



ASSOCIATION DES BIBLIOTHEQUES DE L'ONTARIO-FRANCO

CATHERINE LACHAÎNE, PRÉSIDENTE

ABO-FRANCO

Membres ABO 2022 : 146

L'année 2022 fut dynamique et sous le signe de l'engagement pour l'ABO-Franco. L'année a commencé en force avec la Super Conférence 2022. Les séances virtuelles en français ont eu un très beau succès avec un record d'assistance en direct et en différé. Je souligne entre autres notre séance Pleins feux avec l'autrice innue Naomi Fontaine. Elle nous aura fait réfléchir à l'importance de l'écriture, de notre langue, et de reconnaître d'où nous venons. Lors de la Super Conférence 2022, le prix Micheline-Persaud a été attribué à Mélanie Raymond de la Bibliothèque publique de Vaughan. Félicitations!

Nous avons offert deux forums #ONLibChat sous la thématique des différents rôles de bibliothécaires. En mai, trois bibliothécaires du milieu universitaire nous ont parlé de leurs parcours et de leurs expériences durant le forum intitulé « La carrière de bibliothécaire universitaire : un partage d'expériences présenté par l'ABO-Franco ». Merci à Hélène Carrier, Guinsly Mondésir et Joël Rivard d'avoir participé à cet événement. En novembre, nous avons présenté un forum sur les bibliothécaires scolaires sous le titre « Transmettre la passion de la lecture... les hauts et les bas du travail en bibliothèque dans le milieu scolaire ». Nous avons pu profiter de l'expertise de Julie Charbonneau, Édith Pellerin et Eugenia Doval, que je remercie.

Des membres de l'ABO-Franco ont fait bonne figure en diffusant les résultats de projets de recherche et de mobilisation. Un article sur l'enquête pancanadienne sur le développement des collections en français dans les bibliothèques publiques en situation minoritaire au Canada, intitulé « [Les bibliothèques publiques des communautés de langue officielle en situation minoritaire : enjeux actuels sur le développement des collections en français](#) » est paru dans la revue Partnership.

L'ABO-Franco a également participé au Congrès des professionnel.le.s de l'information. Hélène Carrier s'est jointe à Bibliothèques et Archives Canada

pour présenter la session [Réseau des bibliothèques des communautés de langue officielle en situation minoritaire \(CLOSM\) : un espace de collaboration et d'échanges au service des CLOSM!](#). J'ai également participé à la session [Collaborer pour mieux servir les publics francophones en contexte minoritaire : enjeux et défis pour les responsables de collections](#). Il s'agit d'un beau rayonnement pour des projets développés en collaboration avec l'ABO !

Le rapport [Étude des mesures provinciales et territoriales encadrant les langues officielles dans les bibliothèques au Canada de Bibliothèque et Archives Canada](#), auquel l'ABO-Franco a contribué, a été publié en ligne.

Finalement, l'ABO-Franco a soumis une demande au Programme d'appui à la francophonie ontarienne (PAFO), mais le projet n'a malheureusement pas été retenu. Nous tenons toutefois à souligner la subvention d'un projet de la Bibliothèque publique de Vaughan !

Certaines personnes sont à remercier pour le succès de cette année. D'abord, les membres du Conseil de l'ABO-Franco qui m'ont accompagné et qui se sont investis dans nos activités. Merci aussi à Amanda Alice Robinson, coordonnatrice de la programmation francophone de la Super Conférence, pour son travail rigoureux. J'aimerais également offrir un merci spécial à Sarah Roberts pour son soutien constant de la communauté francophone. Sarah a joué un rôle clé auprès de l'ABO-Franco durant plusieurs années afin de nous permettre de faire avancer nos projets et activités.

À la veille de la Super Conférence 2023 qui nous rassemblera en personne pour la première fois depuis 2020, je sens la fébrilité et l'engouement pour les rencontres et échanges en présentiel qui nous ont tellement manqués. J'ai très très hâte de vous y voir !



