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### **OLA Board – Member At Large (2 Year Term – General Member)**

Six Candidates (Maxwell Batista, Brynley Eckhart, Sarah Gauthier, Beverley King, Emma Kinsman, Megan Sioui)

Candidate 1:

#### **Maxwell Batista**

My name is Maxwell Batista, and I am excited to run for a position on the OLA Board. I have always been passionate about the transformative power of libraries in our communities, and I believe in the vital role they play in fostering learning, culture, and connection. I would like to bring my global perspective, and a wealth of diverse skills gained from over 12 years of experience in large-scale project management, and multi-faceted marketing campaigns across more than 100 different markets in over 26 countries.

My journey has taken me from travelling the world to leading marketing and communications at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library.

As an OLA Board member, I aim to focus to:

- Promote diversity and inclusion within library programs and outreach.
- Strength the professional development of library staff for future readiness.
- Provide support, enhance awareness, and access to library services through innovative strategies and community engagement.

Joining the OLA Board is an opportunity for me to leverage my experience and commitment to community service, contributing to the growth and evolution of libraries in our rapidly changing world. I am eager to collaborate with fellow OLA members to advocate for and advance the mission of libraries across Ontario.



Candidate 2:

#### **Brynley Eckhart**

Hello, my name is Brynley Eckhart and I wish to serve you on the OLA Board as a member at large. I began my public sector career in social work and have worked in public libraries for the past ten years. I began my career in circulation with a Library Technician diploma and after completing my MLIS, am currently working my dream job as the Digital Resource and Collections Librarian at the Burlington Public Library.





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I am excited to join the OLA Board and support their efforts in helping to instill a sense of community into our public libraries. I can contribute my experience and knowledge in librarianship and mental health, and help to focus on OLA's priorities to:

- Champion inclusivity and accessibility in libraries and their communities
- Build leadership and education in members to advocate for and respond to the need for Intellectual freedom
- Promote learning for all members to be responsive and aware of influencing social factors on library operations

I am enthusiastic and passionate for librarianship, and wish to advance the OLA network to meet the current and future needs of this community beacon.

Candidate 3:

**Sarah Gauthier**

My name is Sarah Gauthier, and I hope to serve on the OLA board as a Member at Large. I have worked in public libraries for the last 10 years and have a strong commitment to the advancement of and advocacy for the industry.

Currently, I am the Manager of Central Information Services at the Hamilton Public Library. I am deeply committed to equitable service for library members struggling with homelessness, addiction, and mental health issues. I would like the opportunity to bring my perspective to the OLA Board and to encourage OLA members to advocate for equitable library services in their communities. I also have a strong background in children and youth services and serve as a committee

member on the OPLA Child and Youth Services Committee. I hope to learn from other viewpoints and individual experiences on the OLA Board and have the chance to collaborate and strengthen the industry. I would like to help OLA further its goals by:

- Finding opportunities to encourage new memberships, especially to those who are new to the profession.
- Working to support and highlight voices that have not been traditionally heard within the membership and industry.
- Draw stakeholders' attention to the value libraries intrinsically offer, especially to those who are most vulnerable in our communities.





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Candidate 4:

**Beverley King**

I am Beverley King, a passionate advocate for libraries and their role in connecting communities. With over two decades of library leadership, currently as the Chief Librarian and CEO at Halton Hills Public Library, I've had the privilege of seeing firsthand how libraries shape and enrich lives.



My commitment to fostering collaborations and driving transformative outcomes aligns with OLA's values. Throughout my career, I've been committed to community development, championing inclusivity, nurturing new librarians, and driving innovation – values that resonate with OLA's mission. I firmly believe that advocacy is essential for empowering libraries - securing support, fostering partnerships, and making libraries more impactful in our communities.

As a candidate for OLA Member at Large, I'm dedicated to building resilient libraries through collaborative career and leadership development. I have confidence in OLA's power to support library leaders in building better communities – inclusive communities where libraries play a crucial role as community leaders driving positive change. I'm eager to contribute my expertise to OLA, working collaboratively to further our collective goals. I'm excited for the opportunity to be a part of OLA's future.

Candidate 5:

**Emma Kinsman**

My name is Emma Kinsman and I am seeking to serve as a Member at Large on the OLA Board.

I am a community-minded professional with a background in Political Science and Public Relations. I am currently the Communications Coordinator for a nonprofit helping women fleeing domestic violence.

Advocating for policy changes and women's rights and educating the public is a big part of what I do. I love to travel and have lived abroad.



I believe libraries are the heart of our communities. They are places of inclusion and equality where everyone, no matter who they are, can access information, education, and services. I started working at my local library during high school and continued as a summer student in university. Now, I'm proud to be part of its Board.

My priority as a member would be advancing OLA's mission of inclusion, diversity, and community engagement. My experience in creating and implementing communication strategies, along with my commitment to building well-informed and inclusive communities, aligns well with OLA's values. I hope



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to gain more experience with effective governance practices, strategic planning, and policy development. Additionally, I aim to foster collaboration and bring innovative perspectives. Thank you for considering my application.

Candidate 6:

**Megan Sioui**

My name is Megan Sioui and I am writing to express my interest in serving as an OLA Member At Large, for the 2-year term. In working towards my M.L.I.S. at Western University, I gained experience in academic and school board libraries. I was then the Digital Services Coordinator in a rural library system (North Perth Public Library), where I marketed the library and created digital library programs and services. I have now found a melding of my interests, with a focus on public service and community engagement, in joining the Barrie Public Library as a Community Librarian.



I'm now looking for further opportunities to advocate for, give back to, and learn more about librarianship! I hope to support libraries to:

- move forward in ways that are inclusive and diverse.
- build meaningful, innovative local partnerships that reflect and benefit their communities and provide continuous learning for staff!
- ensure staff are supported in adopting new technology in libraries.

I also recognize that moving forward sustainably cannot be done without the support of mental health for library staff in the workplace. As a Member At Large, I would hope to bring about positive change in Ontario libraries!