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## OLBA Vice President / President Elect - 3 year term

### Michael Ben



My name is Michael Ben, and I am excitedly looking forward to serving you as OLBA Vice President. I have worked in the public sector for some 20 years, nine years with the Brampton Library both as Chair and Vice Chair, leading the library through a period of growth and challenge, leading the development of its 5-year Strategic Plan and 10-year Facilities Master Plan. My strategic vision and direction earned the Library a Ministers Award.

I have a Masters' degree in Public Administration from University of Western Ontario, focusing on local government governance. I am a

Course Director at York University, teaching Managing and Implementing Strategic Information Systems.

My recent travels to Public Libraries in North America and Europe motivated me to seek this position and to apply industry best practices to advance OLBA's priority objectives in the following areas:

- Develop professional development for OLBA Council members.
- Promote the benefits of OLBA membership through awards and bursaries.
- Create an environment of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility.

I hope to use learnings from library advocacy in this role to help advance my work as an Ontario Library Service Board of Directors member.

### Alex Hilson



My name is Alex Hilson and I am looking forward to continue to serve you as OLBA Vice President/President Elect from my current role as Secretary of the division. For over a decade, I have worked as a community connector, most recently serving as a Town Councillor with the Town of Halton Hills and as a Board Member with the Halton Hills Public Library. Some of my other past roles include being a youth worker, a member of my local food bank's

board, a Lieutenant Governor with Optimist International and serving as a Warden at my local church. I believe in the importance of libraries as third places where individuals can connect and work together to create more vibrant communities and believe library boards are vehicles for community change and growth. I am seeking this position to serve library boards across the province, including by continuing to:



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- Connect and provide a forum for library boards to discuss issues and ideas and to train our boards to be as effective as possible in navigating the challenges facing libraries today.
- Work with other agencies that share common concerns and purposes, and,
- Promote government support, especially as libraries become the front line of a growing affordability crisis.

I am excited to work on these priorities and more in the hopes of creating an ever more resilient and hopeful OLBA over the next couple years and appreciate your support as I look towards this next opportunity.