

DRAFT Agenda
Woodstock Public Library Board
Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2020
Place: Library Meeting Room
Time: 4:00 p.m.

- 1. Call to Order/Chairperson's Remarks**
- 2. Approval of the Agenda**
- 3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**
- 4. Minutes of the Meeting of February 11, 2020**
- 5. Business Arising from the Minutes**
 - a) Teen Space – Verbal Update – D. Harvie**
 - b) Response to United Way Correspondence – Re: Teen Space Grant**
- 6. Board Education**
 - a) Collection Development – Heather Mathers, Reference Librarian**
- 7. Consideration of Correspondence**
 - a) Investing in the Modernization of Ontario Public Libraries**
 - i) Outgoing letter – The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, MPP of Oxford
 - ii) Email response from the office of the MPP of Oxford
 - iii) Municipal Resolution Supporting Provincial Public Library Funding
 - b) Email – BIG (and good news) on the Development Charges/Community Benefit Charges front! – Stephen Abram, FOPL**
- 8. Administrative Reports**

For Information

 - a) Monthly Reports**
 - i) Report of the Chief Executive Officer for February/March, 2020
 - ii) Report of the Manager of Public Services for February/March, 2020
 - b) Statistics**

Library Systems Activities for the month of February, 2020
 - c) Policy Review**
 - i) Collection Development Policy

9. Committee Reports

a) **Southern Ontario Library Service Trustee Council**

b) **Health and Safety**

No report

c) **Grievance**

No report

10. Finance

a) **Treasurer's Report**

(No financials provided by Treasury until the meeting of April)

11. New Business

None

12. Notices of Motion

13. Attachments

a) *Economic Study details impact of library. Woodstock Sentinel-Review* (Feb 20, 2020)

b) *Edmonton writer in residence calls out library CEO for supporting space rental to Meghan Murphy. Toronto Star* (Nov 2, 2020)

c) *The Toronto library hosted Meghan Murphy. Now an Edmonton library trustee says she's paying a price for speaking out. Toronto Star* (Feb 11, 2020)

14. Committee of the Whole In-camera

15. Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 4:00 pm

16. Adjournment

VISION

Your Destination for Discovery

MISSION

The Woodstock Public Library is a community based accessible centre that responds to changing needs by providing up-to-date resources in a welcoming environment.

Woodstock Public Library Board

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2020

A regular meeting of the Woodstock Public Library Board was held on February 11, 2020 at 4:00 pm in the Meeting Room of the Woodstock Public Library.

a) The following Board members were present:

Ross Gerrie, Vice-chair
Mary Anne Silverthorn, Trustee
Dr. Vanessa Vogwill, Trustee
Councillor Connie Lauder
Mayor Trevor Birtch

b) The following Board members sent regrets:

Ken Whiteford, Chair
Councillor Deb Tait

c) The following persons were also present:

David Harvie, Chief Executive Officer
Lori Peixoto, Recorder

1. Call to Order/Chairperson's Remarks

Vice-chair Gerrie called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion 20-07

MOVED by Trustee Vogwill and seconded by Mayor Birtch to approve the Agenda.

Motion carried.

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None.

4. Minutes of the Meeting of January 14, 2020

Motion 20-08

MOVED by Councillor Lauder and seconded by Trustee Silverthorn to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of January 14, 2020.

DRAFT Agenda
Woodstock Public Library Board
Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2020
Place: Library Meeting Room
Time: 4:00 p.m.

- 1. Call to Order/Chairperson's Remarks**
- 2. Approval of the Agenda**
- 3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**
- 4. Minutes of the Meeting of February 11, 2020**
- 5. Business Arising from the Minutes**
 - a) Teen Space – Verbal Update – D. Harvie**
 - b) Response to United Way Correspondence – Re: Teen Space Grant**
- 6. Board Education**
 - a) Collection Development – Heather Mathers, Reference Librarian**
- 7. Consideration of Correspondence**
 - a) Investing in the Modernization of Ontario Public Libraries**
 - i) Outgoing letter – The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, MPP of Oxford
 - ii) Email response from the office of the MPP of Oxford
 - iii) Municipal Resolution Supporting Provincial Public Library Funding
 - b) Email – BIG (and good news) on the Development Charges/Community Benefit Charges front! – Stephen Abram, FOPL**
- 8. Administrative Reports**

For Information

 - a) Monthly Reports**
 - i) Report of the Chief Executive Officer for February/March, 2020
 - ii) Report of the Manager of Public Services for February/March, 2020
 - b) Statistics**

