better market their own successes and impacts.
- Produce social media that will market FOPL as well as be in a format that member libraries can easily edit for local impact.
- Perform a communications review which includes website redevelopment that strengthens member engagement and adds value to membership.
- Rebrand the look and feel of FOPL to reflect strategic changes in operations and advocacy.
- **Develop and publicise statements about Intellectual Freedom and Truth and Reconciliation.**

Training & Development

Provide Ontario's Public Libraries with professional training and development.

Coordinate training opportunities such as seminars, workshops, symposia, and webinars.

1. Collaborate in creation of library board trustee training tools.
2. Increase board engagement through education and communication.
3. Share expertise at professional conferences and events across the province.
4. Provide information sessions for members on topics related to advocacy and advancing libraries.

5. Build consensus in the Ontario Public Library community.
6. Increase awareness of grant and subsidy opportunities.
7. Provide collaboration and learning opportunities for libraries on Truth and Reconciliation and Intellectual Freedom.

Strategic Initiatives:

- Continue to offer influence, support and training to our members.
- Offer annual information sessions and specific advocacy training opportunities.
- Partner with OLS and OLA on public library and board training sessions and materials.
- Initiate a board engagement campaign to reach out directly to public library boards.
- work with Centre for Intellectual Freedom to support libraries with Intellectual Freedom challenges
- work with the Ontario Library Association and Canadian Federation of Library Associations on Truth and Reconciliation

Organizational Resilience

Increase organizational resiliency.

1. Seek alternate sources of funding to ensure fiscal stability.
2. Actively engage members in working groups and advocacy campaigns.
3. More effectively and more frequently communicate with individual members and FOPL caucuses.
4. Increase involvement and contribution of FOPL Working Groups.
5. Overcome challenges of diversity and geography.
6. Develop a succession plan for Executive Director and Administrative Assistant.

Strategic Initiatives:

- Promote MLS/LT Student Access to FOPL resources.
- Promote the Former Library Leader Caucus.
- Continue to offer hybrid board meetings as well as virtual Caucus and Annual General Meetings so all members can participate regardless of geographic location.
- Build diverse membership in our board and working groups who will achieve objectives and initiatives of the strategic plan.

- Engage in a non-member campaign.
- Participation on National Intellectual Freedom and Truth and Reconciliation leadership

Working Group Report

Report To: The FOPL Board
Report Name: Translation Working Group
Prepared by: Catherina Rouse, Working Group Chair
Working Group: Gwen Boyd, Ontario Library Service (OLS)
France Séguin, Township of Russell Public Library
Isabelle Camiré, Township of Russell Public Library
Catherina Rouse, Clarence Rockland Public Library
Dina Stevens, ED Ex-Officio
Meeting Date(s): April 9, 2024
Location: Via Zoom

Recommendation

1. THAT the FOPL Board receive this report as information.

Background

FOPL endeavors to provide equitable access to all its services, documents, and research. As such, a need was identified to provide a translation service for items identified and requested by our members on an ad hoc basis.

Activities of the Working Group

As we have been waiting a long time for volunteers to take our translated versions of the FOPL Truth & Reconciliation report and infographics and put them in the correct format for use, it was decided that we would use some of the translation budget to have them completed as soon as possible.

Next Steps

It was agreed that the French Translation Working Group will translate the new FOPL Strategic Plan once complete.

Statement of Intellectual Freedom

The FOPL Board adopts the [Ontario Library Association's \(OLA\) Statement on Intellectual Freedom and the Intellectual Rights of the Individual](#) (January 30, 2020) and the [Canadian Federation of Library Associations \(CFLA\) Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries](#) (April 12, 2019); American Library Association's (ALA) [Statement on Censorship of Information Addressing Racial Injustice, Black American History, and Diversity Education](#) (August 18, 2021).

- 1.1. Further to these statements, FOPL and our member libraries are democratic institutions, and no individual or minority group should be allowed to limit the community's intellectual freedom. Democracy cannot flourish unless material and services representing all viewpoints are freely available. The FOPL believes that while a library may limit materials and services based policies, they should always strive to preserve and promote universal access to materials and services.

It is the responsibility of the Board to advocate for:

- 1.2. Ontario library users to have the fundamental right to have access to all expressions of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity, and to express their thoughts publicly;
- 1.3. Access to all expressions of knowledge and intellectual activity, including those which some elements of society may consider to be unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable.

Intellectual Freedom does not protect actions, statements or activities which are outside the limits prescribed by law.

The Board directs the ED to ensure that the principles of Intellectual Freedom are integrated into all organizational policies, procedures and practices and review this Statement with each new Strategic Plan.

Approved by the FOPL Board XXX

Supporting Ontario's Public Libraries to Empower Local Economic Growth

OLA & FOPL Advocacy Priorities July 2024

Public libraries are critical to communities across Ontario and essential to thriving local economies and economic growth.

- Public libraries are Ontario's farthest-reaching, most cost-effective public resource. They are engines of innovation, entrepreneurship, and local economic development in communities of all sizes.
- Millions of Ontarians rely on local public libraries in their communities: to work, to learn, to connect to community and government services, and to find or train for a job.
- Despite this, many individuals and families across the province are unable to access the local public library resources they need.
- In urban centres, rural and Northern communities alike, public library budgets are overstretched – and the situation is getting worse.
- The combined impact of the pandemic, the pressure of inflation on public library and municipal budgets, and growing social and economic challenges in communities across the province have brought public libraries to a critical point.

