

Report to/Rapport au:

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

**March 17, 2014
Le 17 mars 2014**

**Submitted by/Soumis par: Jim Bennett
Trustee / Administrateur**

Ref N°: OPLB-2014-0030

SUBJECT: Federation of Ontario Public Libraries 2014 Annual General Meeting

OBJET : Assemblée générale annuelle de la fédération des Bibliothèques publiques de l'Ontario de 2014

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.

BACKGROUND

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL) is held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on the first day of the Ontario Library Association SuperConference each year at 4:30 pm. Staging of the 2014 FOPL AGM, attended by Trustee Bennett as FOPL Past President, occurred on January 29.

DISCUSSION

The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries qualifies as a non-profit organization. Its purpose is to support and further Ontario public libraries and the communities they serve by educating the public on the role of public libraries to governments and other

public and private sector bodies. The Federation's strategic focus includes advocacy, research and development, marketing, and consortia purchasing. As ONE VOICE, the Federation ensures issues facing public libraries are presented in a consistent manner benefiting all public libraries across Ontario. The Federation provides all levels of government with a view of public libraries as a united, relevant, and integral component for economic and community development worthy of strong and continued support.

The property and business of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries is managed by a board of 22 directors composed of 11 Chief Executive Officers of library systems and 11 trustees of library systems. Each director represents 1 of 7 caucuses, namely, Large Urban, Small-Medium Urban, Rural, Northern, First Nations, Francophone, Toronto.

FOPL members elected, acclaimed, or appointed as Directors of the 2014 FOPL Board are:

Table 1 - Directors of the 2014 FOPL Board			
DIRECTOR	CAUCUS	AFFILIATION	PUBLIC LIB.
Sheri Mishi	First Nation	Library CEO	Wikwemikong
Sabrina Saunders	First Nation	Library CEO	Six Nations
Diane Ellis	Francophone	Board Trustee	Russell
Claire Dionne	Francophone	Library CEO	Russell
Wayne Greco	Large Urban	Board Trustee	Sault Ste. Marie
Kerry Langford	Large Urban	Board Trustee	Burlington
Margaret MacLean	Large Urban	Board Trustee	Thunder Bay
Margie Singleton	Large Urban	Library CEO	Vaughan
Ian Ross	Large Urban	Library CEO	Whitby
Lilita Stripnieks	Large Urban	Library CEO	St. Catherines
To be determined	Northern	Library Trustee	
Jonathan Lewis	Northern	Library CEO	Atikokan
Larry Stewart	Rural	Board Trustee	Brant
Jennifer La Chapelle	Rural	Library CEO	Clearview
Michael Kennedy	Small - Medium	Board Trustee	Whit. Stouff.
To be determined	Small – Medium		
Mary Baxter	Small – Medium	Library CEO	Georgina
To be determined	Small – Medium		
Paul Ainslie	Toronto	Board Trustee	Toronto PL
Ben Wulffhart	Toronto	Board Trustee	Toronto PL
Jane Pyper	Toronto	Library CEO	Toronto PL
Linda Mackenzie	Toronto	Library Director	Toronto PL

The FOPL Directors elected, acclaimed, or appointed as officers for 2014 are:

- President – Ian Ross (Whitby PL CEO)
- Vice-President – Michael Kennedy (Whitchurch-Stouffville PL Trustee)
- Treasurer – Linda Mackenzie (Toronto PL Director)
- Secretary and Executive Director – Stephen Abram
- Past-President – Larry Stewart (County of Brant PL Chair)

Under the provisions of FOPL By-Law Number 1, the Federation is required to undertake an annual audit and present the audited financial statements to Members at each Annual General Meeting. The Federation appointed the firm Harris & Chong LLP as auditors for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2013. The resulting Audited Financial statements (representing the assets, liabilities, revenues, expenditures, and sources of FOPL revenue) and Auditor's report for the period were approved by the Board of Directors on January 9, 2014, were received by the members at the FOPL AGM and are available on request.

On January 9, 2014, the Board of Directors approved a balanced budget for 2013-14. This budget reflects known operating expenses of \$215,416 and anticipated revenues from membership fees and interest income of \$292,309 for the Federation in 2013-14. The Board's plan for fiscal sustainability has enabled the allocation of operating funds to the Project Fund that stands at \$144,705 to support research and advocacy initiatives in the current year. The FOPL 2014 budget documents are available on request.