Library Systems Activities for the month of February, 2020
 - c) Policy Review**
 - i) Collection Development Policy

9. Committee Reports

a) **Southern Ontario Library Service Trustee Council**

b) **Health and Safety**

No report

c) **Grievance**

No report

10. Finance

a) **Treasurer's Report**

(No financials provided by Treasury until the meeting of April)

11. New Business

None

12. Notices of Motion

13. Attachments

a) *Economic Study details impact of library. Woodstock Sentinel-Review* (Feb 20, 2020)

b) *Edmonton writer in residence calls out library CEO for supporting space rental to Meghan Murphy. Toronto Star* (Nov 2, 2020)

c) *The Toronto library hosted Meghan Murphy. Now an Edmonton library trustee says she's paying a price for speaking out. Toronto Star* (Feb 11, 2020)

14. Committee of the Whole In-camera

15. Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 4:00 pm

16. Adjournment

VISION

Your Destination for Discovery

MISSION

The Woodstock Public Library is a community based accessible centre that responds to changing needs by providing up-to-date resources in a welcoming environment.

Motion carried.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

6. Board Education

a) Ontario Library Association Super Conference 2020 Report – Dr. V. Vogwill

Trustee Vogwill attended the OLA Super Conference, and provided a summary of her time spent there. Trustee Vogwill noted that she was very appreciative for the opportunity to attend, and the information provided at the Conference was very valuable.

7. Consideration of Correspondence

a) Letter – United Way Oxford, dated January 8, 2020

Further discussed in item 11 c) 'Teen Space'.

8. Administrative Reports

a) Monthly Report

i) Report of the Chief Executive Officer for January, 2020

The CEO provided an update on the library's computer systems since first writing his report. Public access to three online catalogue stations is still in progress. Scanning to USB drives on the new public printer/photocopier have been enabled.

ii) Report of the Manager of Public Services for January, 2020

The CEO noted that homelessness training is ongoing with staff, and Literacy Day was a great success.

b) Statistics: Library Systems Activities for the Month of January, 2020

The CEO noted that due to the fact that not all public internet computers were not fully operational, usage stats are down again for the month of January.

Policy Review

i) Proctoring Policy

The CEO reported that the Library did not have a policy on this service, and due to the increased number of requests for exam invigilation, a policy was created for the Board's review and approval.

Motion 20-09

MOVED by Mayor Birtch and seconded by Trustee Silverthorn to amend the Proctoring Policy in s. 3.2 to state: “The Library does not generally charge a fee for proctoring. However, when the Library is offered a fee for proctoring services, it will be accepted.”, and subsequently approve.

Motion carried.

9. Committee Reports

a) Southern Ontario Library Service Trustee Council

None.

b) Health and Safety

None.

c) Grievance

None.

10. Finance

a) Treasurer’s Report

Motion 20-10

MOVED by Mayor Birtch and seconded by Councillor Lauder

that the DRAFT 1 Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the period ending December 31, 2019, and

the DRAFT Summary of Trust Account for the period ending December 31, 2019, and

the DRAFT Summary of the Jessie McDougall Trust Fund for the period ending December 31, 2019, be approved.

Motion carried.

The CEO stated that there was a surplus at year-end that was approved to go back into reserve accounts.

11. New Business

a) Self-check Station Replacement Report

The CEO noted that this project is on the 2020 Capital Budget. Due to the specialized nature of our integrated library automation system software and other requirements, only one vendor can provide the necessary replacement units. The CEO requested single-source approval to purchase the units.

Motion 20-11

MOVED by Trustee Silverthorn and seconded by Councillor Lauder that the Board approve single-source purchasing from Bibliotheca Canada for the self-check station replacements.

Motion carried.

b) Staff Training & Library Closures

The CEO requested more than one day of training for staff; preferably not Remembrance Day.

Motion 20-12

MOVED by Trustee Silverthorn and seconded by Councillor Lauder that the Board approve the request to close the Library for 2-3 days during the year, dates determined by the CEO, for staff training.

Motion carried.

c) Teen Space Project

The CEO reported that this is being brought back to the Board to determine if there is support in the Teen Space initiative.

Discussion was had around the process and whether or not consultations had been done with youth in the past.

The CEO stated that he would be meeting with the Library's Teen Advisory Group after the Board meeting, and would be joined by Wellkin's Teen Advisory Group to discuss what the needs of youth are in the Library.

Motion 20-13

MOVED by Councillor Lauder and seconded by Trustee Silverthorn that the Board receive the CEO's report as information and provide further direction after public consultation with various youth groups in the community.

