

September 17, 2026

Hon. Zee Hamid

Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming
6th Floor, 438 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2K8

Sent by email: zee.hamid@pc.ola.org

Dear Minister Hamid,

RE: Ontario Library Association & Federation of Ontario Public Libraries – Congratulations, Meeting Request & Invitation to Celebrate Ontario Public Library Week – October 23, 2026

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.

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 celebrate and appreciate the continuing support of the Ontario Government and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, which is vital to Ontario's public libraries and the communities we serve.

We are requesting a meeting at your earliest availability to share more insight into the impact of public libraries across Ontario, and to look ahead to how we can continue to work together to strengthen access to public library services across Ontario.

Over the past year, OLA and FOPL have worked diligently to refine our sector's priority initiative: the Ontario Digital Public Library (ODPL). Building on targeted foundational investments in public library broadband made by the Ontario Government over the past several years, the ODPL offers a powerful opportunity to leverage provincial purchasing power to give all Ontarians access to a consistent set of high-quality e-learning and online resources through their local public library, at a fraction of the cost. This investment will make these important resources accessible to millions of Ontarians for the first time, ensuring equitable access to all residents, regardless of where they live, while maximizing the impact of provincial investment.

We have been actively engaging your office and Ministry officials throughout the development of the ODPL proposal. We look forward to bringing you up to speed on this work and how we can move forward on delivering the ODPL together. We have enclosed some ODPL briefing material recently submitted to the Ministry for your review.

In addition, we are excited to have the opportunity to invite you to take part in the recognition of Ontario Public Library Week (October 18–24). In keeping with a long-standing tradition, we would be delighted to welcome you to Milton Public Library to join us in celebrating the important role that public libraries play in communities across Ontario. We are proposing Friday, October 23, for a short event, but are happy to work with your office to identify an opportunity that aligns with your schedule.

We look forward to an introductory meeting and 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.