

Federation of Ontario Public Libraries

Meeting Date: September 8, 2023

Meeting Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Hybrid via Zoom & Toronto Reference Library

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

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

Francophone Caucus:

Large Urban Caucus: Mary Chevreau, Kathy Fisher, Wayne Greco, Alicia Subnaik-Kilgour,
Margie Singleton

Small & Medium Caucus: Matthew Corbett, Jodie Delgado, Anne Smith

Northern Caucus: Rebecca Hunt, Sue Melcher

Rural Caucus: Susan McGibbon, Jennifer La Chapelle

Toronto Caucus: Vickery Bowles, Lisa Radha Vohra

Former Library Leaders: David Harvie

Regrets: Paul Ainslie, Kathleen Copegog, Catherina Moskau, Sabrina Saunders,

Absent: Nadine Williams

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

Guests: Caroline Pinto, Council Public Affairs Devan Sommerville, Council Public Affairs

Prepared By: Hannah Hunter, Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

The Board meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by the Vice Chair. The Executive Director introduced Jodie Delgado, a new Board member joining FOPL. Jodie will be filling the CEO representative gap. Sabrina Saunders has left the Board.

2. Land Acknowledgement

See attached Agenda package.

3. Regrets

As noted above.

4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

None.

5. Approval of the Minutes – June 16, 2023

FOPL-Resolution 2023-032

Moved by Wayne Greco and seconded by Anne Smith, THAT this Board approve as circulated, the FOPL Board Minutes of June 16, 2023. CARRIED.

6. Approval of Agenda

Document 6 was added to the Agenda in section 11.G.

FOPL-Resolution 2023-033

Moved by Mary Chevreau and seconded by Alicia Subnaik-Kilgour, THAT this Board approve as circulated, the FOPL Board Agenda of September 8, 2023. CARRIED.

7. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer provided a summary of the distributed report. At the close of the fiscal year, there is a projection for approximately \$50,000 in surplus revenue. This amount can be transferred to the Savings account to accrue interest and remain available for future projects.

FOPL-Resolution 2023-034

Moved by Wayne Greco and seconded by Alicia Subnaik-Kilgour, THAT this Board receive the Treasurer's Report as information for the period ending August 31, 2023. CARRIED.

8. Executive Director's Report

a. Annual Work Plan

The Executive Director provided a summary of the distributed report. Since the last Board meeting, FOPL has been actively engaged in municipal outreach and advocacy efforts. The Executive Director attended conferences such as AMO and AMCTO. There seemed to be a lot more support and positive conversations around library funding this year. Looking ahead, FOPL is planning to lobby at Queens Park and advocate for increased funding.

FOPL-Resolution 2023-035

Moved by Vickery Bowles and seconded by David Harvie, THAT this Board receive the Executive Director's Report as information. CARRIED.

9. Working Group Reports

a. Research & Development Working Group

The Executive Director provided a verbal update. The group has appointed Sarah Roberts from Vaughan Public Library as a new Co-Chair, necessitating an update to the Terms of Reference. The Group has been taking on larger projects, including the upkeep of the data dashboard. In collaboration with the ED, they aim to apply for Canada Summer Student grants to enlist students for data entry and related tasks. Additionally,

they are planning an Info Series webinar centered around AI in Public Libraries. The highlighted sections in the Agenda Package represent the modifications.

FOPL-Resolution 2023-036

Moved by Mary Chevreau and seconded by Jennifer La Chapelle, THAT this Board receive the Research & Development Working Group update as information. CARRIED.

FOPL-Resolution 2023-037

Moved by Mary Chevreau and seconded by Jennifer LaChappelle, THAT this Board approve the amended Terms of Reference for the Research and Development Working Group. CARRIED.

b. Indigenous Library Partnership Working Group

Feather Maracle, Chair of the Working Group, provided a summary of the distributed report. In August, the group met to plan their activities for the remainder of 2023 and set 2024 goals. The group will be working to include an annual Indigenous-themed webinar in the FOPL Info series. Other projects for 2023 are a "Truth and Reconciliation" webinar in late September with Sabrina Saunders as a presenter. The group is also creating a promotional video for First Nations Public Libraries' government relations priorities. \$5,000 has been approved for production, videographers have been hired, and there is a completion target of November 2023 for the lobbying days at Queens Park. The Working Group is also working on a feedback research project involving outreach to First Nations Public Libraries to collect input for appropriate representation, especially in preparation for the November lobbying days. The working group plans to reconvene in late October to discuss feedback and the video project's progress.

FOPL-Resolution 2023-038

Moved by Feather Maracle and seconded by Alicia Subnaik-Kilgour, THAT this Board receive the Indigenous Library Partnership Working Group Report as information. CARRIED.

c. Government Relations Working Group

Margie Singleton, Chair of the Working Group, provided a summary of the distributed report. At the last meeting the Working Group began work to revise the Working Group's Terms of Reference, these revisions are still ongoing. The Group also expressed interest in organizing a Library Day at Queen's Park when possible.

FOPL-Resolution 2023-039

Moved by Feather Maracle and seconded by Kathy Fisher, THAT this Board receive the Government Relations Working Group Report as information. CARRIED.

10. Deferred Business

a. ONCA Compliant Bylaws

No update to report.

b. CELUPL Terms of Reference

No update to report.

11. New Business

a. Updated Advocacy Approach

This section was postponed until later in the meeting, following section 11.C., to await presentation from Council Public Affairs.

