



Peterborough Public Library

To: Peterborough Public Library Board of Trustees

From: Jennifer Jones, Library CEO

Meeting Date: December 8, 2020

Subject: Report PPL20-029
OLS Amalgamation

Purpose

A report to inform the Library Board on the status of the Ontario Library Services Amalgamation.

Recommendation

That the Library Board approve the recommendation outlined in Report PPL20-029, dated December 8, 2020, of the Library CEO, as follows:

That Report PPL20-029 be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

There is no budget or financial implications associated with the recommendations of this report.

Background

In February 2020, Library CEO's were informed that the Southern Ontario Library Services (SOLS) and Ontario Library Services North (OLS-North) boards had struck a Joint Amalgamation Committee. Its primary responsibility was to conduct an in-depth exploration and discussion on amalgamation of the two organizations. Since February, the committee has completed the due diligence review to identify any barriers or concerns with regards to a merger.

A final report from the Joint Amalgamation Committee was submitted to the OLS – North and SOLS Boards at special meetings held on May 28th and 29th, respectively. In both cases, the boards accepted the recommendation of the Committee to proceed with the merger and to establish a Joint Transition Committee to negotiate the Amalgamation Agreement. This Committee is comprised of the Chairs, Vice Chairs and CEOs of OLS – North and SOLS. Once completed, the Amalgamation Agreement was presented to each board for final approval in the fall of 2020. The goal is to have the new amalgamated organization up and running by April 1st, 2021 to coincide with the new fiscal year.

Throughout this process both organizations - SOLS and OLS - North, remain dedicated to providing the best service possible to Ontario's Public Libraries.

As both SOLS and OLS-North continue to work toward the April 1, 2021 amalgamation date, further information was provided to Libraries in November 2020 regarding the governance of the amalgamated corporation - the Ontario Library Service.

The SOLS and OLS-North Boards will continue to govern their respective corporation until March 31, 2021. On April 1, 2021, the Interim Board, made up of representatives from both the SOLS and OLS-North Boards, will begin to govern the Ontario Library Service. At the OLS June 2021 AGM, the first Election of the OLS Board will take place. The OLS elected Board will govern from June 2021 to June 2024.

The Ontario Library Service Board:

- Is composed of 13 people: 9 elected representatives and 4 Ministerial Appointees. Representatives will be elected from their corresponding Board Assembly.
- A full term for the Board is four years, beginning at least one full year after Ontario municipal elections.

Board Assemblies:

- 9 Board Assemblies, based on population served, will represent Ontario public libraries (see Appendix A).
- All public libraries in Ontario will be invited to appoint an official board representative to their respective Board Assembly.

- Board Assemblies will meet virtually three times per year. Representatives from public libraries will come together at these Assemblies for Board training, networking opportunities and to provide feedback to the OLS on services and needs.
- At the 2021 Spring Assembly meetings, each of the 9 Assemblies will be responsible for electing a candidate to serve as a member of the OLS Board.

The inaugural Board Assembly meetings will be held in the Spring of 2021. It is at this Spring meeting that the elections for the OLS Board representatives will take place. Further information will be provided in the coming months.

Submitted by,

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Library CEO

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Attachment:

Appendix A - OLS Amalgamation presentation