



Peterborough Public Library

To: Members of the Peterborough Public Library Board

From: Jennifer Jones, Library CEO

Meeting Date: February 4, 2025

Report: OLS Board Assembly Report, Report PPL25-006

Subject

A report to provide the Library Board with a summary of the November 19, 2024, OLS Board Assembly meeting.

Recommendation

That the Library Board approves the recommendation as outlined in Report PPL25-000 dated February 4, 2025, of the Library CEO as follows:

That the report to inform the Library Board of the November 19, 2024, OLS Board Assembly meeting be received for information.

Background

Gillian Sandeman, representative of the Peterborough Public Library Board attended the Ontario Library Service (OLS) Board Assembly meeting on November 19, 2023. They will attend the Library Board meeting on February 4, 2025, to provide a verbal update on that meeting.

The following summary was provided:

Board Assembly Meeting. November 19th. 2024.

Present were representatives from Boards, including, but not limited to, Clarington, Waterloo, Whitby, Barrie, Chatham-Kent, Caledon, Kawartha Lakes, Kingston,

Markham and Peterborough. Frank Mensink, Chair of OLS was present and the meeting was run by Alison Pilon, OLS staff.

Agenda

1. Update from OLS.

Winter 2025 Training Bulletin and a webinar on Pay Equity now available.

2. Update from Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

The Public Libraries Operating Grants will be arriving soon. Once again there will be no increase.

Ontario Public Library statistics are now available.

The annual survey of a typical week in public libraries was happening at the time of the November Assembly.

3. Update from Ontario Library Association and the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries.

OLA and FOPL made a pre-budget submission hoping for an increase to the PLOG.

The Hon Stan. Cho is the new Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming.

FOPL made a presentation at the meeting of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) on the topic "Libraries are for Everyone" highlighting responses to protests, book banning etc.

4. Presentation by OLS staff on Board Policy Development.

Policies should:

- a) be proactive - forward thinking,
- b) be primarily a responsibility of the Board and the CEO,
- c) provide a structural framework
- d) be a reflection of the Library's mission, vision and values

Board responsibility:

- a) considers policy recommendations from CEO and staff
- b) debates policy issues,
- c) reviews and revises,

d) approves.

Policy development process:

a) research - considering current practice, related policies, impact, best practice

b) draft - normally by the CEO

c) approval

d) implementation which should include internal and external communication

e) regular review and revision

5. General Discussion

There was a wide range discussion of current issues from the Boards represented. These included how to deal with mid-term Board resignations and replacements, budgets, the experience of having a youth representative - a non-voting 'student trustee' on the Board, and Board involvement in the development of strategic plans.

Several libraries, as in Peterborough, have branches in community centres with ice-pads and pools etc. This arrangement works well for all involved.

Issues around book banning and censorship have become very important in several communities.

Problems associated with homelessness and drug use are ubiquitous. There was a lively discussion in response to the question "Should there be limits on Library services?"

Strategic Plan

Strategic Pillar: Community & Well-being

Strategic Initiative: Library services and programs enhance the recreational aspects of our community.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budget or financial implications resulting from the approval of the recommendation of this report.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Jones
Library CEO

Contact Name:

Jennifer Jones
Library CEO

Phone: 705- 745-5382 Ext.2370

Toll Free: 1-855-738-3755

Fax: 705-745-8958

E-Mail: jjones@peterborough.ca