ONTARIO COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

ZACHARY OSBORNE, PRESIDENT

OCULA

2022 OCULA Membership: 474

2022 was another year of taxing yet familiar challenges with COVID-19 as we persevered through an ongoing pandemic and adapted our work and lives to a fluctuating “new normal”. I am very pleased to conclude my OCULA Presidency with a positive message outlining many proud accomplishments, successes in collaboration, and my profound gratitude.

In my [summer President's message](#) I wrote about “slow library culture”, and its influence on my vision for OCULA in 2022. The slow movement “is a process, not a destination; it is an orientation towards our work, ourselves, and others that create positive change [...] it is an organizational philosophy that supports workers and builds stronger relationships with our communities”. This resonated with me for a variety of reasons, but centrally for its premise of prioritizing maintenance over innovation.

As a result, in 2022 OCULA Council set out to examine maintenance and identify improvements for OCULA's web presence, member engagement, the equity of its awards processes, and developing a community of practice for EDI initiatives. The important work undertaken on the OCULA website sought to make practical changes to webpage content to better reflect the current and future operations of OCULA, review community and professional resources, and remove outdated information and clutter. Council members also initiated project planning for a membership engagement drive, to better understand member needs and interests from OCULA; stay tuned for its implementation in 2023! Another valuable exercise by Council was a long-overdue review of its awards processes. With an equity lens, Council members examined the nomination criterion and evaluation rubrics to assess where barriers to access exist, and then made changes to both processes for fairness, equity, and to enable higher volume and greater diversity of award nominations. A final maintenance piece for OCULA Council was work to further establish the EDI Community of Practice, through formalizing its operations, working groups, web presence, programming and events. Look forward to more from the OCULA EDI Working Group in 2023!

Another proud accomplishment for OCULA Council and the broader library community was the hugely successful OCULA Spring Conference “Neurodiversity in the Library: Building Better for Staff and Students”. The event was held virtually on May 19, 2022, and it explored how libraries can provide welcoming, accessible, and inclusive spaces and services for neurodivergent community members, as well as supportive work environments and professional development opportunities for library staff. The program featured keynotes by Kay Sargent and Dr. Devon Price, panelists of library workers and students with neurodivergent lived experiences, and lightning talks aimed to draw awareness and propose solutions to ways of improving the environment for everyone; to reimagine working conditions, physical and virtual spaces, and the provision of library services and programming. In building this conference, planners sought to centre the lived experiences of people who are neurodivergent. These conversations aimed to de-stigmatize and normalize neurodiversity, and to discuss barriers to equitable and inclusive practices which exist in our environments. Nearly 200 attendees participated in the event, making it the most successful Spring Conference in history. Thank you to all who helped organize this event, and to the speakers and attendees.

Finally I wish to thank the OCULA Council members for their time, commitment, enthusiasm, and collaboration in undertaking many successful projects in 2022. In particular I wish to express my deep gratitude for outgoing Past-President Angela Henshilwood, Secretary Heather Buchansky, and Treasurer Natalie Colaiacovo. I have learned so much from these incredible women, and I'm grateful for their extended commitment to OCULA Council beyond their original terms due to the pandemic. They have been inspirational to me as leaders, collaborators, and colleagues, and they will certainly be missed by all remaining Council members. With that said, I'm also thrilled to continue on Council as OCULA Past-President with Graham Lavender as the new OCULA President. We look forward to your leadership, and the great things to come for the university and college library community in 2023.



ONTARIO HEALTH LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION

KIMBERLEY ASLETT, PRESIDENT

OHLIA

2022 OHLIA Membership: 120

I am honoured to have been part of the team that has led the Ontario Health Libraries and Information Association into our second year as a Division of OLA. As we all experience the transition from pandemic to “less pandemic” we do so with an awareness of the critical importance of health information in our world and in our professions. As a team, the council has moved into a more active role in this impactful organization.