Motion carried.

d) Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL)– *Investing in the Modernization of Ontario’s Public Libraries – 2020 Pre-budget Submission*

Discussion was had regarding FOPLs’ submission to the provincial government that seeks to maintain the current level of operating grants, investing in a proposed Ontario Digital Library, and increasing the reimbursement fund for Interlibrary Loan postage.

The CEO asked if the Board would like to advocate directly with our local MPP. The CEO will consult with the Board Chair about sending a letter on behalf of the Board to our local MPP. Councillor Lauder suggested that a motion request be sent to City Council in support of the FOPL submission. The CEO was asked to contact FOPL to get a copy of their motion.

e) Economic Benefits of the Woodstock Public Library 2018 Study

The CEO discussed the template used in the Economic Benefits report. Stats from 2018 were used rather than 2019, due to the cyber incident.

The CEO felt it was best to bring forward to the Board prior to launching to the public.

12. Attachments

None.

13. Committee of the Whole In Camera

The Board did not move into the Committee of the Whole In-camera.

14. Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 4:00 pm.

15. Adjournment

MOVED by Councillor Lauder that the meeting adjourn at 5:15 pm.

Vision

Your Destination for Discovery

Mission

A welcoming place to create, connect and explore.



19 February 2020

The Honourable Ernie Hardeman,
MPP for Oxford
Constituency Office
12 Perry Street,
Woodstock, ON N4S 3C2

Subject: Investing in the Modernization of Ontario's Public Libraries

Dear Minister Hardeman,

In my capacity as Board Chair of the Woodstock Public Library, I would like to bring your attention to the Ontario Library Association's and the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries' submission regarding provincial support for public libraries in the upcoming 2020 Ontario Budget.

I have seen first-hand how the Woodstock Public Library acts as a vital community hub for seniors, youth and families. 32% of Woodstock residents are active users of the Library and its services. In 2019, there were 1.95 million uses of the Woodstock Public Library by our patrons. A recent study on the economic impact of library services to our community demonstrates that for every \$1 invested in the library, \$7.20 is generated for our residents.

But we're reaching the limits of what we can do to keep up with our community's need for access to modern & digital resources.

In addition to maintaining funding for Ontario's public libraries at current levels, the public library community is asking the government to make two targeted investments of new funding, in order to:

1. Deliver on the Ontario's Government's Broadband Action Plan through the creation of an Ontario Digital Public Library.
2. Complete the transformation of Inter-Library Loan.

By providing new, multi-year investments, as outlined in the attached budget submission, we will ensure that all Ontarians, no matter where they live, will continue to have access to modern, cost-effective resources and services through their local public libraries. The Woodstock Public Library Board fully supports the OLA/FOPL

recommendations, and hopes that you will support and discuss them with your fellow cabinet members.

Please feel free to contact me (kenwhiteford@rogers.com) or David Harvie, Library CEO (dharvie@mywpl.ca), if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Ken Whiteford, Chair
Woodstock Public Library Board

Attachment: (1)

Investing in the Modernization of Ontario's Public Libraries – 2020 Pre-Budget Submission

From: Hardeman, Ernie [<mailto:ernie.hardeman@pc.ola.org>]
Sent: February 28, 2020 4:26 PM
To: 'kenwhiteford@rogers.com' <kenwhiteford@rogers.com>
Cc: David Harvie <dkharvie@mywpl.ca>
Subject: Thank you for your letter

*** Exercise Caution. This is an EXTERNAL e-Mail, DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected mail. ***
Dear Ken,

Thank you for your letter sharing the budget submission from the Ontario Library Association and the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries.

Ernie has read the letter and asked that we thank you for sharing the information, including the statistics for the Woodstock Public Library.

He also wants to verify that those submissions were actually sent to the Minister of Finance for budget consideration.

