

By-law Number: 3 (OPLA)

Type: Board Governance

Approval Date:

Date for Review: When required

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

By-Law No. 3 is specific to the OPLA Division.

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

1. NAME

The name of the division herein constituted shall be the **Ontario Public Library Association**, Division of the Ontario Library Association and shall hereinafter be referred to as the "**OPLA Division**" and the Ontario Library Association shall be referred to herein as the "Corporation".

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the OPLA Division is to foster and encourage the expansion and improvement of public library service for all the people in the Province of Ontario through:

- A. **Advocacy:** To be a voice for those working in or having an interest in public libraries in Ontario. To support OPLA members in their provision of information resources and demonstrating the value of the public libraries within their communities. To interpret the public library needs to all levels of government
- B. **Education and research:** To support OPLA members in continuing education and research to foster professional development; to encourage the establishment of training programs, standards and certification for public library workers;
- C. **Communication:** To strengthen professional communication amongst those working in or otherwise having an interest in public libraries in Ontario through the creation of networking and mentorship opportunities, including the sharing of professional experiences. To provide opportunities for public librarians to discuss problems and exchange ideas with librarians in other fields.
- D. **Partnerships:** To work with the broader library community on shared issues, opportunities, and initiatives.

3. MEMBERSHIP

The members of the OPLA Division are those Members in good standing of the OLA who are also working or residing in Ontario.

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

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 OPLA Division shall be managed by the duly elected Council in a manner consistent with By-Law No. 1.

a. The composition of the Council shall include at least:

- The Past-President
- The President
- The Vice-President
- Executive Director (non-voting)

b. OPLA Council has also determined to include the following representatives in their at large representation. Participation is encouraged from underrepresented groups in public libraries.

- 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
- Two representatives from libraries serving communities under 30,000
- Two representatives from libraries serving communities larger than 30,001
- 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. A Secretary and Treasurer 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.

g. The councillors shall be appointed annually by the President to portfolios, which shall be determined from time to time by Council.

h. If an OPLA Council member is absent for three consecutive Council meetings, without authorization by a Council resolution, 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.