Stephen Abram joined the Federation as the Executive Director in April 2013.

Stephen Abram is well known to the Ontario and international library communities. He is a renowned library thought leader, trend watcher and innovator and author of *Stephen's Lighthouse* blog, one of the most popular blogs in librarianship. He has been president of the Ontario Library Association, the Canadian Library Association and the international Special Libraries Association. He received the 2011 CLA Outstanding Service to Librarianship Award in June 2011. He is also a strategy and direction planning consultant for libraries and the information industry as managing principal at Lighthouse Partners Inc. He has held international executive leadership positions at Cengage Learning (Gale), SirsiDynix, Thomson, ProQuest Micromedia, and IHS. He has lead several libraries and served on the advisory boards of six LIS schools. He was listed by *Library Journal* as one of the top 50 people influencing the future of libraries as one of the first LJ "Movers and Shakers." He has been awarded the SLA's John Cotton Dana Award as well as being a Fellow of the SLA. He was Canadian Special Librarian

of the Year and Alumni of the Year for the Faculty of Information iSchool at the University of Toronto where he received the 2010 Outstanding Teaching Award. He speaks internationally on innovation, technology, marketing and strategic success in libraries and is the author of hundreds of articles as well as ALA Editions' bestselling *Out Front with Stephen Abram*.

ATTACHMENTS

1. The FOPL Executive Director Report for Jan. 29, 2014 AGM



Agenda Document Number 7

Subject:	2013 Executive Director's Report
Prepared By:	Stephen Abram
Prepared For:	FOPL 2014-01-29 Annual General Meeting
Date of Preparation:	Wednesday, January 15 th 2014

MOTION: That the report of the Executive Director be received.

FOPL Executive Director Report for Jan. 29, 2014 AGM

It has been almost eight months since I joined FOPL as the Executive Director. In that time it has brought me great satisfaction to represent the public libraries of Ontario and to revitalize this important organization. Here is a summary of some of the highlights of what we've been doing. In the past few months we have focused on the important issues identified by our board and members to move public libraries forward in our province. To that end we have:

- We distributed the Access Copyright Canada legal opinion, at no charge to members, from Wanda Noel on the changing landscape of public libraries and their renewal decision with respect to licenses with Access Copyright Canada. We have also, in the spirit of partnership, shared this opinion with the executive directors of OLA, CLA, SOLS, OLSN, and CULC. I am in contact with Wanda Noel to arrange a webinar for FOPL members about the opinion. Congratulations to CELUPL for their leadership on this front.
- In partnership with OLA, we have sought funding from the Ontario Culture Development Fund to increase the sustainability of trustee and board training in Ontario before and after the 2014 provincial and municipal elections. We hope to hear a successful result in winter 2014 and start to create a 4 year sustainable and repeatable plan for training and e-learning that can also serve as a model for other non-profit sector organizations. We are keeping our fingers crossed!
- We have delivered a successful 10-part series of (free to members) webinars and teleconferences, based on research and lead by key library advocates and leaders, to increase our skills and perspectives to influence the positioning of public libraries broadly and as a lead up to the 2014 Ontario elections and beyond. These have been very well received and will help our sector build 'muscle' in order to influence the course of public libraries. The CAPSTONE session was delivered as an OLA Super Conference pre-conference at North York Central Library from 1-5 on Jan. 28, 2014.
- We have picked up on the Libraries 2020 branding initiative and recently were successful in securing funding of \$20,000 for phase one as approved by the board. We have engaged a consultant and soon to plan to involve volunteers from FOPL, OLA, SOLS and OLSN (and the Ontario Public Library Marketing ThinkTank) to implement an innovative marketing campaign for Ontario's public libraries that will engage us, our patrons, and opinion leaders in both traditional ways using social media tools. Funding for phase one, which involves developing a branding strategy, a census of Ontario

public library taglines, images and social media presence, etc. is expected to be lead by a steering committee of library marketing experts from our community. Funding for Phase two will be requested and we will involve partners and sponsors for additional funding. This implementation plan is a vision for a two year engagement of libraries, cardholders, and others to support the value, impact and positioning (VIP) of public libraries.

