

Report to / Rapport au:

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

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Submitted by / Soumis par:

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File Number: OPLB-2016-0182

SUBJECT: Order of Friendship Nomination – Mr. Colin Plows

OBJET: Nomination de l'Ordre de l'amitié – M. Colin Plows

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

That the Ottawa Public Library Board approve Mr. Colin Plows for the Order of Friendship in recognition of his outstanding work with the Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association (FOPLA).

RECOMMANDATION DU RAPPORT

Que le Conseil d'administration de la Bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa approuve l'attribution de l'Ordre de l'amitié à M. Colin Plows, en reconnaissance de son travail exceptionnel avec l'Association des Amis de la Bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa (AABPO).

BACKGROUND

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

Mr. Colin Plows is nominated for the OPL Board Order of Friendship for his outstanding commitment and contribution through:

- a) his role as a long-time volunteer with the Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association (FOPLA);
- b) his role as President of the FOPLA; and,
- c) his overall support of the Ottawa Public Library.

Mr. Plows began his involvement with FOPLA as representative for the Cumberland – Orleans Local Committee in 2010. Bill Porter, then President, first introduced Mr. Plows to the FOPLA volunteer group, around the time that Mr. Porter was considering stepping down as Chair.

In his role as representative of the Cumberland – Orleans Local Committee, Mr. Plows communicates effectively with his volunteers. He is attentive and listens actively bringing forth ideas to his “team” of volunteers, and sharing information from OPL. He is approachable, easy-going and very reliable. Mr. Plows is often seen at the Cumberland branch working in the FOPLA storage room, or lugging bagfuls of donations from one location to another to supplement material when a location is low on certain types of materials to sell. When FOPLA volunteers are inundated with the volume of materials, he takes the time to help until things become more manageable. Mr. Plows is very diplomatic when dealing with issues that are brought to his attention, listens actively, and responds in a timely manner by finding solutions. Mr. Plows continues to serve as the local representative for Cumberland.

Mr. Plows became the FOPLA President in 2011 and maintained that position until June 2016. Since his appointment to the position of President, Mr. Plows has put a strong structure into FOPLA, focusing on strategic planning, implementing job descriptions for the various positions, and exploring options for increased FOPLA member recruitment. He has been strategic in his pursuit of building a solid organization, one that supports the OPL both financially and through advocacy efforts. He has been influential in demonstrating the differences between the roles of members on FOPLA Board from

that of working in the bookstore. Moreover, Mr. Plows is dedicated and interested in helping the library to raise funds. Under Mr. Plows' leadership, FOPLA average annual donations since 2011 to OPL have increased by more than 10%. He was also key to gaining support for a first-time request by OPL for a three-year FOPLA donation to the Beaverbrook Branch.

Mr. Plows has been a tremendous and ardent supporter of the Ottawa Public Library. He has brought ideas and a collaborative approach to advocacy initiatives in support of the OPL. He is supportive and encouraging of OPL initiatives, understanding the role of FOPLA and taking care to ensure that FOPLA's vision and path forward aligns with that of OPL. Mr. Plows has forged ties with OPL staff (and encouraged the FOPLA Board members to do the same), helping volunteers understand and strive to help OPL achieve its strategic initiatives.

Mr. Plows is a retired naval officer who holds a Bachelor of Science, Physics and Physical Oceanography. He is a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal (2013) and a Golden Jubilee Medal for the Order of Military Merit (2009).

Mr. Plows' efforts as a volunteer and as President have gone a long way to ensuring a very solid relationship with the Ottawa Public Library, and have added so much to all the branches within the OPL. He is a most deserving recipient of this award.

CONSULTATION

An Ad-hoc Committee was struck at the OPL Board 10 May 2016 meeting composed of Trustees Begg and Higdon to review nominations and provide recommendations to the Board.

Trustees were asked to provide nominations by 1 June 2016. One nomination was received. The Order of Friendship Ad-Hoc Committee of the Board met to review the nomination and supports the recommendation outlined in this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management 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 \$250.00.)

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

There are no accessibility impacts associated with this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

There are no technology implications 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.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

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

DISPOSITION

Pending Board approval of the nomination, Mr. Colin Plows will be notified of the Board's decision. A presentation will be made to the recipient on 11 October 2016 at the OPL Board meeting.