



August 10, 2026

Hon. Doug Downey

Attorney General of Ontario

Responsible for the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming on an interim basis

McMurtry-Scott Building, 11th Floor, 720 Bay St.

Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

Sent by email: doug.downey@pc.ola.org

Dear Minister Downey,

**RE: Ontario Library Association & Federation of Ontario Public Libraries –
Congratulations & Meeting Request**

On behalf of the Ontario Library Association (OLA) and the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL), we would like to extend our sincere congratulations on your appointment as Ontario's Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming. Together, our associations have built a strong working relationship with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming and we look forward to the opportunity to work with you and your office to support Ontario's public libraries and the communities we serve.

OLA and FOPL represent Ontario's public library sector, including public library boards, library workers, and systems serving communities across the province. Public libraries are Ontario's farthest-reaching and most cost-effective public resource. They support Ontarians in communities of all sizes, including small, rural, northern, as well as in First Nations, providing access to information, technology, lifelong learning, workforce supports, and trusted public spaces.

We would like to request a meeting with you at your earliest availability to share more insight into the impact of public libraries across Ontario, and how OLA and FOPL can work with the Ontario Government to strengthen access to public library services across Ontario. Our priority initiative – the Ontario Digital Public Library (ODPL) – offers a powerful opportunity to give all Ontarians access to a consistent set of high-quality e-learning & online resources through their local public library, at a fraction of the cost, making these resources available to millions of Ontarians for the first time.

We have enclosed a briefing note for your prior review and look forward to an introductory meeting. We will follow-up with your office to coordinate and confirm availability.

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 37 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.