Building on Ontario's Investment in Public Libraries

Over the past several years, OLA & FOPL have worked successfully with the Ontario Government to secure vital support for Ontario's public libraries.

- Through the 2024 Ontario Budget, enhanced provincial funding to support the operations and staffing of First Nations Public Libraries on reserve.
- \$582,000 investment for up to 155 eligible public libraries in small, rural and First Nation communities to provide internet access.
- \$4.8 million investment to install or upgrade high-speed broadband internet at over 100 public libraries across Ontario.

Priorities Overview

Public Libraries

- Provide critical e-learning support and fair access to modern, digital resources for all Ontario public libraries through **the creation of an Ontario Digital Public Library**, leveraging the province's significant purchasing power to give all Ontarians access to a universal set of high-quality e-learning & online resources through their local public library.
- **Increase provincial operating funding for Ontario's public libraries** to address critical shared priorities and community needs.
- Building upon the enhanced funding committed in the 2024 Ontario Budget, **develop a sustainable funding model for public libraries on reserve** to ensure that these important local hubs are fully funded and viable.

School Libraries

- **Mandate that school boards must spend funding allocated by the Ministry of Education for school libraries, staffing and resources** on for student success. They should also be made to fully complete the corresponding accountability and planning measures now required under the Grants for Student Needs.

Priorities

Provide critical e-learning support and equitable access to modern, digital resources for all Ontario public libraries through the creation of an Ontario Digital Public Library, leveraging the province's significant purchasing power to give all Ontarians access to a universal set of high-quality e-learning & online resources through their local public library.

- Ontario's public libraries are essential to equitable, reliable access to broadband internet and computers. They are especially vital for many First Nation, rural and Northern communities where at home connectivity is limited, and for hundreds of thousands of Ontarians that cannot afford in-home internet services.
- The Ontario Government has already recognized the crucial importance of public libraries to broadband connectivity and equity of access:
 - o in *Building a Digital Ontario*, making a \$4.8 million investment to install or upgrade broadband connectivity at more than 100 public libraries across the province; and
 - o in February 2024, the Ontario Government invested an additional \$122,000 to the *Internet Connectivity Grant* enabling up to 155 eligible public libraries that serve communities of 20,000 or less to be fully reimbursed for the costs of providing publicly accessible internet access.
- Building on that critical foundation, it is the right time to take the next step to empower Ontarians with the online resources they need to succeed – no matter where they live in Ontario.
- In particular, people rely on local public libraries for access to digital and online resources, which contribute to student success and life-long learning, as well as towards entrepreneurship and job readiness. These include:
 - o in-depth job and career skills training;
 - o language learning;
 - o live tutoring and homework help;
 - o health information; and
 - o resources to support vulnerable residents, such as seniors and adults living with developmental disabilities.

A proposed Ontario Digital Public Library would provide a core suite of highly impactful digital resources accessible by every Ontarian through their local public library. While the specific resource set will depend on the outcome of competitive negotiations with vendors, potential resources could include:

- **Live Tutoring;** resources are available that provide a powerful suite of live tutoring, skills development and test preparation tools for learners of all ages, with a focus on K-12.
- **Job Skill Development and Training;** some libraries already subscribe to databases that include an ever-expanding catalogue of virtual courses and learning modules for career, creative, digital skills development and certifications.
- **Language Learning;** these apps have become increasingly popular, providing highly personalized and comprehensive language learning capabilities for dozens of global languages.

- However, these resources are expensive, especially when purchased on a patchwork, library-by-library basis – and a diverse set of the highest impact resources is well beyond the means of an individual or family to afford. Many public libraries in Ontario, particularly in smaller and First Nation communities, struggle to pay for or are unable to afford these high-quality resources.
- People living in communities of less than 5,000 have access to less than a third of the online resources as those living in Toronto – despite accessing them twice as often per capita as people in large urban communities.

- According to the 2022 Annual Survey of Public Libraries, only 147 of our 363 library systems are able to afford subscriptions to five (5) or more databases.
- Meanwhile, 67 public libraries reported having zero (0) database subscriptions; majority of which are public libraries on reserve.

Recommended Priority:

- By following the well-established approach used in Alberta and Saskatchewan and leveraging volume purchasing through an annual provincial investment, as well as existing public library infrastructure, the Ontario Digital Public Library could provide a universal set of the highest-impact digital resources to every public library – and every Ontarian – **at an overall cost savings of up to 40%** when compared to library-by-library subscription.
- Addressing this digital divide – through both broadband connectivity and the high-impact resources to match – is how public libraries are at the forefront of fulfilling Ontario's vision of an economy where every individual and community can contribute and compete.
- *Projected cost:* \$10 million - \$20 million / annually.¹

¹ See Appendix for provincial investment scenarios based on different funding levels.

How Would an Ontario Digital Public Library Work?

- Based on an annual provincial investment, Ontario's public library sector would work closely with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming and agency partners to determine the appropriate mix of resources to deliver the greatest impact across the province.
- The designated delivery partner – such as the Ontario Library Service or another identified entity – would negotiate to secure province-wide access to a universal set of resources.
- Access to these resources will ideally be connected directly through local public library websites, providing a seamless experience for local users.
- Ontarians will be able to access the complete resource set either in-person at their local library, from home, or through their personal devices wherever they are.
- For those public libraries without an online presence, the Ontario Digital Public Library will maintain a direct online portal to provide access.

