



:. ontario library association

## **Ontario Library Association Recognizes Excellence in Public Library Service**

*Library staff recognized for passion and commitment to serving community*

### **NEWS RELEASE**

**TORONTO, ON** (June 2, 2025): The Ontario Library Association (OLA) is proud to celebrate the achievements of Ontario Public Library Association (OPLA) members through the OPLA Children's or Youth Services Librarian of the Year Award, OPLA Advocacy in Action: Excellence in Children's or Teen Services Award and the OPLA Leadership in Adult's Readers' Advisory Award. These award winners are passionate about promoting library services within the community, whether through readers' advisory or children and youth services, while also improving the overall work experience of their fellow colleagues. Their unwavering dedication and commitment to their work is truly inspiring.

The Association is pleased to announce the recipients of the following awards:

### **2025 OPLA Children's or Youth Services Librarian of the Year Award**

**WINNER:** Danielle Big Canoe Snake, Rama First Nation Public Library

This award will be presented fall of 2025 at the OPLA Child and Youth EXPO.

As Library Coordinator at Rama First Nation Public Library, Danielle's quiet leadership enables the fostering of strong youth grounded in cultural awareness and pride. Danielle is dedicated to cultivating welcoming spaces, inclusive of all Indigenous First Nations, Metis and Inuit people and works with all age groups and demographics in her community and outside.

### **2025 OPLA Advocacy in Action: Excellence in Children's or Teen Services Award**

**WINNER:** Audrey Kennington, Barrie Public Library

This award will be presented fall 2025 at the OPLA Child and Youth EXPO.

As Library Associate, Community Engagement at Barrie Public Library, Audrey has made an impact in the community as a strong advocate within the library and 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Building a new library program Audrey has shown that change is possible and youth programming can be successful, if done with grace, strategic collaboration and planning.

### **2025 OPLA Leadership in Adult Readers' Advisory Award**

**WINNER:** Laurie Prentice, Waterloo Public Library

This award was presented at the 2025 OPLA RA in a Day Event.



∴ ontario library association

Laurie is a passionate leader of RA services at Waterloo Public Library. An excellent mentor to library professionals, she trains staff and educates customers on RA skills and methods. As a book advocate and online creator, she is a passionate promoter of books, diversity, and libraries.

-30-

**About the Ontario Library Association:** The Ontario Library Association (OLA) is a centre of excellence for the library and information sector, with nearly 4,000 members who work in public, school, academic and special libraries. OLA enables members to advocate for the right of individuals to have free and equitable access to information. Our members research, develop and participate in educational programs designed to provide exemplary library services. Signature OLA events include the annual Super Conference and the Forest of Reading® program.

**Media Contact:**

Laurel McLeod

Social Media and Communications Specialist

Ontario Library Association

[lmcleod@accessola.com](mailto:lmcleod@accessola.com)