Regards,

Jennifer
Constituency assistant to
Ernie Hardeman, MPP Oxford

Municipal Resolution Supporting Provincial Public Library Funding

WHEREAS public libraries provide vibrant community hubs where residents of all ages and backgrounds are welcome to learn, work, train, innovate, explore, connect, and collaborate;

WHEREAS

the Woodstock Public Library provides community members with equitable, reliable access to broadband internet;

WHEREAS

the Woodstock Public Library uses technology to make resources more accessible and responsive to people's changing needs;

WHEREAS

the Woodstock Public Library works closely with local residents to deliver valued programs and services and shares knowledge and resources;

WHEREAS

the Woodstock Public Library continues to be a catalyst for residents and organizations to reach their potential by connecting them with the expertise and resources they need, and transforms information into knowledge that positively impacts their lives and their families;

AND WHEREAS

the Woodstock Public Library continues to judiciously manage public resources with the utmost care and is committed to the sustainability of its services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the City of Woodstock encourages the Province of Ontario to recognize the contribution of local libraries within their communities;

AND FURTHER THAT the City of Woodstock encourages the Province of Ontario to maintain existing funding for Ontario's public libraries,

AND FURTHER THAT that the City of Woodstock encourages the Province of Ontario to make a new, ongoing, targeted annual investment to extend access to modern, cost-effective resources and services through their local public libraries to all Ontarians in accordance with the Ontario Library Association and Federation of Ontario Public Libraries & 2020 Pre- Budget Recommendations; and

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Ontario Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism, and Culture Industries, to the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs, to our local MPP, to the Association of Municipalities Ontario, to the Ontario Library Association, to the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries, and to Oxford County Council and local area municipalities for endorsement.

Distribution List:

The Honourable Lisa MacLeod
Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries
9th Floor, Hearst Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2E1
Minister.MacLeod@ontario.ca

The Honourable Rod Phillips
Minister of Finance
7th Floor, Frost Building South
7 Queen's Park Crescent
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Y7
Minister.fin@ontario.ca

The Honourable Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing
17th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2E5
Minister.mah@ontario.ca

The Honourable Ernie Hardeman
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Constituency Office
12 Perry Street,
Woodstock, Ontario N4S 3C2

minister.omafra@ontario.ca
Ms. Shelagh Paterson
Executive Director
Ontario Library Association
2 Toronto Street 3rd Floor
Toronto, ON, M5C 2B6
spaterson@accessola.com

Mr. Stephen Abram
Executive Director
Federation of Ontario Public Libraries
5120 Yonge St.
Toronto, ON M2N 5N9
sabram@fopl.ca

Ms. Lorna Ruder
Executive Director
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
200 University Ave., Suite 801
Toronto, Ontario M5H 3C6
lruder@amo.on.ca

From: Stephen Abram [mailto:stephen.abram@gmail.com]

Sent: February 28, 2020 2:36 PM

To: Stephen Abram <stephen.abram@gmail.com>

Subject: FOPL Members: BIG(and good news) on the Development Charges / Community Benefit Charges front!

*** Exercise Caution. This is an EXTERNAL e-Mail, DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected mail. ***

FOPL Members:

BIG (and good news) on the Development Charges / Community Benefit Charges front!

As you know, development charges (or DCs) have been a tool for public libraries to fund growth-related capital costs, including buildings, renovations, and collections. Previously, these public library costs were considered “soft services” by the *Development Charges Act*. Unlike essential or “hard” services, such as roads or fire services, these were eligible for up to 90% cost recovery through development charges, with libraries or municipalities required to cover the remainder.

In the spring of last year, the Ontario Government passed the *More Homes, More Choices Act*, which created a new structure. Going forward, a limited number of fully cost-recoverable services – primarily hard infrastructure like roads and watermains and essential services like fire, police and ambulance – would remain eligible for DCs. All other previously eligible services, including public libraries, would be shifted to a new Community Benefits Charge that would also include other previous types of development-related fees, like density bonusing and parkland dedication.

Informed by the expert input of our public library members, FOPL (and OLA) took part in important consultations with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing to educate and explain the impact of the proposed changes and the risk to Ontario’s public libraries. We provided a series of reasonable recommendations intended to ensure that public libraries would not be negatively impacted by a move to the Community Benefits Charges regime.

Today, we’re pleased to share with you that the provincial government has listened and is taking action.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has posted for consultation its proposed next steps in launching the new Development Charge and Community Benefits Charge regime.

The Ontario Government is now proposing that capital costs for public libraries, including library materials for circulation, reference or information purposes, are to remain eligible to be funded under the *Development Charges Act*. Furthermore, these capital costs will now be eligible for full – rather than 90% - cost recovery through DCs.

I think that the following quote from Julia Merritt, FOPL Chair, says it best:

"As the collective voice of Ontario's public libraries, the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL) applauds the Ontario Government's proposal to include public library capital costs as a fully cost-recoverable eligible service under the Development Charges Act. We welcome the Ontario Government's unequivocal recognition of the role that public libraries perform as critical community infrastructure in municipalities of all sizes across the province, and the importance of ensuring that municipalities are able to collect the development charges needed to help maintain strong, sustainable public libraries for current and future residents alike."

