

By-law Number: 2 (OSLA)

Type: Board Governance

Approval Date:

Date for Review: When required

All divisions of the Ontario Library Association (OLA), including the Ontario School Library Association (OSLA), are governed by By-law No. 1.

By-Law No. 2 below is specific to OSLA.

BE IT ENACTED as a By-Law of the ONTARIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, as follows:

1. NAME

The name of the division shall be the **Ontario School Library Association Division** of the Ontario Library Association and shall hereinafter be referred to as the "**OSLA Division**" and the Ontario Library Association shall be referred to herein as the "Corporation."

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the OSLA Division is to foster and encourage the expansion and improvement of school library service for all students in the province of Ontario through:

A. Advocacy:

- to be a strong and united voice for those working in, or having a vested interest in school libraries in Ontario;
- to advocate for the critical role of school libraries in contributing to student achievement and well-being;
- To provide OSLA members with the resources they need to advocate for school libraries and library programming
- to support OSLA members with advocating for school libraries and demonstrating the value of the school libraries in their communities;
- to help all stakeholders, including all levels of government, better understand the needs of school libraries, including ongoing funding deficits;
- to strengthen and unify the voice of qualified library staff as library program facilitators and supporters of the curriculum.

B. Education and Research:

- to support OSLA members in continuing education and research to foster professional development;
- to encourage the establishment of training programs, standards and certification for qualified school library staff;
- to actively promote and seek out peer-reviewed, academically-based research related to effective school libraries and best practices in librarianship.

C. Communication:

- to strengthen professional communication amongst those working in or otherwise having an interest in school libraries in Ontario through the creation of networking and mentorship opportunities, including the sharing of professional experiences;
- to provide opportunities for school library staff to discuss current issues, best practices and exchange ideas with others in the field.

D. Partnerships:

- to be the subject association for school libraries recognized by the Ontario Ministry of Education, the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario, the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation, and the Ontario Teachers Federation;
- to work with the broader library community on shared issues, opportunities, and initiatives.

3. MEMBERSHIP

The members of the OSLA Division are those Members in good standing of the OLA who identified the OSLA division within their registration.

The members of a region are those members of the Division who are either employed or live in that particular geographical area, provided however that a member cannot be a member of more than one region with the Division.

The membership of all OLA divisions shall be composed of nine regions:

- 1 Southwestern region
- 2 Central West region
- 3 Mid Central region
- 4 Central region - East
- 5 Toronto
- 6 Eastern region
- 7 Northern region – West
- 8 Northern region – East
- 9 Outside Ontario

4. COUNCIL GOVERNANCE

The affairs of the OSLA Division shall be managed by those elected Council in a manner consistent with By-Law No. 1. The Division shall elect between three (3) and seven (7) At Large Representatives which meet the diverse needs of that division. Criteria of representation may involve regional seats, specific focus or topical representation, etc.

- a. The composition of the OSLA Council shall include at least:
 - The Past-President
 - The President
 - The Vice-President
 - Executive Director (non-voting)

- b. OSLA Council is encouraging participation from the following groups:
 - One representative from an organization within the Northern region (West or East)
 - One representative from an organization within the East region (Eastern, Central Region - East)
 - One representative from an organization within the West region (Southwestern, Central West)
 - One representative from an organization within the Mid-Central region
 - And 1-3 at large members, ideally including perspectives from:
 - Members who identify as racialized
 - A member from a northern school board
 - A member who works with or partners with an Indigenous library
 - A member from the secondary panel
 - A member who is a teacher-librarian
 - A member who is a school library technician
 - A member who works in a French school library
 - A member who works in a rural school library

[NB: A councillor can represent more than one of these groups (e.g., a school library technician working in a secondary school in a rural community). The goal is to have representation of diverse voices on council that represent the various school libraries across our province.]

OSLA Council has also determined to include in their at large representation:

- Editor of Teaching Librarian (non-voting/non-quorum)
- Super Conference Planner(s) (non-voting/non-quorum)

Provided that each of the foregoing, except for the Executive Director, are personal members in good standing of the Division at the time of their election and throughout their term of office.

- c. The Vice-President shall serve the first year after their election as Vice- President, the second year as President, the third year as Past-President.

- d. The term of office of a councillor is three years.
- e. The seat of the Secretary shall be chosen by the Council from the Councillors each year. If there is no candidate from the Councillors, the existing Executive Committee may appoint members-at-large to the positions. The seat of the Treasurer will be filled by the past-President or as appointed by Council.
- f. The councillors shall be appointed annually by the President to portfolios, which shall be determined from time to time by Council.
- g. If an OSLA Council member is absent for three consecutive Council meetings (without regrets or without authorization by the President), that Council member's seat becomes vacant and the remaining Council members shall forthwith declare the seat vacant and move to fill it as per [OLA Policy G4.4 "Nominations and Elections"](#)

5. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to all divisional bylaws are governed by OLA Bylaw #1 and the OLA Resolutions Policy and Procedure G6.1. Resolutions are the means for any OLA member to propose action for the membership to consider. Bylaw #1 stipulates notice to members of resolution as follows:

- Notice of any by-law amendments: 30 days
- Notice of other resolutions: 7 days.