



ONTARIO LIBRARY BOARDS' ASSOCIATION

CAROLINE GOULDING, PRESIDENT

OLBA

2021 OLBA Membership: 745

This past year the OLBA had focused on the current and upcoming needs of our members. We started the year with a survey, looking to find out more information about the impact COVID-19 had on library budgets and municipal relationships. The results of the survey were reported in an Inside OLBA article. We used the results of the survey to guide our action plan over the year. It was fascinating to get a glimpse into how different boards and local governments work together across the province.

OLBA Bootcamp 2021 was not to be missed. Attendance at the virtual event was higher than we had hoped and it was wonderful to see so many able to access the event virtually. The day centred on some of the core governance principles for boards as well as CEO performance and financial oversight.

Cut to the Chase

Our main area of focus has been updating Cut to the Chase / Le vif du sujet. The document is a foundation for many board orientations and a quick reference document throughout their term. OLBA has been working with our partners, including the team at the Ontario Library Service, to modernize and update the resource.

The new Cut to the Chase will include a refreshed chart of the responsibilities and has been updated with the changes to the Public Libraries Act as well as other provincial legislation. Be sure to be on the lookout for the new version in later 2022.

Board Transition Planning

As your library board moves into its final year, OLBA encourages you to spend time throughout the coming year reviewing Year 4 of the Governance Hub, "Legacy and Transition Readiness". By spending the time planning for succession and development legacy documentation you can help ensure that next year's board is positioned for success.

In addition to the board transition resources found on the Governance Hub in Year 4, there are also sections on how to advocate for the library during the municipal election

as well the board appointments process. The Governance Hub will be updated over the coming year. Be sure to check back frequently to see the updated resources.

On top of the resources posted on the Governance Hub, the Ontario Library Service will be facilitating a number of sessions on board transitions through Learn HQ. These sessions will be open to board members and CEOs alike, and will be offered throughout the year.

Change in Council

2022 will be a transition year for the OLBA. A number of our council members have reached the end of their terms. We are incredibly grateful for all that Ben Hendriks, Mariam Hamou, Doug Thompson, and Joan Duke have done for the OLBA over the years that they have served. Their contributions will be sorely missed.

We are looking forward to welcoming a number of new council members – Marj Poirer will be representing the Northwest and Nathan Etherington will be representing Central West. Thomas Sandor is our incoming Vice president and S. S. Ahmad is the incoming president. We wish them all the best during their terms.