The full regulatory proposal can be found at the following link - <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-1406>. I've included the most relevant section further below. The consultation is open until March 30th. In addition to formal responses from FOPL and OLA, we will be seeking motions of support for your Public Library Boards to express support for this change.

2. Services Eligible to Be Funded Through Development Charges

The Development Charges Act provides authority for municipalities to impose development charges to pay for the increased capital costs of specific services that are needed as a result of new growth.

The services that are eligible to be funded through development charges are listed under subsection 2(4) of the Development Charges Act. **The list includes a provision for other services that may be prescribed in regulation.** The Planning Act stipulates that services funded by development charges may not be funded by community benefits charges.

When proclaimed, the More Homes, More Choices Act, 2019 will make waste diversion and ambulance services fully recoverable through development charges.

The government is proposing to prescribe additional services to be funded under the Development Charges Act, through regulation.

Proposal

It is proposed that the following services would be identified in regulation under subsection 2(4) of the Development Charges Act:

1. **Public libraries, including library materials for circulation, reference or information purposes;**
2. Long-term care;
3. Parks development, such as playgrounds, splash pads, equipment and other park amenities (but not the acquisition of land for parks);
4. Public health; and,

5. Recreation, such as community recreation centres and arenas.

Development charges may be imposed to fully recover the capital costs related to the provision of these proposed services due to new growth."

These proposed services would be ineligible to be funded through community benefits charges.

In any case, this Ministry listened to your feedback through the surveys we provided and our FOPL/OLA advocacy efforts on your behalf.

Cheers,

Stephen

Stephen Abram, MLS, FSLA
Executive Director, Federation of Ontario Public Libraries

sabram@fopl.ca
FOPL: 416-395-0746
Blog: <http://www.fopl.ca>
Twitter: @foplnews
stephen.abram@gmail.com
Cel: 416-669-4855
Blog: <http://www.StephensLighthouse.com>
Twitter: @sabram

News Release

Ontario Helping Communities Build More Homes, Attract More Jobs

February 28, 2020

Province Updates Land Use Planning Rules

QUINTE WEST — Ontario is reducing red tape to help communities across the province build more homes for families and create a more competitive business environment. We are taking these steps to help fix the affordable housing crisis left by the previous government.

Today, Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, was in Quinte West to launch the new [Provincial Policy Statement \(PPS\)](#). The PPS sets the rules for land use planning in Ontario and guides decision-making to manage growth and development, while protecting the environment, public health and safety.

Changes to the PPS were informed by feedback from municipalities, stakeholders and the public. The changes will:

- give municipalities greater flexibility and control over local decision-making to support new housing and economic development
- encourage more and different types of housing
- help ensure an adequate supply of land on which to build more housing.

These changes will not impact the Greenbelt, ensuring that it will continue to be protected for future generations.

"We are making it easier for families to find homes that meet their needs and their budgets in vibrant, thriving communities," said Minister Clark. "Over the past 15 years, home ownership and housing that is affordable have become out of reach for far too many people and our government is taking decisive steps to change that."

"We are making it easier for families to find homes that meet their needs and their budgets in vibrant, thriving communities," said Minister Clark. "Over the past 15 years, home ownership and housing that is affordable have become out of reach for far too many people and our government is taking decisive steps to change that."

"This new Provincial Policy Statement will give municipalities in Bay of Quinte and across Ontario flexible land use planning tools that will allow them to find the right mix of housing development and business opportunities," said Todd Smith, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services and Member of Provincial Parliament for Bay of Quinte. "Our government has listened to our municipal partners. We will continue to work alongside them to develop an environment that fosters continued economic growth and prosperity."

The Provincial Policy Statement was updated following a 90-day consultation with municipalities and stakeholders including development and business, aggregates and resources, agriculture, environment and planning sectors, as well as the public. The government also undertook direct engagement with Indigenous communities.

"I am thankful for Minister Clark and the provincial government's continued engagement with municipalities. It is evident that they are listening and giving us more flexibility and control over local decision-making to support new housing and economic development," said Jim Harrison, Mayor of Quinte West.

In addition to updating the PPS, the government is [continuing consultations on the new community benefits charge](#) that will provide a new way for municipalities to fund community benefits, such as parks, daycares and affordable housing, making the costs of building homes more predictable and ensuring that growth continues to pay for growth. Feedback is due by March 30, 2020.

