OLITA Councillor At Large – 3 Year Term
Two Positions Available
Five Candidates (Catherine Arthurs, Sarah McConnell, Arvind Mehta, Andrew More, Tommy Sunthorn)

Candidate 1:

Catherine Arthurs

I'm Catherine Arthurs, and I would welcome the opportunity to serve you as Councillor at Large for OLITA. I have had the privilege of working in Ontario public libraries in the areas of information technology, digital services and access, makerspaces, emerging technologies, and digital literacy. I have seen firsthand the power of libraries to create confidence and build skills for community members and library staff. I would love to support OLITA's objectives to advance information technology in the library environment, including considerations for impacts of emerging and automated technologies.

I believe that OLITA can help Ontario libraries embrace and navigate new technologies for their communities, both in learning opportunities and ethical implications.

As a councillor-at-large for OLITA, my main priorities would include:
• Supporting libraries as they navigate emerging technologies, with information sharing and best practices for both staff and customers, around usage, training, data privacy, and resource sharing
• Championing libraries as digital and physical spaces for communities to explore and learn about technology
• Promoting information technology, makerspaces, and emerging technology as career choices with the library field.

 I would be pleased to serve OLITA as an enthusiastic advocate for libraries and technology.

Candidate 2:

Sarah McConnell

My name is Sarah McConnell and would like to serve you as a Councillor at Large for OLITA. I bring a strong background in librarianship and technology, having completed both a Library Technician diploma and a Master of Information. With over five years of experience in public libraries, I have a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities in our field. I want to be part of the OLITA Council because I believe in the power of collaboration and innovation in librarianship. I see

these platforms as a means to advocate for positive change in our profession and work towards making libraries more technologically adept and accessible. My priorities as a Councillor at Large would revolve around advancing digital literacy initiatives, fostering inclusive technology cultures, and promoting the informed use of artificial intelligence tools. Being part of this council, I hope to learn from fellow professionals and contribute to the ongoing growth of our profession.

Candidate 3

Arvind Mehta

My name is Arvind Mehta. I am interested in serving the OLITA community as an OLITA Councillor-at-Large. As a graduate of Ontario library schools with multidisciplinary experience including working in libraries, I am excited about the ways I could lead the use of emerging technologies to enhance library collections, services and support in terms of connectivity, accessibility, knowledge exchange and collaboration. I intend to help in building partnerships with other technology organizations, champion innovation, promote new technologies and professional development opportunities. This role is a great opportunity for me to connect, network and collaborate with the OLITA community to help support their career development, adoption of emerging technologies and help enhance services and collections. I am deeply interested in helping develop innovative programs and services for the library community while also supporting the OLA mission and strategic goals.

Candidate 4:

Andrew More

My name is Andrew More and I hope to serve as an OLITA Councillor at Large. I work at Library and Archives Canada (LAC) as a Senior Librarian on the Systems and Standards team. I previously worked in Acquisitions on the Digital Legal Deposit team. I have experience working to acquire various types of digital publications with our new Digital Asset Management System and I am familiar with the associated automated workflows and data transformations. More recently my work has focussed on learning about linked data as well as emerging technologies that may impact the future of work at LAC and that may help to make our collections better known and more accessible. Serving as an OLITA Councillor at Large, I hope to learn from members of OLITA and to share what I learn with my colleagues, managers, and directors at LAC. I also hope to contribute to the work of OLITA by sharing my knowledge and ideas, by promoting emerging technologies, and by helping to advocate for equal access to technology and the importance of digital literacy. The work of OLITA aligns with my own interests and values as well as with the key elements of LAC's Vision 2030.
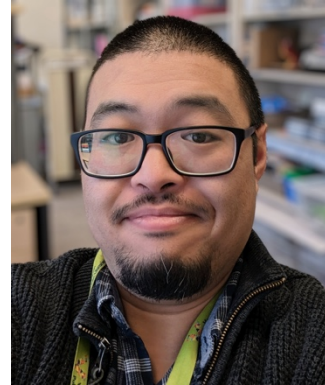
Candidate 5:

<u>Tommy Sunthorn</u>

Hello! My name is Tommy Sunthorn, and I aspire join the OLITA board as a counsellor at large. I've been a part of public libraries for the last 10 years, serving as Vaughan Public Library's Digital Literacies Specialist since 2021 and helped design their children's makerspace in 2019. With prior careers in corporate knowledge management and graphic design, transitioning to libraries has been immensely fulfilling.

My passion for technology fuels my creation and delivery of coding and STEAM programs. Witnessing patrons and colleagues acquire new skills previously deemed unattainable has been profoundly rewarding.

In addition, I am actively shaping the future of library services as a member of the CULC Futures Working Group, involved in developing a platform for sharing innovative library practices.

Eager to support OLITA's mission, I aim to:
- Advocate for an ethical framework for AI use in libraries
- Explore new and engaging ways to provide digital literacy learning to library staff
- Be a voice for makerspace coordinators and leaders, ensuring that their needs and concerns are being heard by library leadership

I am committed to contributing meaningfully as a counsellor at large to further OLITA's objectives. Thank you for considering my candidacy.