



# OLA Best Bets Committee

REPORT TO OPLA COUNCIL

January 19, 2016

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## OLA Best Bets Committee Members

Vivien Keiling - Chair (Barrie Public Library)  
Erin Walker - Vice-Chair (Brampton Library)  
Kate Alatsas (Brampton Library)  
Kara Miley (Toronto Public Library)  
Sheilah O'Connor (Toronto Public Library)  
Jennifer Patrick (Oakville Public Library)  
Polly Ross (Aurora Public Library)  
Faith Shergold (Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library)

## Updates for OPLA Council

At our last meeting in January, the committee finalized our list of Top Ten titles in the Picture Book, Junior Fiction, Junior Nonfiction, Young Adult Fiction, and Young Adult Nonfiction categories, along with honourable mentions. Four committee members (3 speakers plus convenor) will be presenting the list at our session at Super Conference on Friday, January 29th. The finalized list, including Honourable Mentions, for each category has been shared with the OLA store as well as Tinlids in preparation for Super Conference and to have promotion ready for when the list is officially released at our presentation.

In 2015, the committee read and considered approximately 400 titles. Some publishers provided review copies of their eligible titles, while others were sourced from members' own libraries. In some cases, e-galleys were also considered. Despite our best efforts, there were some books we did not consider as we were unable to get our hands on a copy in time; which is an expected reality that we are aware of.

V. Keiling received confirmation that removable Best Bets stickers will be sourced by OLA and funded to a maximum of \$500 by the OPLA council. The stickers will be provided to Tinlids (as the official Forest of Reading distributor), as well as the publishers of the selected titles. Based on observations and statistics after the stickers' distribution this year, we will re-evaluate for numbers and cost for the following year.

The Best Bets committee will work on preparing a survey to determine audience and use of the lists created to help better promote awareness, and to assist in determining the department within OLA that Best Bets could affiliate with. Additionally, Best Bets will be working on connecting with other committees and sub-committees to allow for cross-promotion.

## Members

We received notice from P. Ross that she will be resigning from the committee. This leaves two spots open on the 2016 committee. Recruitment will begin in the Spring through OLA channels.