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Report to/Rapport au:

OTTAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION DE LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE PUBLIQUE D'OTTAWA

May 12, 2014
Le 12 mai 2014

Submitted by/Soumis par: Patrick Gauch
Trustee / Administrateur

Ref N°: OPLB-2014-0055

SUBJECT: Ontario Library Association Conference Trustee Report

OBJET : Rapport d'administrateur de la conférence de l'Ontario Library Association

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Ottawa Public Library Board receive this report for information.

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

Que le C.A. de la Bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa prenne connaissance de ce rapport à titre d'information.

A Universe of Possibilities
Ontario Library Association Super Conference – January 29 – February 1, 2014
Metro Toronto Convention Centre

This is the second year that I have had honour of representing the Ottawa Public Library as a speaker at the Ontario Library Association Super Conference. Due to scheduling, I was only able to attend Thursday's events.

The presentation was on the role of governance and the advantages and challenges of various governance models used by public library systems across Canada. The discussion focused of five main models: Policy Governance, Constituent / Representative Board, Entrepreneurial Board, Emergent Cellular, and the Municipal.

Throughout the interactive presentation, it became clear that the general trend is moving away from the once popular Policy Governance model in favour of the Municipal model. Many participants indicated that they found the Municipal model easier to work with as it mirrors the practices of the respective City Council and that Councillors who serve as Trustees are already familiar with the processes. Interestingly, approximately 15 participates indicated that they could not identify their governance model and several said that the lack of structure was causing significant issues with their Boards.

At the conclusion of the presentation, there was interest in how the OPL governance review was proceeding and there were suggestions that perhaps the OPL could make a presentation next year as to the process and learnings from our experiences. I will discuss this with the Chair and CEO in May.

I also had the opportunity to attend two additional sessions:

Keynote Address by Jennifer Keesmaat, Chief Planner, City of Toronto.

Ms. Keesmaat discussed her collaborative approach to city planning and the effects it has on building a vision for a city with involvement of key stakeholders. She posits that planning is no longer the purview of planning departments, developers and city councillors, but the responsibility of all residents. With improved communications and advances in social media, residents are becoming more educated and involved with the planning process.

Size Does Not Matter…Leadership Does

Presented by Ashley McColl (President, Friends of the Cornwall Public Library), Colin Plows (President, Friends of the Ottawa Public Library), and Judy Sauve (Vice-Chair, Friends of the Bonnechere Union Public Library).

The presentation focused on the role of leadership in keeping volunteer driven organizations vibrant and thriving. This session was very interactive with many discussion points coming from the audience. Overall theme was that regardless of size or scope, all organizations require vibrant leadership to keep volunteers engaged and focused on strategic objectives. One discussion particularly interesting was the responsibility of organizations to profile leadership characteristics, identify those characteristics in volunteers and cultivate those people to leadership positions.

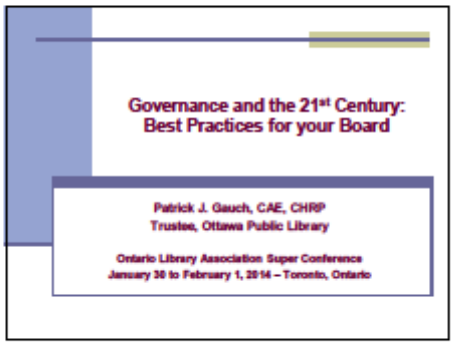
Overall, attending the OLA Super Conference is an excellent opportunity to network with fellow Trustees and library staff, see the latest innovations at the trade show and learn how other systems are dealing with the same issues that we face.

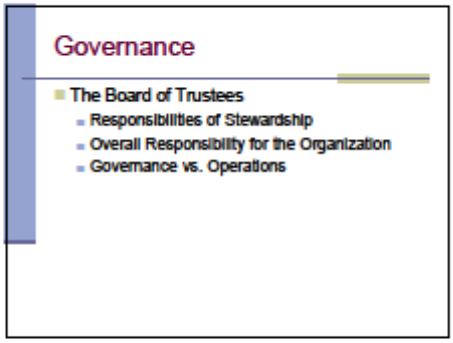
Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Gauch, Trustee

Attachment: Governance and the 21st Century: Best Practices for your Board

Ontario Library Association 2014 Super Conference





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