

OLA Vice President/President Elect Candidates - 2 year term

Kerry Badgley



I am submitting my name for the position of OLA Vice President/President Elect because I have a passion for libraries, and am fully aware of the vital role that they play in our society. I have been involved in the OLA since 2016, and have had the honour of serving as OLBA Chair in 2017 and OLA President in 2018.

I am submitting my name because I believe that libraries in our province (and elsewhere) are at a critical historical juncture, and I believe that what is needed at present is a mix of experience plus the willingness to hear many new voices as we determine the future of these institutions and continue to advocate for them.

I consider myself to be a good listener, work well with others, am open to new ideas, and have considerable experience in advocacy work (having sat on the OLA Advocacy Committee, to cite one example). Moreover, with my upcoming retirement from the federal public service (including many years at Library and Archives Canada), I will have the time needed to dedicate myself to advancing the interests of the OLA, and libraries in general.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and I hope that I can count on your support.

Lita Barrie



A library is more than a building - it's a vibrant community hub. I'm Lita Barrie, candidate for OLA Board Vice President, because I believe libraries are powerful engines of connection, learning, and transformation.

As CEO of Burlington Public Library, I've seen how libraries break down barriers. By collaborating with school and academic library partners, we're creating an interconnected ecosystem of knowledge that serves everyone from curious children to lifelong learners.

Two decades of library leadership have taught me that innovation is our superpower. My experience as an OLA Super Conference planner and OLA Board treasurer has given me unique insights into our organization's potential. My vision for OLA is clear:

- Break down silos between library sectors
- Create pathways for every library worker to grow and thrive
- Build a data-driven, collaborative approach to leadership
- Amplify our collective voice in library advocacy

I see libraries as spaces of endless potential. My goal is to support our community in exploring new ways to connect, learn, and serve. If elected, I'll be a committed partner -



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listening, learning, and working alongside colleagues to create meaningful opportunities for growth and innovation.

Together, we can continue to evolve and make a difference.

Dayna DeBenedet



My name is Dayna DeBenedet, and I am running to serve as OLA Vice President. I've worked in libraries for over a decade, serving as a public library CEO before transitioning to college libraries in 2023. I am currently the Manager, Learning Commons at Confederation College.

I have been involved with the OLA for many years, first as a representative on the OPLA Council and currently as a volunteer with the OLA Mentoring Committee. I am an experienced and passionate library advocate. I also care deeply about the experiences and well-being of library workers and the day-to-day challenges they face working in our sector.

If elected, my focus would be to:

- Draw on my past advocacy experience to communicate the value of library services to a wide range of stakeholders and create opportunities for OLA members to participate in advocacy initiatives.
- Champion the OLA's commitment to diversity and inclusion and implement recommendations from the Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Anti-Racism Committee, and Indigenous Advisory Council.
- Ensure that voices from libraries of all types and sizes, from across all regions of Ontario, are heard and valued.
- Create opportunities to listen, understand, and respond to the day-to-day challenges that library workers face.

Jérémie LeBlanc



My name is Jérémie LeBlanc, and I am seeking the position of OLA Board Vice President. With nearly 20 years of experience in libraries, primarily in academic and federal government settings, I am passionate about the role libraries play in providing learning opportunities and access to information.

As libraries face unprecedented challenges and opportunities, including rapid digital transformation, AI advancements, and shifts in higher education and public service, OLA is well-positioned to lead the way in shaping the future of librarianship. Libraries are no longer just physical spaces; they are community hubs that promote inclusivity, lifelong learning, and equitable access to vital information.

I am eager to help OLA build an even more vibrant, engaged community of library professionals. In this role, I aim to contribute to OLA's goals by advocating for innovative



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practices in digital literacy, information stewardship, and equitable access. I am committed to supporting technological advancements while ensuring that libraries stay true to their core mission of serving the public good. Additionally, I will work to embrace emerging tools like AI, ensuring that library services remain accessible and responsive to the diverse needs of our communities.

Shirley Luong



My name is Shirley L. I am hoping to run as the VP, or one of many VP vacancies, either in the Toronto or East Ontario vacancy.

I am not a library professional but someone who in the last 1.5 years has read over 60 books and the list continues to grow. As someone growing up whom spent some of their time in the walls of various libraries as part of the volunteer reading tutor program, I understand and know first hand what a library can or be a positive development in others lives.

I am a communications and public relations professional with abilities in advancing and promoting the organizational mandates and longevity. I have worked in various fields and sectors to which, allow the adaptable skill set and like many others can relate to not having a straight path like the many stories that propel minds and aspirations.

I seek to contribute my expertise in the concentrated area of public relations and communications, while meeting a new set of persons and profession to concretely and long-term leadership development to develop new programs for younger stakeholder relations and interest in books and related areas. Expanding into other community areas that bring more audience and engagement and equity to the accessible communities.

Dave Rilling



My name is David Rilling and I would be honoured to serve you as the OLA VP. As a passionate librarian with over 12 years of experience in public libraries, I have focused on creating inclusive programming, supporting digital literacy, and expanding access to library resources. My work has always been driven by a commitment to equitable access and community-centered services.

I am excited to join the OLA Board to contribute to its mission of leading growth and innovation in the library sector. As OLA faces the challenges of an ever-evolving information landscape, I am eager to support its efforts in advocating for libraries as vital public institutions.

As an OLA representative, I would prioritize advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion within the association and the broader library community, ensuring that OLA continues to foster a profession of lifelong learning and adapts to new technological needs. Additionally, I would also advocate for sustainable funding models that ensure long-term support for libraries.



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Serving on the OLA board would provide an opportunity to learn from fellow leaders in the field and contribute to shaping policies that help libraries remain dynamic, inclusive spaces that meet the needs of all communities.

Erin Scuccimarri



Libraries are both my passion and profession. For 15 years, I have worked to make libraries more impactful, inclusive, and responsive. As CEO of a medium-sized library with the ambition of a large urban library, I have led innovative projects, built strong community partnerships, and advocated for the resources libraries need to thrive. This experience shapes my candidacy for Vice President/President Elect of the Ontario Library Association (OLA).

My leadership is rooted in collaboration, strategic vision, and a willingness to experiment. Working closely with municipal leaders has enhanced my advocacy skills, which I'm eager to bring to the OLA. As a strong supporter of the OLA's values of growth, diversity, equity, and inclusion, I see libraries as the ultimate community toolkit—versatile, essential, and full of solutions.

As Vice President/President Elect, I will prioritize sustainable funding, equitable access, and resilience for libraries across Ontario. I look forward to collaborating with board members, government officials, and stakeholders to highlight how libraries strengthen communities.

As a parent of two young children, I'm personally invested in keeping libraries vibrant spaces for all to learn, grow, and connect. It would be an honour to serve and help shape the future of Ontario's libraries.