



# ONTARIO SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## BETH LYONS, PRESIDENT

# OSLA

**2022 OSLA Membership: 682**

It has been an honour to serve on the OSLA Council for the last 3 years, and especially through 2022 as the OSLA President. Across Ontario schools, school library professionals and educators continue to support students and their fellow educators as we slowly recover from the ongoing effects of the pandemic. While the beginning of 2022 saw disruptions to in-person learning due to COVID 19, the end of 2022 through to this school year has, thankfully, not continued in this manner.

As a part of our ongoing work to connect school library professionals, we consistently engaged with members to provide updates on school library news and with ONLibChats, and #ONSchoolLibrary Twitter chats. We are having great success sharing our #SchoolLibraryJoy which has included the creation and sales of t-shirts (sold at the Library Marketplace), featured at the British Columbia Teacher-Librarian Association conference and Treasure Mountain Canada Research Symposium. Share your joy by tagging the OSLA Twitter account (@OSLAcouncil) and using our hashtags to connect with other school library professionals.

Being a school library professional and an educator means continuing to grow and continuing to learn. OSLA made a commitment to our learning journey as anti-racist, anti-bias and anti-oppressive educators by extending our learning sessions from the previous year with Dr. Andrew Campbell to engage in the work of dismantling structures of oppression in our libraries. As a council, we:

- Met and discussed two books to further our own learning and invited members to share their own reading and insights via Twitter as we worked through “Cultivating Genius: A Equity Framework for Culturally and Historically Responsive Literature” by Gholdy Muhammad and “Resurgence: Engaging with Indigenous Narratives and Cultural Expressions In and Beyond the Classroom” by Christine M’Lot and Katya Adamov Ferguson.
- Responded to the Ministry of Education’s current Language Curriculum Review by [providing input in conjunction with TALCO](#).
- Have been working to revise and update our Equity Based Weeding and Selection Criteria to support school library professionals, schools and school boards with this ever-increasing area of importance and need as we see a rise in the number of book challenges across the country.

Council also has representation on The Association of

Library Consultants of Ontario (TALCO), OTF and the Indigenous Advisory Council.

OSLA’s The Teaching Librarian magazine was published virtually and we plan to return to the paper format soon. Sadly, we lost our incredible editor, the late Caroline Freibauer, over the summer. The ongoing legacy of her dedication and passion for school libraries and publishing the stories of school library professionals will undoubtedly be felt within the pages of the upcoming issues under the leadership of our current editor, Kasey Whalley.

Part of OSLA’s work includes advising and advocating on behalf of school libraries and learners throughout the Ontario Education system. We published the following letters and responses to advocate for school libraries and literacy within schools:

- **Director of Education letter re: staffing** ([English](#)) ([French](#))
- **Questions to ask about your child’s school library** ([OSLA’s 2022 Cheat sheet for Parents](#))
- **Ontario Human Rights Commission- Right to Read Inquiry Report**
  - Read the report [here](#)
  - [OSLA and CSL so-signed response](#) 2022

I want to give thanks to all of the school library professionals across the province who work hard each day to support their community(ies) of learners in so many vast and varied ways. I am thankful for the opportunities over the past three years to work to be a voice for your unending collaborative spirit, commitment and support of students, educators, education workers and the broader school library community. I am thankful for our school library allies who are administrators, superintendents, authors/illustrators, publishers, bookstores, podcasters, and more. A special thank you to the OSLA Super Conference planners Kate Johnson-McGregor and Dawn Telfer for their resiliency, hard work, and enthusiasm in building an amazing program for a return to an in-person conference with an enhanced digital experience. Lastly, a thank you to the OSLA council and OLA staff who work tirelessly to support the school library community and membership. We say goodbye this year to the following council members: Maureen McGrath, Melanie Mulcaster, Cathy MacKechnie and Heather Webb-Makin. Your commitment, dedication and ongoing advocacy for school libraries is a joy to behold. I am honoured to have served as 2022 OSLA president and wholeheartedly welcome Johanna as 2023 president.