"As the collective voice of Ontario's public libraries, the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL) applauds the Ontario Government's proposal to include public library capital costs as a fully cost-recoverable eligible service under the *Development Charges Act*," said Julie Merritt, Chair of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries. "We welcome the Ontario Government's unequivocal recognition of the role that public libraries perform as critical community infrastructure in municipalities of all sizes across the province, and the importance of ensuring that municipalities are able to collect the development charges needed to help maintain strong, sustainable public libraries for current and future residents alike."



QUICK FACTS

- As a part of **More Homes, More Choice**: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan, the government committed to reviewing the PPS and the way municipalities collect funds for community benefits, such as parks, daycares and affordable housing, in growing communities.
- Updates to the PPS align with [A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe](#), the [Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan](#) and [recommendations from the province's Special Advisor on Flooding](#).
- The Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 will come into effect on May 1, 2020.
- In June 2019, Ontario launched over 140 days of consultation to gather input from municipalities, builders and the public on the new approach to funding community services. The first round of consultations on the community benefits charge also included technical working groups with municipalities and home builders.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- [Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 Overview](#)

CONTACTS

Julie O'Driscoll
Minister's Office
Julie.O'Driscoll@ontario.ca

Conrad Spezowka
Communications Branch
416-585-7066
mma.media@ontario.ca

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
<http://www.ontario.ca/municipalaffairsandhousing>



WOODSTOCK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Subject:	CEO Report - March 2020
Action:	For Information
Prepared By:	David I. Harvie
Meeting Of:	March 10, 2020

Contribute Vibrant Spaces

A call for Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Library's Building Expansion Feasibility Study was released on the City's [Bids&Tender](#) website on March 2nd. A non-mandatory site visit and tour of the Library will be held on March 12th at 4:00 pm for interested vendors. The RFP will close on Thursday April 9th at 2:00 pm. Library staff will then evaluate and score the proposals. A recommendation to award the project will be made to the Board at the May 12th Library Board Meeting.

A Teen Focus Group was held on February 11th to provide teens an opportunity to provide input on library services, programming and the design of the proposed Teen Space. Sixteen teens from the Library's Teen Advisory Group (TAG), Wellkin and Leads Employment Services participated in the meeting. More focus group sessions at local high schools are being planned. A focus group is scheduled for March 9th at Woodstock Collegiate Institute (WCI). A teen survey was launched on the Library's website on February 27th to elicit input.

The Library CEO met with local area high school principals from College Avenue Secondary School, Huron Park Secondary School and WCI on February 24th to introduce himself, and request assistance in holding teen focus groups at their institutions.

Two new self-check circulation kiosks have been ordered, and are expected to arrive in the Spring.

The Library's online catalogue was updated on February 24th. In addition to various updates and fixes, this update provides the Library with a new version of the catalogue that is accessible on mobile devices such as Apple and Android smart phones and tablets. Ms. Lindsay Harris, Manager of Operations, has worked out a few small bugs that were encountered after the release, and is now excited to share this improved version of the catalogue interface with the public.

Strengthen Our Community

A letter from the Board Chair was sent to Minister Ernie Hardeman in support of the Ontario Library Association and Federation of Ontario Public Libraries' Pre 2020 Budget Request for Ontario Public Libraries. A resolution in support of the OLA/FOPL request was also provided to Councillor Lauder to take to Woodstock City Council on behalf of the Board, for consideration and endorsement.

Reinforcing Our Capabilities

The Library's *Economic Benefits of the Woodstock Public Library Study* was featured by local media. The story aired on 104.7 Heart FM and appeared on the front page of the February 20th edition of the *Woodstock Sentinel Review*.

Respectfully Submitted,

David I. Harvie
Chief Executive Officer



WOODSTOCK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Subject:	Public Services Report for February 2020
Action:	For Information
Prepared By:	Darlene Pretty, Manager of Public Services
Meeting Of:	March 10, 2020

Contribute Vibrant Spaces

Collection staff and the pages have been working hard to improve access and the location of our collections. The biography collection has been weeded and put back into the nonfiction collection, thus making nonfiction material easier to find. The large shelves that held this collection will be dismantled in anticipation of the Young Adult collection moving to the second floor in close proximity to the graphic novel collection. The next stage will be weeding and moving the audio books to their new location by the magazines. Ultimately we are working to create a teen space.

Strengthen Our Community

We have launched a radio campaign on Heart FM to promote children and teen drop in programs during March Break. The next series of commercials will air in June when we promote our summer programs. The Library will also be featured in the 2020-2021 City Services Calendar for the month of July, promoting the TD Summer Reading Club and weekly drop in summer programs.