Increase provincial funding for Ontario's public libraries to address critical shared priorities and community needs.

- Public libraries in Ontario have received no increase in provincial funding support (Provincial Libraries Operating Grant, or PLOG) in over 25 years, during which time the value of the province's investment in public libraries has decreased by over 60%.
- Although over 90% of public library funding is provided by the local municipal government, provincial operating funding provides critical stability to public library budgets.
- Libraries have adapted and maximized the impact of every dollar despite inflation, substantial changes in technology, and the increasing importance of libraries as a vital community hub and public resource.
- Across Ontario – in communities of all sizes – these **budget pressures are reaching a tipping point.**
- Public libraries are the focal point of municipalities across Ontario; critical to social cohesion and community building. As a result, they find themselves on the front lines of many of the most critical challenges facing our communities, including homelessness, mental health and addictions, newcomer integration, re-skilling in a changing economy, and overcoming the digital divide.
- Ontario's public libraries are proposing a targeted investment in additional operating funding for public libraries to specifically address critical areas of shared community and provincial priority, including:
 - Supporting economic recovery through job training and skills development;
 - Addressing the community impacts of mental health and addictions;
 - Providing services and resources to assist with high-needs members of the community such as seniors, newcomers, working families and all vulnerable members; and
 - Supporting early literacy and K-12 success.
- This investment, which would be in addition to and separate from existing provincial operating funding under the PLOG, would be shared across hundreds of Ontario libraries to provide predictable, flexible funding for local public libraries to respond to these critical areas of focus based on the needs of the people and the local communities they serve.
- This funding could be utilized to support ongoing operations, programming, resources, or front-line staffing specifically targeted to the four identified priority areas based on community need.
- The proposed level of investment corresponds to a restoration of the present value of the Ontario Government's support for Ontario's public libraries, addressing the impact of inflation, rising costs and other pressures over more than two decades.
- In conjunction with this investment, the Ontario Government and Ontario's public libraries would work alongside municipalities to ensure that this critical investment builds upon and enhances existing municipal support for public library budgets.
- *Projected cost: \$25 million / annually.*

Building upon the enhanced funding committed in the 2024 Ontario Budget, develop a sustainable funding model for public libraries on reserve to ensure that these important local hubs are fully funded and viable.

- Public libraries on reserve serve as an accessible gathering place and information sharing resource for First Nations communities. They are deeply important to maintaining a sense of community

and to minimizing social isolation, many of which are remote or face systemic social and economic challenges.

- Furthermore, public libraries on reserve perform a unique role in the preservation of their communities' memory, archiving photos and historical information, and in revitalizing First Nations languages through cultural resources, language learning programming, storytelling events, and craft groups.
- Public libraries on reserve are chronically under-funded. The municipal tax revenue used to support most public libraries does not exist for public libraries in First Nation communities.
- There is little to no funding available for collections, programming and technology resources. Librarians rely on one-time grants or donations to develop their collections, and many librarians contribute personally to purchase programming supplies and food.
- Many public libraries on reserve operate with only one staff person who is expected to perform many functions. Public libraries on reserve need additional funding to provide staff with a living wage and to increase staffing levels so that they can meet their communities' needs for library programs and services.
- Of the 133 First Nations communities in Ontario, only 39 have public libraries. The number has steadily dropped in recent years and the pandemic has only made this situation worse, with four public libraries on reserve closing their doors due to inadequate funding over the past 20 months.
- In recognition of the significant financial barriers faced by First Nations Public Libraries on reserve, the Ontario Government made a multi-million-dollar enhancement through the 2024 Ontario Budget to both the First Nation Salary Supplement and Public Library Operating Grant funding.
- This investment was a vital first step to restoring stability to First Nations Public Libraries on-reserve.
- There is more important work to be done. Together with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming and First Nations Public Library leaders, this recent investment provides an opportunity to work together on a sustainable funding and operating model to preserve the long-term viability of these important local hubs.

Recommended Priority:

- Work alongside First Nations Public Library leaders to work towards the design and implementation of a sustainable funding model for public libraries on reserve to ensure that these important local hubs are fully-funded and viable.
- Projected cost: N/A; projected funding requirements would be based on the identified model and requirements.

Ontario Library Association / Federation of Ontario Public Libraries

The Ontario Library Association (OLA) is the oldest continually-operating non-profit library association in Canada, with over 3,500 members comprised of library staff and supporters from public, school, academic, and special libraries.

The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL) represents 237 public library systems in Ontario, including 39 Public Libraries on Reserves.

Together, OLA & FOPL are committed to ensuring that libraries can continue to play a critical role in the social, education, cultural and economic success of our communities and schools.

ONTARIO DIGITAL PUBLIC LIBRARY – BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

August 2024

Public libraries are critical infrastructure for successful, thriving communities across Ontario.

- Public libraries are Ontario's farthest-reaching, most cost-effective public resource and vital community infrastructure.
- It's much more than books: in most communities across the province, public libraries are either the most flexible – or the only – local resource with the capability to adapt and support emerging local needs and priorities.
- Millions of Ontarians rely on local public libraries in their communities: to work, to learn, to connect to community and government services, and to find or train for a job.

