

## OPLA Lifetime Achievement Award

### Description

The OPLA Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to a library staff member who has given life long service to the profession and has contributed significantly to the growth and innovation of public libraries in Ontario.

### Criteria / Eligibility

- The selected candidate must have worked in an Ontario library for all or a substantial portion of their career.
- Librarians from small, medium and large libraries shall be given equal consideration.
- There is no minimum educational requirement for qualification for the Lifetime Achievement Award.
- The award may be given posthumously within one year of the death of a suitable recipient.
- The selection of the candidate will be based on significant contributions in at least one of the following criteria:
  - Commitment to the broader library community.
  - Implementation of creative and innovative ideas that have been adopted by public libraries throughout the province.
  - Positive support for the profession, as evidenced by mentoring and participating in the ongoing education of librarians and library staff or participation in professional associations.
  - Evidence of having earned the respect of the profession, their colleagues and their community and being a person whose advice is sought.
- Those currently serving on the OPLA Council are not eligible for this award.

### Nomination Procedure

- The nominator must be a member in good standing of OLA/OPLA.
- The nomination form is located on the OLA website on the awards information page.
- The nomination package should include evidence to support the nomination, potentially including but not limited to:
  - Nominee's work history and significant positions in libraries.
  - Evidence of nominee's contributions to professional library organizations and other community organizations.
  - Examples of leadership and innovations, as in special projects, new services, community partnerships, etc.
  - Letters of support from those who have been impacted by the nominee.
  - Press clippings or other material demonstrating recognition of nominee's impact.
- Nominations will be accepted between: September – November.
- The closing date for nominations in any given year is: 1 November.

- Once the winner has been chosen, the OPLA President will contact the successful nominator.
  - The OLA office will contact all unsuccessful nominators.
- Unless otherwise arranged, the OPLA President will also contact the successful nominee and request a photo for promotion purposes.
  - The OLA office will later connect with the nominator and the winner for award presentation logistics.
- If desired, nominators may be involved in the award presentation such as creating and/or writing the presentation speech. Please indicate your interest to do so in the nomination form.

### **Selection Process**

- The OPLA Council will appoint the Selection Committee. It will be composed of three OPLA members and will include at least one OPLA Councillor.
- Nominees who are not selected may be re-nominated in subsequent years with the submission of updated documentation.
- The OPLA Awards Committee will review all of the applications and assess candidates' eligibility. Eligible applications will be assessed according to the criteria as above and any supporting the documentation.
- The OPLA Awards Committee will present all qualified candidates to the OPLA Council for consideration. The Council will consider all potential candidates, including those nominated from the membership.
- The presentation of the award is at the discretion of the OPLA Council and is not necessarily presented on an annual basis.

### **Award Presentation Information**

- The President of OPLA will present the award at the Public Library Awards Gala in conjunction with the OLA's annual Super Conference.
- The winner will be notified in advance of the award presentation.
- At the presentation, an introductory speech will be delivered outlining the achievements of the award winner.
- The recipient will prepare a short acceptance speech.
- Award winners receive 2 complimentary tickets to the Public Library Awards Gala; one for themselves (or designate), and one for a guest. Additional tickets must be purchased.