

OLA AGM- OPLA President's Message

Cortney LeGros

It has been such a pleasure to sit as your 2018 President. Everything that we achieved this year wouldn't be possible without the dedicated team of councillors, committee members and support staff. It has been a busy year for us, and the first in our new fiscal year calendar. I'm happy to report the following successes in 2018:

Committees and Events

If you are reading this, it is thanks to the **editors at HoOPLA**. This year was the last year for our editor Vanessa Holms, who has done an outstanding job editing the quarterly publication. She leaves the position in good hands with Nicole Zummach.

The **Child and Youth Services Committee** completed the Teen Services Benchmarking and Statistical Report. This report highlights the changes in technology since the last report in 2013, as well as trends and benchmarks. Last year, a survey task force was also developed to look into the future of OPLA surveys and determine where we will go next. I am happy to announce that this task force has completed a full report and OPLA has decided to create a **Survey Committee** who will identify target areas of research for the years to come. This committee will be recruiting new members, so if research and surveys are something you have an interest in please do connect with us at OPLA.

This was the first year the **Child and Youth Services Expo** was expanded from a one day, to a two day event in Scarborough. A huge congratulations to the team for pulling off an extraordinary expo with double the work!

The **Readers Advisory Committee** once again held their RA in a Day event which moved away from a genre specific event, and focused on social media and taking reading online. In addition, **Best Bets Committee** continue to promote their yearly recommended Canadian book choices of the year. In fact, you should go pick up a copy of their list today.

Political Advocacy

This year has been one of change on the political landscape, from the summer provincial election, to the fall municipal election. OLA and OPLA council have been hard at work with our Minister of Tourism Culture and Sport, a position which has already seen much change this year. A group of us from the OLA board met with the Deputy Minister Nancy Matthews in September to welcome her to the role and advocate on behalf of public libraries in Ontario. OLA is also in contact with our current Minister the Honorable Michael Tibollo to ensure we continue to have a voice for our libraries.

On top of a provincial government change, many of us will have seen changes in our municipal governments as well. At OPLA we have heard from our members that they need guidance for local advocacy. We are working on an information brief containing helpful advocacy tools that will assist with your local needs.

Kickstart Candidate

We had an unfortunate delay to the start of our Kickstart to Participation candidate due to a low number of applications. The late start didn't hold back Jennifer Murley and she is excited to launch the culmination of her project in February 2019. This year Jennifer worked to create an EI webinar on mentoring. In February, she will be hosting a mentoring webinar targeted to supervisors and managers of library pages. We are very proud of Jennifer's outcome.

Closing Remarks

It's only fitting that our **Super Conference** theme this year is Powered by the People, which is exactly what I feel like my tenure as President has been. A huge shout out to our co-planners Alex Karlovski and Megan Paquette who are part of the larger conference planning team that put together the best Library conference in Canada (ok, I might be a bit bias!)

I am looking forward to my final year on council as Past President and Treasurer, where I will get to mentor your new, and very capable, President Elizabeth Malak. I'm looking forward to our continued focus on Northern, Rural and Indigenous public libraries and engaging with the staff in those organizations.