

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-2022-0404

SUBJECT: Commemorative Naming – Daniel Poliquin Program Room – Rideau Branch

OBJET: Nom commémorative – Salle des programmes Daniel-Poliquin – Succursale Rideau

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

That the Ottawa Public Library Board approve the proposal to name the room within the Rideau branch the “Daniel Poliquin Program Room.”

RECOMMANDATION DU RAPPORT

Que le Conseil d'administration de la Bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa approuve la proposition de désignation de salle de la succursale Rideau du nom de « salle des programmes Daniel-Poliquin ».

BACKGROUND

In keeping with the *Public Libraries Act, RSO 1990, c.P.44 (the Act)*, other relevant statutes, laws, and good governance practices, the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) Board (“the Board”) retains accountability for the full range of decisions affecting the organization. The Board has decided, however, to use a policy or strategic model of

governance that focuses most of the attention of the Trustees on setting strategic direction and objectives, making decisions on major projects and monitoring performance.

In keeping with section 15 of the *Act*, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) shall have general supervision over, and direction of, the operations of the public library and its staff and shall have the other powers and duties that the Board assigns to him or her from time to time. As such, the Board has approved Policy 002 – Delegation of Authority. As part of that policy, the Board approves facility naming rights.

At its meeting of August 19, 2013, the OPL Board approved a recommendation to adopt the City's criteria and process for commemoratively naming OPL buildings or spaces within library buildings (including mobile units) as outlined in the City of Ottawa's Commemorative Naming Policy for Municipal Parks, Streets, and Facilities. Subsequently, in 2019 the OPL Board approved amendments to the Commemorative Naming policy (OPLB-2019-0701) to better reflect the intent of OPL's practices (policy applying only to OPL spaces within facilities and to mobile units, rather than to an entire OPL building), and to seek approval with respect to Appendix A regarding a transfer of the City of Ottawa's policy ownership and process.

A commemorative name honours individuals who are (or have been) citizens of the City of Ottawa, or who have made a specific contribution to the City of Ottawa, and:

- Demonstrated excellence, courage or exceptional service to the citizens of the City of Ottawa, the Province of Ontario and / or Canada;
- Provided extensive community service, or who have an extraordinary community service record;
- Worked to foster equality and reduce discrimination;
- Where the nominated individual is a current City employee, the individual shall have made an outstanding contribution to the City of Ottawa outside of his/her capacity and duties as a City employee or they may be recognized for their exceptional service once they are no longer a City employee;
- The nominated individual has made a significant financial contribution to a park or facility and the contribution significantly benefits the community that the park or facility serves (i.e. the park or facility may not have otherwise been possible without the financial assistance);

- The nominated name has historical significance to the community, City of Ottawa, Province of Ontario, or Canada.

Any member of the public, including Board and Council members, may submit a name to the City for consideration. City staff review the name against other criteria and if no issues are identified, they then forward the nomination to the Commemorative Naming Committee (“CNC”) to review of the formal application. Where the proposal is to name an OPL mobile unit or a space within an OPL facility, the CNC is comprised of the Library’s Chief Executive Officer and the Chair of the Ottawa Public Library Board, or their designates.

As part of the process, the CNC provides an initial approval based on the policy’s criteria and the information provided by the nominator. City staff then ensure there is community support for the choice by initiating a 30-day public consultation phase.

Following the consultation process, the CNC reviews any public feedback received, and makes a final recommendation on the nomination, which is subsequently considered by the OPL Board. In cases where no public objections are received, proposals may be brought directly to the Board without the need for a second CNC meeting.

The purpose of this report is to review a recent application to name the program room at Rideau branch, and recommend the Board approve this application.

DISCUSSION

Daniel Poliquin Program Room

An application to commemorate Daniel Poliquin was submitted by a member of the public in 2021. Under the proposal, the program room located at the Rideau branch would be named “Daniel Poliquin Program Room.”

The CNC met on February 9, 2022 to review the application and endorsed the proposed name under the following criterion: “The nominated individual shall have demonstrated excellence, courage or exceptional service to the citizens of the City of Ottawa, the Province of Ontario and/or Canada.”

