

President's Report

2025 was a year of incredible change at OLA, including the new strategic plan, which highlights advocacy, innovation, and collaboration. These pillars inform every aspect of OLA's work throughout 2025.

At our first ever OLA Town Hall, we announced our new Membership Engagement Model. This model, with the introduction of five new communities of practice, will help bring together library workers from all sectors across Ontario. I am so excited about these new communities and the ways members will be able to collaborate and innovate in the years to come. We also found new and original ways to ensure that OLA maintains its financial health, which will help guide the association into 2026 and beyond.

The Inclusive Libraries Report was a big piece of our work in 2025. This report is a milestone in OLA's commitment to decolonization, anti-racism, equity, diversity, inclusion (EDI), and accessibility. The report's incredible scope will shape OLA and the library sector, and be a major part of conversations around EDI in libraries. It was an honour to serve as president while formalizing and finalizing this fantastic piece of work.

We saw gains and losses on the advocacy front. The announcement of the Internet Connectivity Grant, which will increase access to high-speed internet service for all First Nation Public Libraries and rural libraries. However, we also saw the introduction of Bill C-15, which could eliminate reduced postage rates for library materials, directly impacting interlibrary loan services. Advocacy should continue to be a major element in all our work in library land and I encourage you to seek out avenues to get involved.



I am so proud of the work we accomplished this past year. And even more, with these new structures and plans in place, I am looking forward to everything OLA will achieve in 2026.

Matt Rohweder
OLA President 2025