One of the reasons that Past-president Julie Waddick identified for our move to OLA was to “increase our scope”, and increase we did, with membership going from 45 to more than 120 in 2022. The functional tasks of our Division were guided by the OLA team, even as they managed their own significant changes. We managed our history and documentation by collecting and organizing OHLA archives in the OLA Google drive. OLA also provides strengths in advocacy, and we have identified a need to work toward identification of issues and opportunities relating to provincial licensing and post-pandemic issues for consumer libraries in health care facilities. The very useful Revised Guide to Copyright for Canadian Hospitals, was updated and posted on the OLA website for reference.

Three areas of the OLA Strategic Plan gave us a focus for our work for this year, and a way to align our work. These were to incorporate equity, diversity, and inclusion in all aspects of our work, to engage membership; and to develop a strategic approach to recruiting councilors.

To forward these goals the council has

- Established a representative on NIKLA, the National Indigenous Knowledge and Language Alliance, and participated in a stakeholder strategy session for the “Committee on Respectful Terminology: creating the Framework”.

- Collaborated on a presentation for the OCULA Conference (19 May 2022), “Neurodiversity in the Library”.
- Attended and reported back on a Zoom meeting regarding the ALA accreditation and revisions of the MLIS programs.
- Established council member representation on the OLA Mentoring Committee
- Attended an MLA meeting regarding demographic descriptors in MeSH, responding to a 700+ member petition for changes in how these are curated for equity and representation.
- Held discussions with the Ontario Public Libraries Association leadership on Health literacy collaborations.

These activities will inform an effort to establish a repository for EDI resources including collection development, guides and other content relating to EDI, provide a foundation for membership continuing education, and more engagement activities. To this end, we will develop a strategy for recruitment using social media and will explore the use of Twitter and LinkedIn for education content.

I must give my heartfelt and respectful thanks to the OHLIA Council. The key to this organization is the innovative team I’ve had the pleasure to work with. I would like to thank Secretary Iveta Lewis, President-elect David Lightfoot, Sarit Glaizer for the Communications and Social Media portfolio, Carolyn Pekoskie and Jo-Anne Petropoulos as our Conference Planning team, Past-president Julie Waddick, and Amanda Caputo (emeritus) who brought strong foundations to Continuing Education. Their varied and valued contributions have created a dynamic working group.

I wish David Lightfoot, incoming President, a year of positive action and engagement with the health information community.

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!



ONTARIO LIBRARY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION

MICHELLE GOODRIDGE, PRESIDENT

OLITA

2022 OLITA Membership: 751

This past year I had the pleasure of being the President of OLITA after serving two years as VP due to the pandemic, which just meant I got to be more involved in OLA! 2022 was a productive year and it was a joy because of all of the talented OLA staff and members of OLITA council. Teamwork is dreamwork, as they say.

The year began with the 2022 OLA Super Conference in its second year as a virtual event. With the apt theme of ‘Gather’ we saw OLA members join from coast-to-coast. Our OLITA spotlight this year was a panel entitled “What Do Accessible Services Mean in Your Library? Successes and challenges in the provision of accessible library service during a pandemic” which tied in nicely to the 2021 theme we had at Digital Odyssey and continued the important conversation. We also had our AGM virtually as well (without snacks, sadly) and we had the pleasure of awarding Courtney Mellor of the Ottawa Public Library with the OLITA Technology Advancing Libraries Award. It has been a blessing to be able to make Super Conference more accessible to members by having it virtual and we are excited to see what the hybrid rollout for 2023 looks like.

Digital Odyssey 2022 was a huge success thanks to the DO planning subcommittee and of course OLA staff and OLITA council. Our theme was “Evolution of Virtual Library Services” and had fantastic speakers who discussed hybrid programming, evolution of coding instruction, purchasing tech on a budget, and virtual gaming programs. It seems like a natural fit for a library tech division to make use of tech to run our events so we are planning to hold Digital Odyssey 2023 virtually in June and while we don’t have our theme pinned down, I am sure it

will be topical and will continue to draw diverse library crowds.

