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OPLA Committee Report

Committee Name:

OLA Best Bets Committee

Committee Members:

Kara Miley, co-chair
Theresa Power, co-chair
Katie Vlanich
Samantha Dillane
Stephanie McPherson
Jennie Fallis
Corina Surcel
Emily Bingham
Linda Ludke
Tiziana Bruno

Date of Last Meeting:

Thursday January 6, 2022

Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday February 17, 2022

Summary:

2021 has proven to be another year of challenges and successes for Best Bets. In 2021 we added new members: Kimberly Trusty (Toronto Public Library), Tiziana Bruno (Vaughan Public Library), and Stephanie McPherson (Clearview Public Library). We also sadly had to say goodbye to several of our long-standing members: Meghan Tinmouth (Hamilton Public Library), and Serena McGovern (Barrie Public Library), as well as Kimberly Trusty. We will also be losing another member, Corina Surcel (Vaughan Public Library) this year due to a leave, and so have begun recruiting new members in earnest to fill our vacancies. To our departing members, we wish them all the best in their future endeavors and thank them for their time and work on the committee.

In 2021, our members read over 300 titles covering picture books, junior fiction & nonfiction, and young adult fiction & nonfiction. This is in keeping with previous years totals and we want to thank our members for their continued dedication to reading so many books given the situation we all currently find ourselves in. As the pandemic continues to prevent in-person meetings, we continue to meet



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virtually and we have also continued to ask publishers to send us e-copies of titles so that our members can easily access the materials.

Outreach events are limited due to the pandemic, but our members participated in a panel for the Child & Youth Expo in November with the topic, “Best Bets to Beat the Blahs!” focusing on titles that are fun and bring joy to readers. Of course we also have our big reveal of our Top 10 titles list at the 2022 Super Conference.

In 2022, our members look forward to another year of reading great Canadian titles, finding hidden gems, and looking for more ways to expand our footprint.

Submitted by:

Kara Miley & Theresa Power

Date:

January 21, 2022