Reinforcing Our Capabilities

At this point, nearly all staff has completed the Ryan Dowd Librarian's Guide to Homelessness training. Staff feedback for those that have completed the training has been very positive. Many have mentioned that they feel more confident when interacting with our homeless library users and have learned some effective tools for deescalating situations. Others have said that the training is very relevant when dealing with teens and those with mental health issues.

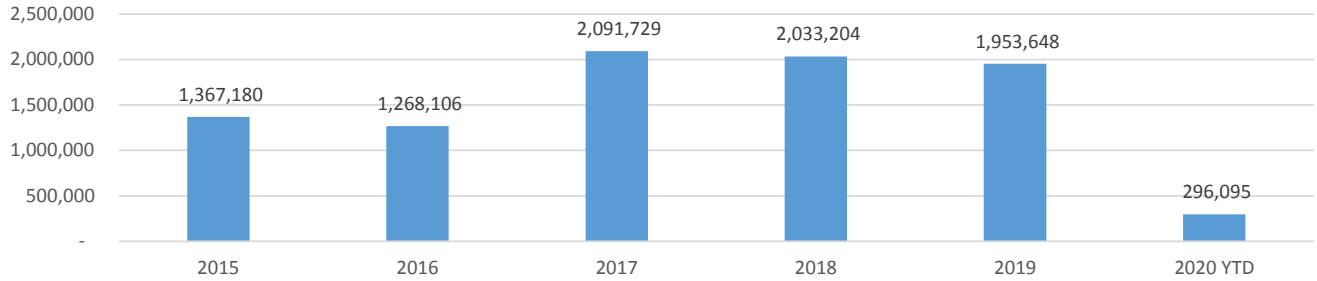
On March 24, we welcome new student page, Ben Osmond. Ben is a student at WCI and brings experience as a hockey referee and running his own lawn cutting business.



Woodstock Public Library

445 Hunter Street Woodstock, ON N4S 4G7 Tel: 519-539-4801

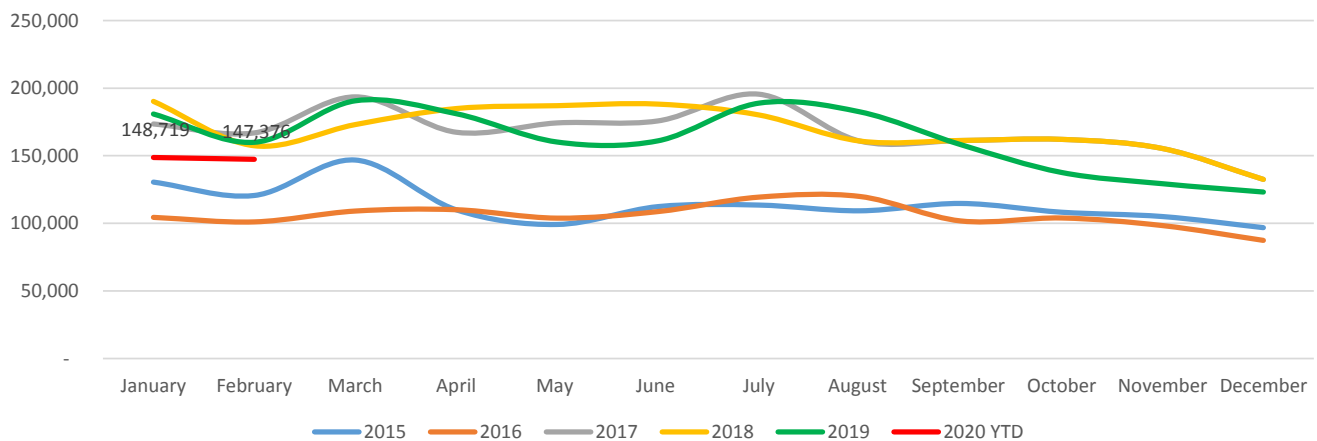
Total Library Uses 2015 - present



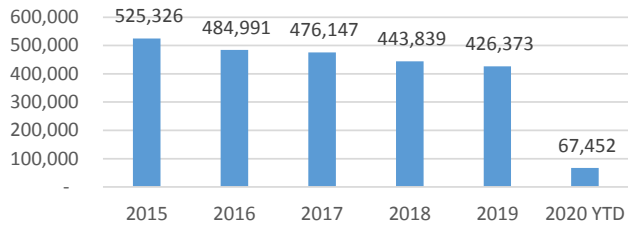
2020	Total Circulation	In Person Visits	Electronic Visits	Social Media Engagements	Program Attendance	Public Computer Use	WIFI Access	Database Searches	Total Library Uses
January	33,295	26,375	62,358	17,222	2,148	1,077	1,888	4,356	148,719
February	34,157	27,774	62,109	13,336	1,663	2,054	1,815	4,468	147,376
March									-
April									-
May									-
June									-
July									-
August									-
September									-
October									-
November									-
December									-
TOTAL	67,452	54,149	124,467	30,558	3,811	3,131	3,703	8,824	296,095