After being on hiatus due to the pandemic, OLITA decided to bring back the Tech Lending Library. We have purchased new materials and we plan to officially launch the lending library at the 2023 Super Conference. We are also exploring ways to continue engaging with OLITA members so please let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions!

As I write this, we are preparing for 2023 Super Conference to be held both in-person and virtually. We have two enthusiastic and engaged planners, Randy Oldham and Jess Posgate who are working hard to bring great library technology programming to the conference. We also have a new member joining us in 2023, Ashley Prince and the lovely Max Lupo will become the division president – I have full confidence you will do an amazing job, Max! We are still looking for a VP/ President Elect so if you are interested in joining this dynamic team of dedicated library workers in tech, please contact OLA. We would love to have you join.

I want to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone involved with OLITA – I have made so many connections (and friends!) because of my involvement with OLA over the years and it really is the people who make it such a wonderful experience. I know 2023 is going to be an exciting year and I hope as we move forward that everyone continues to be safe, happy and healthy.



ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION DOUGLAS DAVEY, PRESIDENT

OPLA

2022 OPLA Membership: 887

I would like to begin by thanking you for putting your trust in me as your OPLA President. It has truly been an honour. If you are thinking about taking a greater role in the direction and advancement of the profession, I highly recommend volunteering for OPLA! It's a great way to make an impact, forge new connections, and improve your understanding of the complexities of libraries across the province. Learning about and supporting the unique issues of small, rural, and northern libraries has been a real high point in my time with OPLA.

As public libraries got back into the swing of things post-shutdown, we saw many changes in our libraries. At times, things seemed to move right back to the way they were in the "Before Times." At other times, our services changed in ways we couldn't have imagined a few short years ago. Whatever the world throws at us, public libraries have proven that they can roll with the punches and come back strong.

OPLA Council was kept busy with our many activities and events. We also took some time to review the procedures for our many awards. It took a lot of scrutiny, effort, and discussion, but the result was worth it: greater consistency and clarity in every step of the awards process.

HoOPLA editor Andra Steel kept the public library world informed of everything from large-scale, sector-wide events to individual library initiatives.

This year's RA in a Day event was held on May 9, and focused on Essentials & Fundamentals. The event was a big success, with double the number of attendees from just a few years ago! Congratulations to The Reader's Advisory Committee.

Equity and Bias Awareness in Community Engagement was the theme of the Community-Led Think Tank event on June 14. I want to offer my thanks to the Community Led group for tackling such a vital topic. Feedback was

excellent, with one saying that the event "inspired me to know that it IS possible!"

For this year's Child and Youth Expo, the hard-working OPLA Child and Youth Services Committee selected the intriguing theme of "Deliver Us from Legacy: Bridging the Gap to Inclusion." How can we break out of our old ways of doing things, and begin to move toward a new and more inclusive model? It's such an important question to ask. Once again, the event was a true success.

The OPLA's very own Research & Evaluation Committee launched a Resilient Libraries survey in the summer of 2022, to understand how libraries can thrive, both during the pandemic and in the future. The results, which are sure to be interesting, will be shared at Super Conference, just search for the phrase "resilient libraries."

"Book tasting with the Best Bets" will return to Super Conference, serving up a delicious helping of the best in new Canadian books for kids and teens. For adult learners of English and ESL students, Best Bets also creates their "Light Reads, Great Stories" lists each year, which can be found under "Other Reading Lists" on the Forest of Reading page.

Our OLA Super Conference theme is a timely one: Walking in Two Worlds / Marcher entre deux mondes. With all the changes (and, let's be honest, the often-unsettling daily news reports) we've experienced in the last few years, how many of us feel like we are walking in two worlds every day of our lives? I want to thank our returning OPLA Super Conference Planners, Hamid Printer and Ashleigh Dronyk, for their ongoing efforts, and working with the OLA staff and Super Conference Team to create the first ever truly hybrid Super Conference!

I look forward to working with President-Elect Ryan Moniz and the entire OPLA Council as we serve public libraries in 2023.



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.