

ONE VOICE FOR ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Sept. 3, 2019

Peterborough Public Library
345 Aylmer Street North
Peterborough, ON
K9H 3V7

Dear Potential FOPL Member:

This letter is to ask for your support and membership as an investment in the collective success of public libraries in Ontario. We need you as members and participants in FOPL!

NOW, more than ever before, is the time to support collaborative efforts in the Ontario public library community. **Why?** As a former OLA president once said, "If you're not at the table, then you're the dessert." This provincial government's agenda makes it even more critical that we educate, advocate and influence for our sector. ***This encompasses many threats to library funding and operational success - funding for our agencies SOLS and OLS-North, the impacts of municipal downloading by the provincial government, influencing the new Bill 108 regulations for development charge / community benefit charge regime as they affect public libraries, restoring full ILL funding, addressing the issues of broadband, digital infrastructure, digital content, the 2020 provincial budget, and more in the context of our province's vital public libraries and our communities and users.*** We all derive great benefit from this funding both individually and collectively and so do our communities!

I have served Ontario's public libraries as the Executive Director of FOPL for over 6 years supporting our board's leadership on issues important to you. In Fall 2019 we updated our strategic plan. For the past six years we *have* been at the table! Your fees fund our work with a professional lobbying firm and we now have many government relations professionals working on our file at Queen's Park. We have attended the AMO conference and AMCTO, ROMA, NOMA, and OSUM to communicate our value message to municipalities. **The 2020 provincial Budget is – again – critical to our sector.**

We invest our members' fees in building support for strong influencing activities for our sector's impact – especially on education, economic development and employment. We also focus on how efficient and effective our sector is despite 22 years of funding freezes. We have our library impact measurements in order; we have a large collection of modern public library impact studies; we have supported several qualitative studies through the Ontario Library

Capacity Fund; we have a public library attitudes and opinion poll; we have a powerful OpenMediaDesk social media marketing campaign, ongoing impact measurement strategies, and a successful tagline ("A Visit Will Get You Thinking"); we've built strong collaborative relationships between FOPL and OLA, SOLS, OLS-North, and CULC; we've submitted a number of briefs to Cabinet and the Premier on the Ontario Budget, Culture Strategy, Community Hubs, Municipal Review, and more; FOPL has invested in Library Board training and advocacy training; so, **we're more ready than we have ever been! None of this would happen without the support of our members!**

We will strive to speak with *one voice* and with power. Public Libraries are too important to our communities to do otherwise. ***We need you as members. We need your support.*** We need your trust and confidence that we can make a difference to enhance the success of our institutions and the province's residents and communities that we care so deeply about.

Please join as a collaborative investment in research and lobbying for our public library sector's interests and those of your board and public library communities in Ontario. We know that we're delivering value for money and making a difference. We need your voice on side! We know that the more libraries we represent, the stronger our important voice will be with the key audiences who influence our success, funding, and role in society.

This government presents its own challenges. Be part of the solution and education that brings government support. (As part of your FOPL membership all of your staff are members of CFLA too.)

It's easy to join – just send me an e-mail or contact me (admin@fopl.ca). If I can be helpful in any way, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



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The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries is a non-profit with a mandate to benefit Ontario public libraries through advocacy, research, and marketing.

La Fédération des bibliothèques publiques de l'Ontario est un organisme à but non-lucratif. Elle a comme mandat, de répondre aux besoins de toutes les bibliothèques, en concentrant leurs efforts dans la recherche, en marketing et en agissant comme plaidoyer.