Public libraries are essential for bridging the digital divide.

- With access to many necessary resources, services and learning supports now primarily or entirely accessible online, Ontario's public libraries are essential to equitable, reliable access to broadband internet and computers.
- They are especially vital for many First Nation, rural and Northern communities where at-home connectivity is limited, and for hundreds of thousands of Ontarians that cannot afford in-home internet services.
- Over the past several years, the Ontario Government has recognized the crucial importance of public libraries to bridging the digital divide.
- These infrastructure and connectivity investments have built the necessary foundation to now take the next step to empower all Ontarians with the online resources they need to succeed – no matter where they live in Ontario.

Building the Foundation for the Ontario Digital Public Library

Since 2021, the Ontario Government has made the necessary targeted structural investments to ensure that all Ontarians can benefit from an Ontario Digital Public Library and the valuable learning, job skills and training resources it will provide.

- **Broadband Infrastructure:** \$4.8 million investment to install or upgrade high-speed broadband internet connections at over 100 public libraries across rural, Northern and First Nations communities in Ontario.
- **Connectivity:** \$582,000 annually – including a \$122,000 increase in 2024 – to ensure that up to 155 eligible public libraries in small, rural and First Nation communities receive full funding to cover the ongoing costs of broadband subscriptions.
- **First Nations Public Libraries:** Through the 2024 Ontario Budget, \$1.25 million in additional ongoing funding to help stabilize staffing and operations of First Nations Public Libraries on reserve in Ontario.

Providing equitable access to modern digital resources through public libraries is a logical next step under the *Building a Digital Ontario* plan.

- Digital resources provided through public libraries provide Ontarians with digital and online resources that contribute to student success and life-long learning, entrepreneurship and job readiness. These include:
 - in-depth job and career skills training;
 - language learning;
 - live tutoring and homework help;
 - health information; and
 - resources to support vulnerable residents, such as seniors and adults living with developmental disabilities.
- In larger urban and suburban communities, residents can expect 24/7 access to powerful, subscription-based online resources.
- However, these resources are expensive, especially when purchased on a patchwork, library-by-library basis.
- For a well-resourced urban or suburban public library, these subscriptions cost many tens – or even hundreds – of thousands of dollars each year.
- Many public libraries in Ontario, particularly in smaller and First Nation communities, struggle to pay for or are unable to afford these high-quality resources.
- People living in communities of less than 5,000 have access to less than a third of the online resources as those living in Toronto – despite accessing them twice as often per capita as people in large urban communities.

Ontarians Living in Small, Rural and Northern Communities Lack Access

Across Ontario, access to powerful digital resources through local public libraries is very uneven. While Ontarians living in cities and major suburban communities may have excellent access, the picture is very different in other part of Ontario.

- According to the 2022 Annual Survey of Public Libraries, only 147 of our 363 library systems can afford subscriptions to five (5) or more resources.
- Meanwhile, 67 public libraries reported having zero (0) database subscriptions; the majority of which are First Nations public libraries on reserve.

The Ontario Digital Public Library: Expanding Access & Cost Savings – Without More Bureaucracy.

- With the infrastructure and operating support in place, there is a logical opportunity to level the playing field.
- Ontario's public libraries are proposing the creation of an **Ontario Digital Public Library (ODPL)**.
- By following the well-established approach used in Alberta and Saskatchewan and leveraging

the province's significant purchasing power, Ontario can give all Ontarians access to a universal set of high-quality e-learning & online resources through their local public library.

- The Ontario Digital Public Library, through volume purchasing, can provide digital resources **at a cost savings of up to 40%** when compared to a direct subscription by an average Ontario public library.
- Better still, most Ontarians would be able to access these resources directly through their local public library, whether at a branch, at home or on the go.
- A provincial investment in an Ontario Digital Public Library would **save costs for all public libraries** and help improve consistency of service delivery. This is an investment directly in the quality of supports that libraries can deliver – with the overwhelming majority of the investment going directly into digital resources.
- This is a red tape reduction-friendly approach that modernizes access to digital resources by making them available to all Ontario municipalities – and millions of Ontarians – for the first time.
- The Ontario Digital Public Library will **seamlessly integrate with existing public library infrastructure and operations**, without the need to significantly expand provincial bureaucracy to deliver it.
- **Recommended Annual Investment:** \$10 – 20 million annually

How Would an Ontario Digital Public Library Work?

- Based on an annual provincial investment, Ontario's public library sector would work closely with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming and agency partners to determine the appropriate mix of resources to deliver the greatest impact across the province.
- The designated delivery partner - such as the Ontario Library Service or another identified entity - would negotiate to secure province-wide access to a universal set of resources.
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Together, OLA & FOPL are committed to ensuring that libraries can continue to play a critical role in the social, education, cultural and economic success of our communities and schools.

