

## **Ontario Library Association Annual General Meeting, January 30, 2020**

### **Resolution #1:**

#### **Title: Change to OLA By-Law 2 (Ontario School Library Association By-Law)**

#### **Background:**

The following motion was passed at the 118th OLA Annual General Meeting held January 31, 2019:

“Motion 118 – 7: Be it resolved that the [2019 OLA Resolution on By-Law 2](#) be referred and put out for consultation to all stakeholders. Said consultation process to end in such time as to allow for the OLA executive, or designated consultation committee representing all stakeholders, to put forth a resolution which can be conveyed to the membership no less than two months prior to the next AGM.”

OLA struck an OLA By-Law 2 Consultation Committee. The mandate was to consult with stakeholders, review OLA By-Law 2 and make recommendations with respect to any amendments, deletions and/or additions.

#### Process:

During 2019 the By-Law 2 Committee met to discuss how OLA can support a vision for school libraries, and from this, make a recommendation for a renewed by-law for OSLA.

The committee prepared a [report](#), which includes video excerpts, that explores:

- the tensions and opportunities faced by Ontario’s school libraries, and
- recommendations for next steps to work towards a renewed vision for school libraries in Ontario.

The pressure points with the [existing by-law](#) are:

- Specific reference to Teacher Librarians but not articulating other school library roles.
- Ensuring that OSLA is recognized by the Ministry of Education as a qualified subject association.

#### Considerations:

- Aside from the Ontario Library Boards’ Association (which requires a member to be a public library board member), no other OLA division specifically notes a job title or professional designation in their by-law. Divisions can articulate the diversity of programs, activities and membership offered in other ways on the web site versus including job titles and professional designations in the by-law. OSLA membership consists primarily of teacher-librarians, library technicians, librarians and library consultants. There are some examples of other job titles found amongst members,

but for consistency purposes, we have included the more commonly used job titles for professionals working in and for school libraries.

- It is important for OSLA to be recognized as a provincial subject association and to state this in the objects. The Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF) and the Ministry of Education refer to subject associations as playing an important role for schools, teachers and other educators. There is no requirement that the subject association be solely comprised of teachers and educators, but it is assumed that teachers and educators are part of a subject association, and that programs and services support teachers and educators. Examples of ways OSLA, as a subject association, supports teachers and educators include professional development, publications and engagement with the Ministry of Education.

As a subject association, OSLA participates in the Ontario Teachers' Federation Curriculum Forum in the category of Library Learning Commons by ensuring that a representative from council who is a current or retired OTF member attends.

- In [Policy/Program Memorandum No. 159](#) The Ministry recognizes 'Collaborative Professionalism' defined as "professionals – at all levels of the education system – working together, sharing knowledge, skills and experience to improve student achievement and well-being of both students and staff.
- A scan of associations that include school libraries revealed that two provinces have federations exclusively for Teacher-Librarians, three have federations for teachers and other library related positions, and three (including OSLA) do not stipulate what type of credentials members must have to belong. This summary does not include general provincial library associations who may welcome membership from all types of libraries.

#### Procedural Considerations:

The discussion about By-Law 2 is an opportunity for the by-law to be examined against procedural considerations:

OLA and each of the six divisions have a by-law that includes name, objects, and council composition. Three of OLA's divisions include Regions. As **OLA is the only legally incorporated entity**, the by-laws for each division are in place to help divisional councils and their members clearly understand the purpose and structure of each division. OLA requires any changes to divisional by-laws to be addressed at a meeting of the members.

#### What are by-laws?

Bylaws are the fundamental governing rules and regulations of any society. The bylaws state how the society is to be governed and how the powers of the society are to be exercised.

#### What are objects?

The objects describe the kind of work the charitable corporation will do. A corporation can carry out activities described in the objects. It can also carry out other activities provided they further the objects and are minor in relation to the activities described in the objects.

Objects should be concise and descriptive of the fundamental goals of the organization. Objects set limits for what the organization can do.

Objects are usually separate from the by-law of an organization as objects describe the 'what' and by-laws describe the 'how'. OLA divisional by-laws are somewhat unorthodox as they have traditionally included objects in their by-laws.

The following is the revision to By-Law 2 that will be presented to the membership for a vote at the 2020 OLA AGM:

**Revised By-Law 2 (OSLA):**

Whereas Ontario's Kindergarten – Grade 12 school boards employ qualified school library program staff including teacher-librarians, library technicians, library consultants and school librarians,

And

Whereas OSLA advocates for strong school libraries and provides resources to and engages with members who work in school libraries,

Be it resolved that the following edits that **are highlighted** and indicated in the 'revised' column below be made to OLA By-Law 2 to ensure that the objects of OSLA are inclusive:

**Name**

1. The name of the division shall be the **Ontario School Library Association**, Division of the Ontario Library Association and shall hereinafter be referred to as the "Division" and the Ontario Library Association shall be referred to herein as the "Corporation."

**Objects**

<b>Current:</b>	<b>Revised:</b>
<p>2. The objects of the Division are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o to further the development of school library programs and school libraries in Ontario,</li><li>o to strengthen and unify the voice of teacher-librarians as curriculum leaders,</li></ul>	<p>2. The objects of the Division are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o to further the development of school library programs and school libraries in Ontario,</li><li>o to strengthen and unify the voice of qualified library staff as library program facilitators</li></ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ to work with the full library community on shared issues and programs,</li> <li>○ to represent the profession of teacher-librarianship as a subject association recognized by the Ontario Ministry of Education</li> <li>○ to provide professional development opportunities for teacher-librarians and other qualified school library staff, and</li> <li>○ to promote research related to effective school libraries.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>and supporters of the curriculum,</li> <li>○ to work with the broader library community on shared issues, opportunities and initiatives,</li> <li>○ to be the subject association recognized by the Ontario Ministry of Education and the Ontario Teachers Federation,</li> <li>○ to provide professional development opportunities for qualified school library staff,</li> <li>○ to promote research related to effective school libraries,</li> <li>○ to advocate for the significant role of school libraries in contributing to student achievement and well-being.</li> </ul>
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**Council**

3. The affairs of the Division shall be managed by the duly elected Council in a manner consistent with [By-Law No. 1](#).
  - The composition of the Council shall be:
    - The Past-President
    - The President
    - The Vice-President (President-Elect)
    - One representative from each duly constituted region of the Division
    - Editor of Teaching Librarian (non-voting)
    - OSLA Website Editor (non-voting)
    - Executive Director (non-voting)

provided that each of the foregoing, except for the Executive Director, are personal members in good standing of the Division at the time of their election and throughout their term of office.

- Each councillor shall serve for the term of three years. One third of the council shall be retired annually.
- The Vice-President shall serve the first year after election as Vice-President, the second year as President, the third year as Past-President.
- As Secretary and Treasurer shall be chosen by the Council from the Councillors each year. If there is no candidate from the Councillors, the existing Executive Committee may appoint members-at-large to the positions.

- The regional representatives (councillors) shall be appointed annually by the President to portfolios, which shall be determined from time to time by Council.
- No councillor or officer shall serve for more than 2 consecutive terms in the same capacity.

## **Regions**

4. The Division shall be composed of seven regions:
  - Southwestern region
  - Central Region - West
  - Central Region - Mid
  - Central Region - East
  - Metropolitan Toronto
  - Eastern Ontario
  - Northern Ontario

The members of a region are those members of the Division who are either employed or reside in that particular geographical area, provided however that a member cannot be a member of more than one region with the Division.

**Moved: Peggy Thomas**

**Seconded: Jess Oakman**