

This year has been a very busy one for the OSLA Council. Our focus for this year has been a vitally important one....Advocacy. It was also a year of making connections, sharing and learning-- something that Teacher Librarians do exceedingly well!

I am reporting to you about the work of the 2014 OSLA Council following the format of the OLA strategic plan.

### **Growing career paths and potential**

The OSLA Advocacy committee worked to create tools for Teacher Librarians to use when advocating for program, staffing and funding for their programs – all available on our website. The OLA advocacy committee worked to make connections to Ministry of Education personnel and again with other like-minded organizations such as People for Education.

Council members dedicated themselves to creating webinars to support Together for Learning in order to keep the document growing and to share exemplary practice in our digital document. This practice will continue and we welcome contributions from our membership.

### **Collaborating to extend libraries strategic voice**

Our council also played a big role in contributing to the new Canadian Library Association (CLA) document, Leading Learning, Shelagh Paterson and I had the opportunity to share the process OSLA council worked through to contribute to Leading Learning at the Treasure Mountain 3 Conference in Victoria, B.C. last June. Leading Learning is a guideline for school library programs to look to across the country as they strive to create a true learning commons. This document is yet more proof of the great work being done in school libraries across our country as well as the collaboration between associations across the country and within Ontario.

Together with the Association for Library Consultants of Ontario (TALCO) OSLA council members will be working on a document funded by the Ministry of Education that will connect Inquiry Based Learning to the work TL's do in K – 8 School Libraries. Additionally, we have TL's working on an eLearning Ontario Project to help educators and administrators better understand Inquiry Based Learning. I have presented at the Subject Association Forum about Together For Learning and the connections to our document, Inquiry Based Learning and the work of Teacher Librarians.

The OSLA council will continue to reach out to other subject associations, faculties of education, and across divisions within the OLA to ensure that understandings and learning about the OSLA, School Libraries and effective school library programs are shared and developed collaboratively.

Finally this year the OLA Board agreed that it was necessary to invest time and money in advocacy for libraries in Ontario and that school libraries specifically needed support. On November 26<sup>th</sup>, we held the first Library Day at the Ontario Parliamentary Buildings. With the support of Impact Public Affairs, and our Executive Director, we had teams of library advocates meeting with public officials throughout the day to draw attention to all the things libraries do for communities across Ontario. Our team comprised of myself, incoming President Jeanne Conte, OLA President Anita Brooks-Kirkland, and our Executive Director Shelagh Paterson was formidable! We made sure that the message was loud and clear – Adequately staffed, and funded school library programs make a difference to student learning and student success across the province and equitable access to digital resources for students across Ontario is a necessity for learning.

### **Strengthening our organization:**

This year we have made an effort to contact co-ordinators of Additional Qualification programs across the province offering Librarianship AQ's. First to ensure that all Instructor Leaders are accessing the resources available through the OSLA and second to offer a one year free membership to candidates completing an AQ course. Our hope has been to grow our membership numbers. We will continue to track data to see how our membership numbers increase or decrease over the next couple of years. That being said our membership continues to hover around the same mark of 1366 members. This will continue to be a focus area for OSLA council members as we move forward.

The Teaching Librarian magazine continues to be published 3 – 4 times per year and is distributed to our membership. Contributions to our publication continue to be relevant to the work being done in schools across our membership and the Teaching Librarian is a publication that TL's look to across the country. Many thanks to our editorial board, under the leadership of Editor, Diana Maliszewski.

### **Transforming ideas into solutions:**

The shift in the format of the 2015 Superconference is proof of this goal. The Superconference Planning committee members representing the OSLA have done an exemplary job of ensuring we have a wide variety of selections in a variety of formats to meet the diverse learning needs of our membership as well as inviting cross divisional learning. My thanks go out to Joel Krentz and Sarah Oesch.

We have made great headway as an association planting the seeds that will continue to grow as our incoming President Jeanne Conte and President Elect

Kate Johnson-McGregor continue to make the connections to the achievements of appropriately staffed and funded school libraries.

Many thanks to the support from OSLA staff, the OSLA council members, Superconference Planners and the OSLA membership, I look forward to the gains we will continue to make in the upcoming year!

Respectfully submitted  
Deb Kitchener  
OSLA President 2014