MPP Information			Library Sector Contact Information				2023				
MPP Name	Riding	Role	Met during Library Days?	Local Contact Lead	Contact Lead Role/Org	Email	Email Sent	CEO Willing to Participate?	Meeting Scheduled	Meeting Date	Support for ODPL (Supportive/Neutral/Opposed)
-	Bay of Quinte	-	No	Trevor Pross	Belleville PL	tpross@bellevillelibrary.ca	yes	yes		30-Jan	maybe? said he would talk to Lumsden about it but didnt specifically say he was in support
Amarjot Sandhu	Brampton West	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Infrastructure	No	Todd Kyle	Brampton PL	Todd Kyle <tkyle@bramlib.on.ca>	yes	yes	yes		Yes - said he would speak to the Minister
Andrea Khanjin	Barrie-Innisfil	Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks	No	Erin Succimarri & Lauren Jessop	CEO of Innisfil PL; Barrie	escuccimarri@innisfildealab.ca	yes	yes		08-Feb	
Andrew Dowie	Windsor-Tecumseh	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks	No	Adam Craig	Essex County PL	acraig@essexcountylibrary.ca	yes	yes	In progress		
Anthony Leardi	Essex	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health	No	Adam Craig	Essex County PL	acraig@essexcountylibrary.ca	yes	yes			
Aris Babikian	Scarborough-Agincourt	-	No	Paul Ainslie	Toronto PL	councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>	yes				
Billy Pang	Markham-Unionville	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education	No	Catherine Biss	Markham PL	Biss, Catherine <cbiss@markhamlib.ca>	yes				
Bob Bailey	Sarnia-Lambton	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Infrastructure (Legislative Affairs)	No	Darlene Coke	Lambton County PL	Darlene Coke <darlene.coke@countylib.ca>	yes	yes		01-Mar	yes - said he would speak to Min Lumsden about supporting the ODPL
Brian Riddell	Cambridge	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement	No	Chrissy Hodgins	Cambridge PL	chodgins@idealexchange.org	yes				
Brian Saunderson	Simcoe-Grey	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade	No	Ashley Kulchyccki & Stephanie Clare	Collingwood PL & Georg	Stephanie Clare <slclare.GBPLlibrary.ca>	yes	yes			
Caroline Mulrone	York-Simcoe	President of the Treasury Board; Minister of Francophone Affairs	No	Dina Stevens	FOPL	dinastevens@fopli.ca	yes	yes	yes		yes - very supportive, will contact Lumsden
Charmaine Williams	Brampton Centre	Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity	Yes	Dina Stevens	FOPL	dinastevens@fopli.ca					Neutral
Christine Hogarth	Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Red Tape Reduction	No	Michelle & Dina	OLA & FOPL	dinastevens@fopli.ca	yes	yes	yes	09-Feb	nope.
Daisy Wai	Richmond Hill	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister for Seniors and Accessibility	No	Michelle & Dina	OLA & FOPL	dinastevens@fopli.ca	yes	yes			
Dave Smith	Peterborough-Kawartha	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance	Yes								Neutral
David Piccini	Northumberland-Peterboro	Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development	No	Tammy Robinson	Cobourg PL	trobinson@cobourg.library.on.ca	yes				
David Smith	Scarborough Centre	-	No	Paul Ainslie	Toronto PL	councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>	yes	yes	Yes		yes - very supportive
Dawn Gallagher Murphy	Newmarket-Aurora	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources	No	Tracy Munusami	Newmarket PL	tmunusami@newmarketpl.ca	yes	yes	Rescheduled		Yes - said she would speak with Minister Lumsden
Deepak Anand	Mississauga-Malton	Parliamentary Assistant to the Associate Minister of Small Business	No	Rona O'Banion	Mississauga PL		yes	no	Yes		yes - said he would express his support
Donna Skelly	Flamborough-Glanbrook	-	No	Paul Takala	Hamilton PL	councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>	yes			06-Mar	
Doug Downey	Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Mec	Attorney General	No	Lauren Jessop	Barrie PL	lauren.jessop@barrielibrary.ca	yes	yes	Yes		yes - supportive and will speak to Lumsden
Effie Triantafilopoulos	Oakville North-Burlington	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade	No	Lita Barrie	Burlington PL	Lita Barrie <barriel@bpl.on.ca>	yes	yes			
Ernie Hardeman	Oxford	-	No	-	-	-					
George Pirie	Timmins	Minister of Mines	No	Carole-Ann Churcher	Timmins PL	library@timmins.ca	yes	yes	yes	?	yes - very positive meeting, Minister will support ODPL
Graham McGregor	Brampton North	Associate Minister of Auto Theft and Bail Reform	No	Todd Kyle	Brampton PL	Todd Kyle <tkyle@bramlib.on.ca>	yes	yes	yes		
Graydon Smith	Parry Sound-Muskoka	Minister of Natural Resources	No	Crystal Bergstrom	Bracebridge PL	Crystal.Bergstrom@bracebridgelibrary.ca	yes			13-Feb	Neutral - "lukewarm" reception. Said he would tell Minister Lumsden he met with libraries, but was unwilling to express support
Greg Rickford	Kenora-Rainy River	Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation; Minister of Northern Development	No	Crystal Alcock	Kenora PL	cralcock@kenora.ca	yes	yes			Positive meeting - said he would speak to Minister Lumsden. Will also raise it during Question Period. Said he would invite Minister Lumsden to Kenora
Hardeep Grewal	Brampton East	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming	No	Todd Kyle	Brampton PL	Todd Kyle <tkyle@bramlib.on.ca>	yes	yes			
Jess Dixon	Kitchener South-Hespeler	Parliamentary Assistant to the Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity	No	Darren Solomon	Kitchener PL	LibraryCEO@kpl.org	yes				
Jill Dunlop	Simcoe North	Minister of Education	No	Patricia Hayes	Midland PL	Trish Hayes <THayes@MidlandLibrary.ca>	yes	yes		19-Jan	non-committal - Trish got the sense she wasnt overly enthusiastic about the ODPL
John Jordan	Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness	No	Christine Row	Mississippi Mills PL	crow@mississippimills.ca	yes	yes		30-Jan	yes - very supportive, will send a letter to M.Lumsden
John Yakabuski	Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy and Electrification	No	Karthi Rajamani	Pembroke PL	krajamani@pembrokekplibrary.ca	yes				
Kevin Holland	Thunder Bay-Atikokan	Associate Minister of Forestry and Forest Products	No	Richard Togman	Thunder Bay PL	rtogman@tblpl.ca	yes	yes		01-Feb	yes - will bring request to treasury board
Kinga Surma	Etobicoke Centre	Minister of Infrastructure	Yes								Opposed
Laura Smith	Thornhill	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services	Yes	Margie Singleton	Vaughan PL	margie.singleton@vaughan.ca					Neutral
Laurie Scott	Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Is	-	No	Christopher Stephenson & Jamie Anderson	Haliburton County PL; Kawartha Lakes PL	cstephenson@haliburtonlibrary.ca; janderson@kawarthalakes.ca	yes	yes		24-Jan	yes - positive meeting - said she would tell M. Lumsden she is supportive at their next meeting and raise it in caucus
Lisa MacLeod	Nepean	-	No	Sonia Bebbington	Ottawa PL	sonia.bebbington@bibliooottawalibrary.ca	yes	yes			
Lisa Thompson	Huron-Bruce	Minister of Rural Affairs	No	Brooke McLean		bmclean@brucecounty.on.ca	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes - agreed on basis of cost savings, equity and efficiency
