

Sarah Badgley Literacy Fund for Rural Ontario Children

Background

The Rural Learning Association established the Sarah Badgley Literacy Fund for Rural Ontario Children in 2002. In 2016 the Fund and its administration were transferred to the Ontario Library Association. Since its inception, more than 60 Ontario public libraries have received grants from the Fund.

Grants

Grants up to \$500 per year are available to rural public libraries and to urban public libraries that serve rural clientele. The number of grants varies from year to year, depending on annual fund-raising efforts. Typically, up to four grants are provided each year.

The purpose of the grant is to support children's literacy initiatives. Priority is given to those libraries that promote the love of reading by using the grant for such things as literacy programmes (story time, book/activity bags, other literacy initiatives, etc.), book purchases, or equipment purchases (such as Lego, software and digital media). Connections to positive literacy outcomes should be demonstrated in the funding request.

Application process

Phase 1:

For the first phase, applicants must submit the following details in the application form:

- The contact person's name and address;
- The library for which the grant is sought;
- A preliminary budget; and
- A brief description of the project/initiative.

Phase 1 applications are due by mid May each year. To complete an application, please visit: <https://accessola.com/funding-opportunities/ola-funds/> to fill out an application form.

Phase 2:

The Selection Committee will then create a short list for the second phase of the application process. The libraries on this list will be asked to submit a full proposal with the following elements:

- The potential benefit to the children in the community;
- A detailed budget;

- The level of need in the community;
- The relevance to literacy through the promotion of the love of reading.
- The planned project should focus on sustainability with a long-term impact rather than a short-term effect.

The final application should be no more than two pages in length, and is due by June 15 each year.

Phase 3:

- Applicants will be notified of the results via email.
- Grant recipients will be issued a cheque.

For additional information, please contact the Selection Committee at sarahbadgleyselectioncommittee@accessola.com.

Application Deadlines

April 15: Phase 1 – Completed forms due.

May 15: Applicants advised of results & full proposals (Phase 2) invited from selected libraries.

June 15: Full proposals due. Instructions on what to include will be provided to the short-listed libraries.

July 15: Final decisions are made and applicants are emailed the results.

Sarah Rosalind Badgley (1998-2001)

Sarah was a beautiful, bright, inquisitive, and very happy girl. Sarah never learned to read, but she adored books and loved visiting her local public library. In July 2001, at the age of three, Sarah was tragically killed in an automobile accident. Her parents, Susan and Kerry Badgley of Kemptville, Ontario, created the Fund in Sarah's memory.

Donate!

If you wish to donate to the Sarah Badgley fund in its support for rural library literacy initiatives, please send your donation to the Ontario Library Association using the secured ink: <https://secure.e-registernow.com/cgi-bin/mkpayment.cgi?state=86> or you can send a cheque to:

Ontario Library Association
Centre for Social Innovation
192 Spadina Avenue, Suite 205
Toronto, Ontario M5T 2C2
Attention: Sarah Badgley Fund