

MEMO / NOTE DE SERVICE



Ottawa Bibliothèque
Public publique
Library d'Ottawa

To / Destinataire OPL Board / C.A. de la BPO

Cc : Sonia Bebbington, Chief Executive Officer / Chief Librarian / Directrice générale et bibliothécaire en chef

From / Expéditeur Alexandra Yarrow, Program Manager, Board and Strategic Services / Gestionnaire de programme, Conseil d'administration et services stratégiques

Subject / Objet 2025 Board Workshop Questionnaire Results / Résultats du questionnaire de l'atelier du C.A. 2025 **Date :** April 1, 2026 / 1 avril 2026

The purpose of this memo is to provide members with a summary of responses to the questionnaire about the 2025 Board Workshop.

Context

The 2025 Board Workshop was held in November 2025 with guest speaker Tommi Laitio, a global strategist in public space innovation and civic engagement. Mr. Laitio shared insights on the concept of Convivencia — the art of living well together, with a specific focus on public libraries. Seven Board members attended the workshop, as did members of OPL's senior management team.

Following the Board Workshop, a questionnaire was distributed to attendees to solicit feedback regarding various aspects of the session including the relevancy of the topic, the structure of the event, and logistics. The questionnaire was distributed on December 1, 2025, with two reminder emails issued on December 31, 2025, and January 21, 2026; the questionnaire was closed on February 18, 2026. Responses to the questionnaire were anonymous.

2025 Workshop Questionnaire Results

- Five (5) members completed the questionnaire out of seven (7) workshop participants for a response rate of 71%;
- Most responses indicated members “Strongly Agreed” or “Agreed” that the topic was relevant to their role and that the structure of the session encouraged learning and sharing;
- Members “Strongly Agreed” or “Agreed” that the session balanced presentation and time for group discussion, and that the session helped them connect with their fellow board members, key staff, and with concepts and considerations in the broader library sector;

- All respondents felt the length of the session was appropriate and felt motivated to learn and contribute during the session;
- The most frequent descriptors for the session were "informative" and "inspiring;"
- Respondents appreciated the venue and refreshments; and,
- Some comments indicated that more time overall, or more time for discussion, would be beneficial in future sessions.

Next steps

Staff will incorporate feedback and lessons learned into discussions regarding future workshop proposals, which will rise to the Governance Standing Committee in the next term of Board.

For any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Alexandra Yarrow

Program Manager, Board and Strategic Services

Gestionnaire de programme, Conseil d'administration et services stratégiques

Ottawa Public Library / Bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa

613-818-4918

Alexandra.Yarrow@bibliooottawalibrary.ca

bibliooottawalibrary.ca