Logan Kanapathi	Markham-Thornhill	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services; PA to the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism	Yes	Dina Stevens		dinastevens@fopli.ca					Support
Lorne Coe	Whitby	Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier	No	Rhonda Jessup	Whitby PL	rjessup@whitbylibrary.ca	yes	yes		01-Feb	yes - very positive meeting - MPP will reach out to Minister Lumsden, will support
Matthew Rae	Perth-Wellington	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing	No	Rosemary Minnella	West Perth PL	rminnella@pcin.on.ca	yes	yes	Yes		yes - very positive meeting - MPP will reach out to Minister Lumsden, will support
Michael Ford	York South-Weston	Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism	No	Paul Ainslie	Toronto PL	councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>	yes	yes			
Michael Kerzner	York Centre	Solicitor General	No	Paul Ainslie	Toronto PL	councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>	yes	yes			
Michael Parsa	Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmon	Minister of Children, Community and Social Services	No	Bruce Gorman	Aurora PL	bgorman@aurorapl.ca	yes	yes		11-Jan-24	yes - supportive
Michael Tibollo	Vaughan-Woodbridge	Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions	Yes	Margie Singleton	Vaughan PL	margie.singleton@vaughan.ca					Strong support
Mike Harris	Kitchener-Conestoga	Minister of Red Tape Reduction	No	Darren Solomon	Kitchener PL	LibraryCEO@kpl.org	yes				
Natalia Kusendova-Bashta	Mississauga Centre	Minister of Long-Term Care	No	Rona O'Banion	Mississauga PL	Rona.OBanion@mississauga.ca	yes	no	MA emailed - Jan 7		
Natalie Pierre	Burlington	Parliamentary Assistant to the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions	No	Lita Barrie		Lita Barrie <barriel@bpl.on.ca>	yes	yes	yes		yes - positive meeting, would support
Neil Lumsden	Hamilton East-Stoney Creek	Minister of Sport	No	-	-	-	yes		-		
Nina Tangri	Mississauga-Streetsville	Associate Minister of Small Business	No	Rona O'Banion	Mississauga PL	Rona.OBanion@mississauga.ca	yes	no	MA emailed - Jan 7		
Nolan Quinn	Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry	Minister of Colleges and Universities	No	Karen Franklin	SDG Library	Karen Franklin <kfranklin@sdglibrary.ca>	yes				
Partrice Barnes	Ajax	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development	Yes	Sarah Vaisler	Ajax PL	Sarah Vaisler <sarah.vaisler@ajaxlibrary.ca>					
Paul Calandra	Markham-Stouffville	Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing	No	Margaret Wallace	Whitchurch-Stouffville	Margaret Wallace <margaret.wallace@stouffvillelibrary.ca>	yes	yes			
Peter Bethlenfalvy	Pickering-Uxbridge	Minister of Finance	No	Jackie Flowers	Pickering PL	jackieflowers@pickeringlibrary.ca	yes	yes			
Prabmeet Sarkaria	Brampton South	Minister of Transportation	No	Todd Kyle	Brampton PL	Todd Kyle <tkyle@bramlib.on.ca>	yes	yes			
Raymond Cho	Scarborough North	Minister of Seniors and Accessibility	No	Paul Ainslie	Toronto PL	councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>	yes				
Ric Bresee	Hastings-Lennox and Adding	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation	No	Rod Moffitt	Hasting Highlands PL	ceo@hastingshighlandslibrary.ca	yes				
Rick Byers	Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance	No	Brooke McLean	Bruce County	bmclean@brucecounty.on.ca	yes	yes			unclear - thought it was a good idea but didnt express clear support, said he would talk to Minister Lumsden about the ODPL
Rob Flack	Elgin-Middlesex-London	Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness	No	Brian Masschaele	Elgin County PL	bmasschaele@elgin.ca	yes				
Robin Martin	Eglinton-Lawrence	Parliamentary Assistant to the President of the Treasury Board	No	Michelle & Dina	OLA & FOPL		yes	yes			
Ross Romano	Sault Ste. Marie	Chief Government Whip	No	Wayne Greco and Matthew MacDonald	Sault Ste Marie PL	Wayne Greco <waynegreco@gmail.com>	yes	yes		22-Jan	yes - said that we could tell M. Lumsden that he has his suport
Rudy Cuzzetto	Mississauga-Lakeshore	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy and Electrification	No	Rona O'Banion	Mississauga PL	Rona.OBanion@mississauga.ca	yes	no	MA emailed - Jan 7		
Sam Osterhoff	Niagara West	Associate Minister of Energy-Intensive Industries	No	Vanessa Holm	West Lincoln PL	vholm@westlincoln.ca	yes	yes			
Sheref Sabawy	Mississauga-Erin Mills	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism	No	Rona O'Banion	Mississauga PL	Rona.OBanion@mississauga.ca	yes	no		16-Feb	yes
Stan Cho	Willowdale	Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming	No	Paul Ainslie	Toronto PL	councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>	yes				
Stéphane Sarazin	Glengarry-Prescott-Russell	Parliamentary Assistant to the Associate Minister of Small Business; PA to the Minister of Francophone Affairs	No	Catherina Moskau	Clarence Rockland PL	cmoskau@bpcpl.ca	yes	yes			Yes - said he would send Minister Lumsden a letter of support
Stephen Crawford	Oakville	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance	No	Tara Wong	Oakville PL	tara.wong@oakville.ca	yes	yes		25-Jan	maybe? said he would talk to Lumsden about it but didnt specifically say he was in support
Stephen Lecce	King-Vaughan	Minister of Energy	No	Margie Singleton	Vaughan PL	margie.singleton@vaughan.ca	yes	yes		Jan-24	yes - Min. Lecce will support and reach out to Lumsden
Steve Clark	Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands	Government House Leader	No	Cindy Code	Leeds Thousand Islands	cindy@tlpl.net	yes	yes		12-Jan	yes - very positive meeting - MPP will reach out to Neil Lumsden
Steve Pinsonneault	Lambton-Kent-Middlesex	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Rural Affairs	No	-	-	-					
Sylvia Jones	Dufferin-Caledon	Minister of Health	No	Darla Fraser, Colleen Lipp	Orangeville PL	dfraser@orangeville.ca; Colleen Lipp	yes	yes			yes - very supportive, will speak to Lumsden directly
Ted Arnett	Wellington-Halton Hills	Speaker of the Legislative Assembly	No	Beverley King	Halton Hills PL	beverley.king@haltonhills.ca	yes	yes			yes - very supportive, sent a letter to Min Lumsden
Todd McCarthy	Durham	Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement	No	Monika Machacek	Clarington PL	mmachacek@clarington-library.on.ca	yes	Yes	Yes - week of Jan 23		maybe? said he would talk to Lumsden about it but didnt specifically say he was in support
Trevor Jones	Chatham-Kent-Leamington	Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response	No	Tania Sharpe	Chatham-Kent PL	tanias@chatham-kent.ca	yes				
Vic Fedeli	Nipissing	Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Chair of Cabinet	No	Émilie Bisailon	West Nipissing	ebisailon@wnpl.ca	yes				
Vijay Thanigasalam	Scarborough-Rouge Park	Associate Minister of Housing	No	Paul Ainslie	Toronto PL	councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>	yes				
Will Bouma	Brantford-Brant	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Northern Development; PA to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs; PA to the Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation	Yes								Opposed
Zee Hamid	Milton	Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance	No	Sarah Douglas Murray	Milton PL	Sarah.Douglas-Murray@beinspired.ca	yes				

