

ONTARIO LIBRARY BOARDS' ASSOCIATION

S. S. AHMAD, PRESIDENT



OLBA

2022 OLBA Membership: 760

OLBA has had a busy and immensely productive year. We developed and started implementing our [Work Plan 2022 - 2025](#). Following are some of the highlights from 2022 as we served our members across Ontario!

Strategic Priority 1: Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

We advanced our strong and passionate commitment to Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA), and are updating the [Council Handbook](#) to guide OLBA in becoming an IDEA organization. OLBA offered and conducted customized consultations for public library board trustees to assist in their IDEA journeys. We coordinated and presented IDEA sessions at OLBA's Trustee Boot Camp 2023.

Strategic Priority 2: Advocacy & Leadership

We advocated on behalf of public libraries and supported OLA and FOPL in their advocacy and leadership work during the Ontario provincial elections. We strengthened OLBA's existing relationship with the Ontario Library Service (OLS) through the *Communication and Content Creation Framework* to develop collaborative training for public library board members in Ontario. We designed and developed a unique and innovative partnership with OLS Board to jointly connect with and serve public library boards and governing bodies across Ontario. The OLBA President represented the Association on the [Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's Public Library Service Awards](#) Jury and OLA Friends Committee.

Strategic Priority 3: Membership & Engagement

OLBA developed and offered [ONLib Chat](#) - Libraries in the North, to meet, engage, and serve public library boards and governing bodies where they are. To benefit our public library member boards serving a population size of up to 15,000, OLBA continued to offer complimentary registration to Boot Camp 2023.

Strategic Priority 4: A Profession of Continual Learning

We updated and redesigned [Cut to the Chase](#) - the essential primer for public library boards and governing bodies in consultation with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport and OLS to ensure current and accurate information. OLBA published issues of *InsideOLBA* - the membership newsletter with resources and best practices

pertaining to current public library governance and community leadership development. We updated [OLBA's website](#) to provide current resources on public library governance.

OLBA Council members participated and presented at the OLS' 2022 Stronger Libraries. Stronger Communities. Virtual Conference. We collaboratively developed *Your Board, OLBA, and the Library Ecosystem* presentation with OLS which was attended by over 125 public library board members and staff from across Ontario.

Strategic Priority 5: Organizational Innovation & Sustainability

We developed and implemented [OLBA's Work Plan 2022 - 2025](#) which was derived from [Ontario Library Association](#) and [Ontario Library Services'](#) Strategic Plans to ensure organizational alignment with our partners in the library ecosystem. OLBA's Work Plan lays a solid foundation for organizational innovation and sustainability.

We are updating the [OLBA Council Handbook](#) to ensure OLBA Councillors stay up to date with movements and trends in public library governance and community leadership through professional and leadership development.

[OLBA Council elections](#) were extended to December 31st, 2022 to ensure more public library boards' members had an opportunity to run for Council positions leading to organizational sustainability.

Change in Council

As we transition into the 2023 term, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to Caroline Goulding who served as a steady leader and executive throughout the pandemic years. We are delighted to report that Kerry Badgley will continue to represent the Eastern Region and Nathan Etherington will continue as councillor for Central West Region. We would like to welcome two new members, Michael Corbett representing the Southwestern Region and Eric Guernsey representing the Central East Region. Thomas Sandor will be our incoming president and Marj Poirer will be our vice president. We wish them all the best during their terms!