



ONTARIO HEALTH LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION

ORIEN DUDA, PRESIDENT

OHLIA

It was my pleasure to have served the Ontario Health Libraries and Information Association this year, although it was a challenging one for the leadership team. When I joined as Vice President in June, we had a full council, less a Continuing Education Coordinator. Within the following months our group dwindled as some members found they could no longer continue in their positions. The loss of their presence and significant talent was a shock to the remaining council, but we fully supported their decision. For the rest of the term we endured, adopted additional roles as necessary, and continued focus on the goals set earlier in the year. I commend the team for fulfilling as many objectives as we could, but some had to be deferred due to time and support constraints. We agreed to leave any outstanding projects for incoming council to review and proceed as they see fit. Our third year as a division of the Ontario Library Association was not without growing pains, but I am confident the OHLIA will return stronger than ever in 2024.

The primary direction of the leadership team early on was to resume proposals introduced by the preceding council and develop new ones in alignment with the OLA Strategic Plan. These would address workplace equity, diversity and inclusion, membership engagement, and a strategic council recruitment plan.

The actions introduced by Council this year included:

- OHLIA Council recruitment development plan
 - Provide OHLIA membership information to the Health Sciences Information Consortia, the Ontario College and University Library Association, the Ontario Health Library and Information Association, the Canadian Health Library Association, and the Western Ontario Health Knowledge Network to improve cross-association membership and improve council recruitment.
 - Identify or develop support to assist OHLIA members who are interested in joining the Council but whose employer or management may have reservations.
 - Increase library technician membership and council presence through OHLIA membership and library technician program messaging.

- Extend an invitation to the CHLA to determine interest in cross association ideas or projects for 2024.
- An advocacy letter drafted and sent to support the Canadian Health Library Association regarding the Canadian Medical Association's reduction of library resources and services.
- Further liaise with the National Indigenous Knowledge & Language Alliance to better understand partnerships and contributions with and by hospital libraries.
- Examine viable social media marketing models of other library associations to develop OHLIA's Twitter and LinkedIn accounts, to boost the association's presence and improve membership engagement.
- Support the Canadian Federation of Library Associations calls for action and reconciliation proposals.
- Explore the possibility of developing an OHLIA journal club via other association examples and discussion with membership to determine interest.
- Issue an inquiry email to OHLIA members to assess current role and responsibility trends of staff within their medical libraries, and to determine if literature search services are being filled in-house or contracted out to non-library staff.
- Close the old Ontario Health Library Association bank account and allocate the remaining funds of \$1,913.29 to the OHLIA Special Projects budget for 2024.

I would like to recognize the service and contribution of the OHLIA Council, without whom many endeavors would not have been realized. Thank you to previous President David Lightfoot, Past President Kimberly Aslett, previous Treasurer Sabine Calleja, previous Communications and Social Media Coordinator Sarit Glaizer, and Conference Planner Jessica Leslie. Also, my sincere gratitude to our Secretary Iveta Lewis, who provided unwavering team support, dedication to the association, and perseverance throughout this complicated term.

As incoming President for 2024, I look forward to working with the new OHLIA Council towards a promising and productive year.