[Caroline Pinto and Devan Sommerville entered the meeting]

i. CPA Recommendations PLOG Approach June 2023

No update to report. The Board was updated outside of the meeting.

ii. CPA Recommendations August 2023

No update to report. The Board was updated outside of the meeting.

iii. Government Relations Priorities Document

Devan Sommerville provided a summary of the distributed report. The document has been updated realigning priorities ahead of Library Days at Queens Park. The document includes the message that public libraries are stretched beyond capacity, exacerbated by the pandemic and inflation. First Nations public libraries on reserves face even greater challenges as they lack municipal tax funding. They struggle to provide essential services, and some have closed due to inadequate funding. The Advocacy Priorities needs to align for the government to see they benefit to the investment in updating the PLOG. Including flexible funding to allow the libraries to determine how this funding would be used. These investments would support communities, local economies, and education, ensuring equitable access to resources and services through public libraries in Ontario.

There were discussions on the name of the document to something that focuses less on the institution that is the public library and more of the outcomes of the services. Vickery Bowles will send data to the Executive Director to share with Council Public Affairs to assist with the asks.

Council Public Affairs will be holding a meeting for all those participating in the lobbying days to update them on the asks and the language around the document. Changes requested will be integrated before this meeting. Any other member recommendations can be included in the January updates before the pre-budget submission.

The Board will plan a supplementary meeting to discuss FOPL's perspective on how public libraries contribute to the provincial priorities and FOPL's strategy for advocating the additional \$25 million request.

[Caroline Pinto and Devan Sommerville exited the meeting]

b. Library Day at Queens Park

The Executive Director provided a summary of the distributed report. FOPL and OLA are excited to resume their tradition of advocating for Ontario's libraries at Queen's Park in November. These advocacy days are crucial for building awareness and advocating for the library sector's needs with elected officials and government officials. Since the pandemic, the initiative has been expanded to a two-day effort to secure more key meetings. Local representation from Board members and library leaders is vital, as local engagement with MPPs is essential. Participants will receive training, meeting toolkits, briefing materials, and support from government relations partners to be effective advocates during these days. Board members and Government Relations Working Group members are encouraged to attend.

i. Funds Approval \$6,000

The event is expected to cost \$10,000, with OLA sharing the expenses equally. The Executive Director is taking a proactive approach by requesting \$6,000 to ensure there is enough funding to cover any potential additional costs. This would be an addition to the *5740 Public Relations Services* budget line.

FOPL-Resolution 2023-040

Moved by Kathy Fisher and seconded by David Harvie, THAT this Board approve an additional \$6,000 added to budget line *5740 Public Relations Services* for the lobbying days scheduled at Queens Park November 14th and 15th, 2023. CARRIED.

c. Ontario Digital Public Library

Lisa Radha Vohra provided a verbal update. The group recently met with OLA and OLS to prepare for potential early discussions regarding ODPL. FOPL is currently deliberating whether to await government instructions or collaborate with OLA and OLS. FOPL's main concern is to ensure their involvement or consultation in the event of approval, particularly regarding the details.

FOPL-Resolution 2023-041

Moved by Lisa Radha Vohra and seconded by David Harvie, THAT this Board receive the Ontario Digital Public Library verbal update as information. CARRIED.

[Matthew Corbett entered the meeting]

d. Intellectual Freedom Statement / Adoption

Lisa Radha Vohra provided a verbal update. FOPL is considering whether to adopt either the OLA or CFLA statement or draft one for their members. It is noted that the other statements lack inclusivity when it comes to indigenous traditional knowledge. To address this, a small group including Mary Cheverau, Jodie Delgado, Kathy Fisher, Feather Maracle, and Lisa Radha Vohra will collaborate on creating a suggestion to be discussed at the next meeting.

FOPL-Resolution 2023-042

Moved by Wayne Greco and seconded by Vickery Bowles, THAT this Board approve the creation of an Ad-Hoc Intellectual Freedom Working Group. CARRIED.

e. Vice Chair Vacancy

The Executive Director provided an update. Sabrina Saunders, who previously held the position of Vice Chair, has stepped down from the Board. Consequently, FOPL requires a Board member to assume this role temporarily until the elections at the AGM in June 2024. Margie Singleton has agreed to fulfill this role until the elections take place.

FOPL-Resolution 2023-043

Moved by Kathy Fisher and seconded by Mary Cheverau, THAT this Board approve interim election of Margie Singleton to fulfill the role of Vice Chair of the Board until the 2024 AGM. CARRIED.

f. Strike at Bradford PL & Potential Implications

This section was moved to the end of the meeting to close out in Closed Session.

FOPL-Resolution 2023-045

Moved by Wayne Greco and seconded by Mary Cheverau, THAT this Board go into Closed Session at 1:12 p.m. CARRIED.

IN-CAMERA SESSION

g. CFLA Update

Mary Cheverau provided a verbal update. The Executive Director of CULC recently resigned, leading the organization to initiate the search for a new Executive Director. There has been notable interest in the position, and an employment offer has been extended to a candidate. Furthermore, Mary Cheverau has resigned from her role as the CULC representative at CFLA, and efforts are ongoing to find a suitable replacement.

FOPL-Resolution 2023-044

Moved by Wayne Greco and seconded by Matthew Corbett, THAT this Board receive the CFLA verbal update as information. CARRIED.

12. Next Meeting

- November 17, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m. (virtual)

13. Adjournment

The Board meeting was called to adjourn by the Chair.

FOPL-Resolution 2023-046

Moved by Anne Smith THAT this Board does now adjourn. CARRIED.

Paul Ainslie, Board Chair

Dina Stevens, Board Secretary