

**Report to / Rapport au:**

**Ottawa Public Library Board  
Conseil d'administration de la bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa**

**September 13, 2022 / 13 septembre 2022**

**Submitted by / Soumis par:  
Danielle McDonald, Chief Executive Officer / Directrice générale**

*Contact Person / Personne ressource:  
Alexandra Yarrow, Program Manager, OPL Board & Strategic Services / Gestionnaire  
de portefeuille, Conseil d'administration de la BPO et services stratégiques  
(613) 580-2424 x32312. Alexandra.Yarrow@bibliooottawalibrary.ca*

**File Number: OPLB-2022-0913-10.2**

**SUBJECT: Order of Friendship Nomination – The Anishinābe Algonquin Host  
Nation communities of Pikwakanagan and Kitigan Zibi**

**OBJET: Nomination de l'Ordre de l'amitié – Les communautés Anishinābe  
Algonquine de la Nation hôte de Pikwakanagan et de Kitigan Zibi**

## **REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) Board approve the Anishinābe Algonquin Host Nation communities of Pikwakanagan and Kitigan Zibi for the Order of Friendship, in recognition of their instrumental input into shaping the design of Ādisōke, and for supporting OPL in advancing the organization's reconciliation and decolonization efforts.**

## **RECOMMANDATION DU RAPPORT**

**Que le Conseil d'administration de la Bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa approuve la nomination des communautés Anishinābe Algonquine de la Nation hôte de Pikwakanagan et de Kitigan Zibi pour le prix de l'Ordre de l'amitié, en reconnaissance de leur contribution déterminante à l'élaboration de la conception d'Ādisōke, et pour avoir soutenu la BPO dans leurs efforts en avançant la réconciliation et la décolonisation de l'organisation.**

## **BACKGROUND**

As per Board Policy 019 OPLB – Order of Friendship, the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) Board recognizes exceptional volunteer contributions made to OPL by individuals, groups, and / or institutions. Eligible contributions are those that help to improve OPL's ability to deliver services to the community, furthering the OPL's mission.

The OPL Board Order of Friendship is awarded in the second and fourth years of the term, upon nomination by trustees. The purpose of this report is to put forth a nomination for consideration.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation is the only federally registered Algonquin community in Ontario, situated on the shores of Golden Lake and the Bonnechere River in Renfrew County. The Kitigan Zibi Anishinābeg First Nation is situated just outside the municipality of Maniwaki, and is the largest Algonquin Nation in Canada, in both area and population, with almost 2,600 community members.

These two Algonquin communities are nominated for the OPL Board Order of Friendship for their volunteer contributions to OPL. Since the early days of the Ādisōke (OPL-LAC Joint Facility) project, OPL staff have worked with representatives from the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and Kitigan Zibi Anishinābeg on the project. These relationships have developed and evolved over the last few years, growing to encompass other aspects of the Library's work. Several members of these communities have also provided the Library with their time, patience, and expertise on many other occasions.

Notable recent contributions made by the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and Kitigan Zibi Anishinābeg include:

- a) Supporting a greater understanding of Algonquin land, culture, history, language, and knowledge among OPL employees in the Ādisōke project team and the organization as a whole, including guiding the design of an inclusive and welcoming central library;
- b) Participating in a series of in-person design workshops and community visits over the past few years. As a result of sharing Indigenous ways of knowing, the final building design for Ādisōke is in tune with the land on which it will sit;

- c) Giving the name of the Joint Facility – Ādisōke, an Anishinābemowin word that refers to the telling of stories (as a powerful and meaningful act of friendship);
- d) Partnering with OPL on a variety of programming initiatives, including National Truth and Reconciliation Day and National Indigenous History Month; and,
- e) Partnering with OPL to help develop the Library's land acknowledgement statements for Board meetings, programs, and events.

The Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and Kitigan Zibi Anishinābeg have provided OPL with an example of a path forward in building meaningful relationships with all Indigenous communities. They shared their ideas freely and without reservation, not only for the design of the exterior of the building and landscaping but also various spaces and ideas for the inside, including the use of natural materials throughout the building, and a wigwam-inspired room that will be used for smudging ceremonies and is central to the Indigenous learning centre.

The friendship offered and expressed by the Kitigan Zibi Anishinābeg and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation have profoundly changed Ādisōke, and OPL, for the better. Ādisōke will be a space in which deep relationships are developed, knowledge is shared, understanding is built, and where people of all cultures can connect and learn from each other.

OPL, as an organization, remains committed to ongoing reconciliation and decolonization work, guided and informed by both listening to friends and taking concrete actions to further our efforts.

## **CONSULTATION**

An Ad hoc Committee was established in September 2020 composed of Trustees Meehan and Slack to review nominations and provide recommendations to the Board. Following Trustee Meehan's resignation from the Board, Trustee Kitts was appointed to the Ad hoc Committee.

Trustees were asked to provide nominations by June 2022. Two nominations were received. The Order of Friendship Ad hoc Committee of the Board discussed the nominations and supports the recommendation outlined in this report.

## **ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS**

There are no accessibility impacts associated with this report.

## **BOARD PRIORITIES**

This aligns with the OPL Board Strategic Directions and Priorities, specifically:  
SUCCESS through learning, literacy, and innovation: Strengthen the Library's reach and value.

## **BUSINESS ANALYSIS IMPLICATIONS**

There are no business analysis implications associated with this report.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Financial expenditures associated with this Order of Friendship nomination (award, presentation) are provided through the OPL Board budget at approximately \$250.

## **INDIGENOUS AND GENDER EQUITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no specific Indigenous, gender or race equity implications associated with the report. The new Ottawa Central Library site for the Joint Facility is located on the unceded, traditional territory of the Anishinābe Algonquin Nation, who have lived in the area since time immemorial. Elders and members of the Host Nation have been important partners in influencing the design of the facility and the selection of the name Ādisōke. OPL will continue to work with the Algonquin host nation communities in the spirit of relationship-building, active listening, decolonization, and reconciliation. Bestowing the Order of Friendship on The Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and Kitigan Zibi Anishinābeg is an acknowledgement of the collaborative work to-date.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no risk management implications associated with this report.

## **TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no technology implications associated with this report.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

Document 1 – Nomination form (*Held on file with the Chief Executive Officer*).

## **DISPOSITION**

Upon approval of this report, staff will:

1. Notify representatives of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and Kitigan Zibi Anishinābeg of the Board's decision;
2. Arrange for the presentation of the Order of Friendship to the recipients; and,
3. Update the Order of Friendship page on the OPL website, acknowledging the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and Kitigan Zibi Anishinābeg as Order of Friendship recipients.