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**OPLA 2016 Annual General Meeting
Metro Toronto Convention Centre
Thursday, February 2nd 2017, 8:00a.m.-9:00 a.m.**

OLA Best Bets Committee 2016 Annual Report

2016 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)
- Jade Noble (Shelburne Public Library)
- Jennifer Patrick (Oakville Public Library)
- Theresa Power (Centre for Equitable Library Access)
- Faith Shergold (Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library)
- Lisa Marie Williams (Oakville Public Library)

In 2016, the Best Bets committee read and considered approximately 400 Canadian titles for children and teens. Some publishers provided review copies of 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 acquire reading copies in time.

In addition to list selections, the committee also focused its' efforts this year on raising the profile of Best Bets. We participated for the first time in several OLA events including the Festival of Trees in Toronto in May, and the Children's and Youth Expo in London in November. Best Bets also co-presented a two-part webinar with the Readers' Advisory Committee through the Education Institute in December. We have also worked with OPLA to formalize an annual budget to cover printing and other promotional costs.

At our 'year-end' meeting in January 2017, the committee finalized our lists of Top Ten 2016 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, February 3rd. We have changed our presentation format this year to a shorter, lightning-style book talk session.



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We received notice from a couple of committee members that they may be resigning from the committee. This will leave some vacancies open on the 2017 committee. Recruitment will begin in the Spring through OLA channels.