An integral part of the Commemorative Naming Process is public consultation on the proposed name. Immediately following the CNC meeting on February 9, 2022, relevant information about the application was communicated through a public service announcement and posted on Ottawa.ca for a 30-day public consultation on the proposed name through the Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services Department.

Through this public engagement process, the Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services Department received two comments of support for this name for this proposal. (*Held on file with the Chief Executive Officer*).

The following is an excerpt from the application: “Mr. Poliquin is an award-winning writer and translator, was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada in 2005 and Officer of the Order of Canada in 2018. Mr. Poliquin won the Trillium Prize in 1999 with the “L’homme de paille”, won the Ottawa Book Prize in 2007 with “La Kermesse”, won the Prix France-Acadie in 2019 with the “Le vol de l’ange”. He has been a finalist at least five times for the Translation Prize of the Governor General, and finally won in 2014 and 2019 for translating two books. France also made Mr. Poliquin a Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters and his work has even been recognized outside of the French-speaking world. As proof, many of his books have been translated into English; his novel “La Kermesse/A Secret Between Us” has been translated into Slovenian, and one of his short stories, “Pourquoi les écureuils d’Ottawa sont noirs/Why Ottawa Squirrels Are Black” has been translated into Spanish in Mexico.”

Summary of the Proposal is found in the attached Document 1.

Staff are recommending that the Board approve the proposal to name the Rideau branch program room the “Daniel Poliquin Program Room”, because, in addition to meeting the criteria laid out in OPL Board Policy 013, the nomination dedication to writing supports OPL’s value of “Literacy”.

CONSULTATION

As described in this report, public consultation was completed for 30 days, via the City of Ottawa website. This consultation process was overseen by the Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services Department.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

Ottawa Public Library supports and considers the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, (2005)* in its operations. There are no accessibility impacts associated with this report.

BOARD PRIORITIES

The recommendation in this report aligns with the OPL Values of community by celebrating the contributions of a community leader.

BUSINESS ANALYSIS IMPLICATIONS

There are no business analysis considerations associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial expenditures associated with this Commemorative Naming proposal for advertisements, and the costs of purchasing plaques, signs and/or hosting naming ceremonies are provided through the OPL Board budget, approximately \$2,000 per naming.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

INDIGENOUS AND GENDER EQUITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no Indigenous and Gender Equity 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 – Summary of Proposal: Daniel Poliquin Program Room (English and French).

DISPOSITION

Pending Board approval of this naming proposal, staff will work with the nominator, the branch, the Board Chair, and the Ward Councillor to coordinate a ceremonial event to unveil the plaque for the Daniel Poliquin Program Room.

Commemorative Naming Proposal – Daniel Poliquin Program Room
Ward 12 – Rideau-Vanier
(originally posted on Ottawa.ca)

In recognition of demonstrated excellence, the City has been asked to name the Rideau Library Branch Program Room, located at 377 Rideau Street, “Daniel Poliquin Program Room”. Daniel Poliquin is a renowned novelist, established literary translator and Officer of the Order of Canada. With many remarkable awards and accolades, he has demonstrated excellence in his field. Daniel provided his hometown a voice and an image in Canadian literature.

The public consultation ran from February 9 – March 10, 2022

Nom commémoratif – Salle des programmes Daniel-Poliquin
Quartier 12 – Rideau-Vanier
(initialement publié sur Ottawa.ca)

En reconnaissance de l'excellence manifeste de Daniel Poliquin, une demande a été déposée auprès de la Ville d'Ottawa afin que la salle des programmes de la succursale Rideau de la Bibliothèque publique, située au 377, rue Rideau, soit nommée «salle des programmes Daniel-Poliquin». Daniel Poliquin est un romancier de renom, un traducteur littéraire chevronné et un Officier de l'Ordre du Canada. Habitué des prix et des distinctions, il s'est démarqué dans son domaine. Daniel a donné une voix à sa ville natale et une image à la littérature canadienne.

The consultation s'est déroulée du 9 février au 10 mars, 2022