Municipal Engagement: Conferences

Report To: The FOPL Board
Prepared by: Dina Stevens
Prepared on: September 11, 2024

Background

FOPL has had a presence at municipal conferences for at least 6 years, partnering with OLA and OLS in various capacities to promote the value of public libraries to these important stakeholders. I have been attending these conferences for the past 3 years.

Financial Commitment and Feedback

Municipal Conferences 2024

ROMA: Rural Ontario Municipal Association	January – Downtown Toronto	Booth and rentals fee: \$3616
FONOM: Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities	May – Sudbury	Booth and rentals fee: (split with OLS) \$1469
AMCTO: Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario	June – Blue Mountains	Booth and rentals fee: \$2736.12
AMO: Association of Ontario Municipalities	August - Ottawa	Booth and rentals fee: \$5265.80 (split with OLS)
Admin Travel (includes accommodations, mileage, meals, via rail, etc.)		Total admin travel for all conferences: \$10,159.75

Municipal Conferences 2023

ROMA: Rural Ontario Municipal Association	January – Downtown Toronto	Booth and rentals fee: \$2944.83
FONOM: Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities	May – Parry Sound	Booth and rentals fee: \$2587.70
AMCTO: Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario	June – Niagara Falls	Booth and rentals fee: \$2429.50
AMO: Association of Ontario Municipalities	August - London	Booth and rentals fee: \$5713.41
Admin Travel (includes accommodations, mileage, meals, via rail, etc.)		Total for all conferences: \$6056.29