- We have undertaken quick member surveys about our role in supporting e-government, complying with AODA, gate counts as a measure of community engagement, and more and sharing this information within our members and the wider press and social media. Our goal is to prove impact and align with Ontario policy and funding initiatives.
- FOPL has written letters of support and assisted Bill Irwin of the Huron College / Western University for his SSHRC application for funding of a major study of quantitative and qualitative impact measurements for public libraries in Ontario, Alberta and possibly Quebec. We await a successful outcome but Bill has already started on the study framework and implementation.
- We supported research on the value of public libraries and future distribution of FOPL studies to members. The first one, accomplished by OISE researchers, about School readiness and Public Library impact has been released. It is a FOPL-lead study of the positive impact of public libraries on early years and school readiness. The English and French versions have been mailed to all members and extra copies will be available the AGM. An infographic poster has been mailed as well and I am pleased that many libraries have posted this in their libraries. We have promoted this through social media and on the FOPL website. It has been shared with our partner organizations.
- I have been working closely with the Ministry and have some advance data from the latest data collection. This will inform our survey work and be very useful in our branding research.
- We have built capability to create infographics on the key proofs of the value of public libraries for learning, culture, and the social and economic capacity of our communities for distribution to members.
- FOPL has sponsored successful and innovative symposia on makerspaces in public libraries, MOOCs and e-learning in public libraries. In 2014 there will be a FOPL sponsored free University of Toronto iSchool MOOC on advocacy for libraries as well as a symposium on new measurements for public libraries.
- I have met with AMPLO, ARUPLO, CULC, and the CNIB to see where we can make our activities and communications align. The leading organizations for Public Libraries in Ontario are now meeting quarterly to align our efforts at collaboration and cooperation for greater impact.
- I am giving sessions at OLA Super Conference on areas of focus for FOPL.
- FOPL is planning more assertive communications aligned with the election cycle to, in a non-partisan way, position libraries well and educate about our vital role in Ontario's social, cultural and economic fabric aimed at provincial and municipal targets through our members.
- I have sent reports or visited the SOLS trustee council meetings and reported on FOPL activities as well as sought new members underlining this message "So, we need you – your voice and ideas. We need your support and membership. We need your trust and confidence that we can make a difference to enhance the success of the institutions we care so deeply about. If your library is not already a member of FOPL, Ontario's voice for public libraries, please consider joining and supporting our efforts. It is clear that the more libraries we can represent, the stronger our important voice will be with the key audiences who influence our success, funding, and role in society. "
- We will be stepping up our meetings with a wide range civil servants, politicians, partner organizations, and leaders to represent public libraries in the social, policy, and economic context. We have met with the CNIB about their new initiatives, the Ministry of Culture staff, and the Ministry of Finance as well as many others to educate and inform as well as influence.
- We are focused on communicating the difference we make as library workers, leaders, and trustees in our communities and province and educating the need for appropriate funding and support for public libraries to influence key decision makers.

- On the administrative side, we have sent a new member campaign to recruit new or lapsed members. At least 5 new members have joined or re-joined as a result.
- We have done the member renewal mailing and that appears to be going very well with much positive feedback on recent FOPL activities.
- We have supported several in-person and teleconference board meetings where they provide leadership, vision, insights and direction.
- This year saw our FOPL administrative assist move to Alberta with her husband who was transferred there. I think her for all of her support and we wish her all the best. On 2014, Monica Mixemong joined FOPL as administrative assistant and has already hit the ground running. You will have an opportunity to meet her at the AGM.

Now that I have a few months under my belt, in 2014, as we get funding and the board continues its focus on our major strategic initiatives, we will engage our research, advocacy and marketing committees in advisory work on steering the above initiatives.

We will continue to meet with like organizations, political leaders and civil servants and are expanding our reach into government and other partners. We are working cooperatively with other partner organizations such as OLA and its divisions, SOLS, OLS-N, AMPLO, ARUPLO, U of T, and others. Our goal is cooperation and to keep the lines of communication open. We will strive to speak with one voice and with power. We are too important to our communities to do otherwise.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report and your support in my tenure at FOPL. I am always available to chat via e-mail or telephone at the contact information below (even if your library is not a member). Look for me at Super Conference too! If I can be helpful in any way, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

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The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries is a non-profit with a mandate to benefit Ontario public libraries through advocacy, research, and marketing.

La Fédération des bibliothèques publiques de l'Ontario est un organisme à but non-lucratif. Elle a comme mandat, de répondre aux besoins de toutes les bibliothèques, en concentrant leurs efforts dans la recherche, en marketing et en agissant comme plaidoyer.