Report of Janneka Guise

OLA Treasurer

The COVID-19 pandemic made this a challenging year for OLA and its members. It has been a privilege to work with the OLA Board and staff as the association navigates these difficult times. I am grateful for the hard work, perseverance, and ingenuity of the incredible staff team in the OLA office.

This was the third full year of our new fiscal cycle, which spans September 1, 2019, to August 31, 2020. We ended Fiscal Year 2019-2020 with an initial deficit of -$251,535. However, the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy had a substantial positive impact enabled us to reduce this deficit to -$11,019.

We were fortunate to have run Super Conference 2020 before the pandemic shutdown. Revenues from this signature event were strong, and allowed the Association to continue operating during the pandemic. Subsequent OLA events (e.g., Forest of Reading, Annual Institute of Library as Place) were postponed or cancelled, resulting in lower revenues than we had budgeted. Revenues from Membership and the Library Marketplace were also lower than budgeted, due to members’ financial constraints during the pandemic.

Many expenses were lower than budgeted as well. Cancelled and postponed events resulted in lower expenses, and Board and Council meetings moved online which saved the Association travel and accommodation costs. It is important to note that OLA office staff voluntarily moved to a 3-day work week in order to qualify for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. Despite a shorter work week, the staff have continued to provide a high level of support to members, offering professional development opportunities through the Education Institute, and planning this year’s virtual Super Conference.

The I Read Canadian campaign fell short of its fundraising goal ($30,000) likely also due to the pandemic, but raised $17,500. As I reflect on the changes to our profession and the way we work over the past year, and look ahead to the possibilities that a COVID-19 vaccine offers, I believe the OLA is in a strong position to lead its members out of the pandemic.