

June 12, 2024

Hon. Stan Cho  
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming  
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming  
6th Floor, 438 University Ave  
Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

*Sent by email: Stan.Cho@ontario.ca | Stan.Cho@pc.ola.org*

Dear Minister Cho,

**RE: Congratulations & Introductory Meeting Request - Working Together to Strengthen Ontario's Public Libraries**

On behalf of the Ontario Library Association (OLA) and the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL), we would like to extend our sincerest congratulations on your recent appointment as the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming. We look forward to building a strong working relationship and continuing our constructive partnership with your Ministry in supporting the sustainable future of Ontario's public libraries.

Public libraries are Ontario's farthest-reaching, most cost-effective public resource and community hubs. The ongoing recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates how millions of Ontarians rely on local libraries in their daily lives – to work, to learn, to connect to community and government services, and to find or train for a job. Public libraries are an essential part of Ontario's economic recovery – but many who depend on libraries are still falling through the gaps and are struggling and/or unable to access the public library resources they need.

These pressures, especially the demand for limited e-resources and other barriers to fair access, are most acute in small, rural, Northern and First Nations communities, as well as for low-income residents across Ontario. We appreciated the continued support and action of your Ministry in response to these issues. This included a 3-year, \$3.75 million investment in First Nations Public Libraries on reserve and an [increase to the Connectivity Grant program](#) which helps overcome cost barriers faced by public libraries in providing high-speed internet access to small, rural and First Nations communities.

We would like to request a meeting with you at your earliest opportunity to further introduce the important work that our members perform across Ontario, including high-impact opportunities to work together on these important issues. We will follow-up with your office directly to coordinate.

We look forward to continuing to work together to support a strong, sustainable future for Ontario's public libraries.

Sincerely,



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### **Ontario Library Association / Federation of Ontario Public Libraries**

The Ontario Library Association (OLA) is the oldest continually operating non-profit library association in Canada, with over 3,500 members comprised of library staff and supporters from public, school, academic, and special libraries.

The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL) represents 237 public library systems in Ontario, including 39 Public Libraries on Reserves.

Together, OLA & FOPL are committed to ensuring that libraries can continue to play a critical role in the social, educational, cultural and economic success of our communities and schools.