Municipal Conferences 2022

ROMA: Rural Ontario Municipal Association		Did not attend (covid)
FONOM: Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities		Did not attend (covid)
AMCTO: Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario	June – Niagara Falls	Booth and rentals fee: \$2000
AMO: Association of Ontario Municipalities	August - Ottawa	Booth and rentals fee: \$4500

Admin Travel (includes accommodations, mileage, meals, via rail, etc.)		Total for all conferences: \$2451.63
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Other expenses: materials printing, giveaways such as button, pens, etc., presentation supplies such as banners and backdrops as necessary, local CEO reimbursement for mileage.

The cost of tradeshow booths and travel, mainly hotel prices and meals, have been steadily increasing since 2022. I have begun to mitigate these costs where possible by partnering with the Ontario Library Service who have joined us for two conferences in 2024 and shared the booth fees. The cost of accommodation and booths varies widely depending on the conference location and has proven difficult to predict. We are also paying for more printing of booth materials such as handouts whereas previously, OLA paid for most of this.

The overall tone while at the tradeshow, when talking to councilors, CAOs and other stakeholders, improved year over year from our initial post-covid interactions. However, there was a marked turn at the 2024 AMO Conference. I received a number of negative comments from councilors and CAOs regarding increased budget demands of public libraries, lack of provincial support for libraries, the Ontario Digital Public Library, and individual CEOs, library programs and services. It was clear that the pressures on municipal budgets from inflation and the pandemic and the increased demands for more municipal money all around are stressing councils and CAOs. There were many deputations from municipalities to the new Minister Stan Cho and to his Parliamentary Assistants about the need for increased provincial funding for libraries and other GLAM sector services. The new minister is certainly feeling this backlash, which is reflected in our inability to meet with him or any of his staff despite several requests and introductions over the summer.

Engagement at all conferences is high and we received more help than ever before from surrounding member libraries who were eager to come out to the conferences. AMCTO offers the lowest engagement with some attendees actively avoiding conversations with our booth. As this is the third year in the municipal election cycle, we have started to see a lot of “repeat customers” at our booths. To make the most of our budget, I recommend that we forgo the ROMA, FONOM and AMCTO Conferences in 2025 and 2026, and focus our energies on AMO. I also think that partnering with a few library CEOs to present an information session at the AMCTO, ROMA and FONOM conferences instead of booths would be more beneficial and cut down on costs. Many of the same attendees who go to ROMA and FONOM also go to AMO and we are seeing many of the same people. As 2026 will host a new municipal election, I would recommend attending all four conferences in 2027 and 2028.

Recommendation

THAT the FOPL board receive this report as information.

Small Medium Caucus CEO Election

Report To: The FOPL Board
Prepared by: Dina Stevens
Prepared on September 11, 2024

Background

One of FOPL's Small/Medium Caucus CEO representatives recently resigned from their position on the FOPL Board.

Method

A call for nominations went out on July 19th, 2024 to all members of the Small Medium Caucus. There were four interested parties and I was able to speak to all of them about the role and responsibilities of our board. Since there was more than one interested person, an election was necessary.

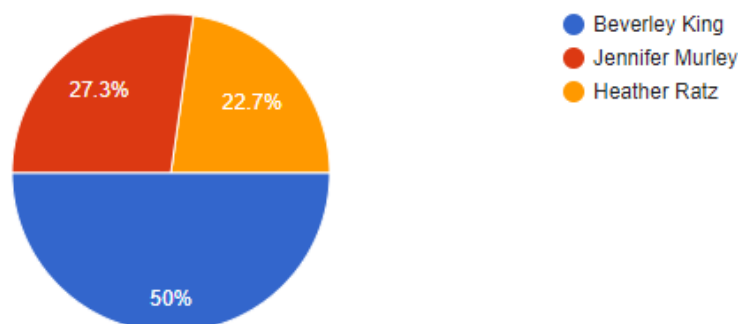
Three people decided to proceed with the election; Heather Ratz (Brighton PL), Jennifer Murley (Blue Mountains PL) and Beverly King (Halton Hills PL). Voting was open to all members of the Small/Medium Caucus during a two-week period.

Result

At the time of election closing, 22 members of the Small Medium Caucus had voted. Beverly King received the most votes and has been elected to the board.

Selection for CEO representative

22 responses



Recommendation

THAT the FOPL board receive this report as information.

Proposed Dates for 2025 Board Meetings

Report To: The FOPL Board
Prepared by: Diana Chiavaroli
Prepared on: September 20, 2024

Proposed Schedule

Quarter 1:	Wed January 29, 2025 to coincide with OLA SuperConference	6:00 to 8:00 pm	Hybrid
Audit Approval:	TBD	TBD	Virtual
AGM:	Tues April 8, 2025 Short meeting of the board to follow	10:00 to 12:00pm	Virtual
Quarter 2:	Fri May 2 or 16, 2025	TBD – afternoon?	Hybrid
Quarter 3:	Fri September 5, 2025	10:00 to 2:30pm	Hybrid
Quarter 4:	Fri December 12, 2025	10:00 to 2:30pm	Virtual