Public computer access restored January 21, 2020

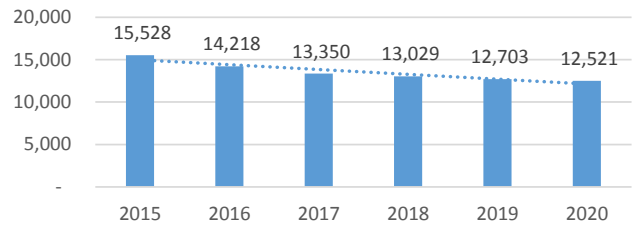
Total Library Uses by Month 2015 - present



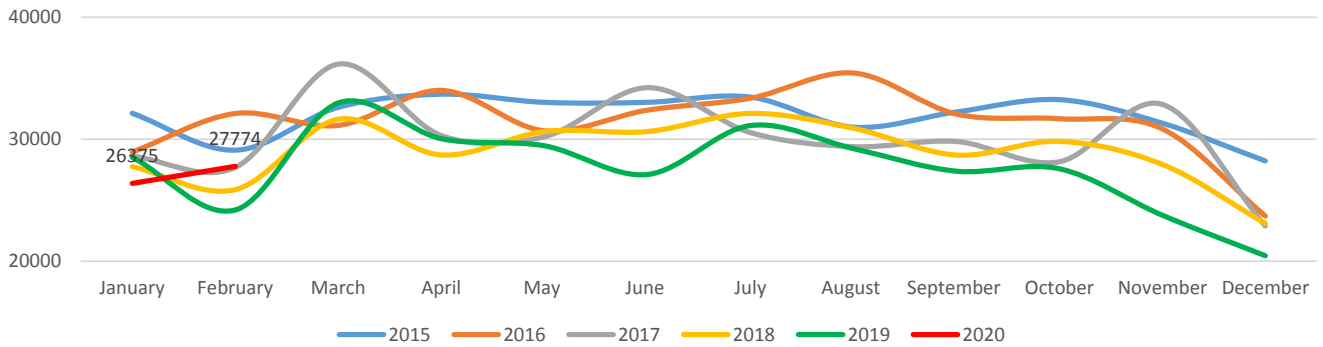
Annual Library Circulation Total 2015-2020



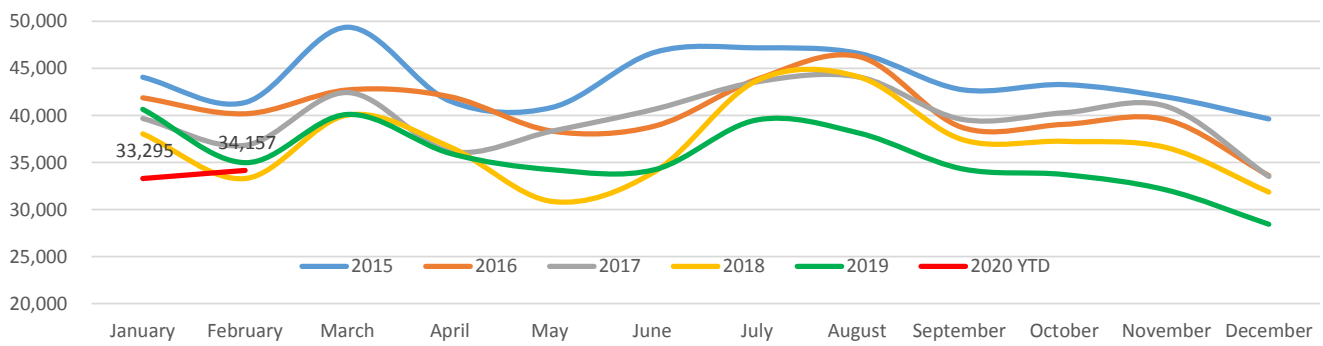
Monthly Average Active Users Count 2015-2020 YTD



In Person Visits - 2015-2020



Total Circulation by Month - 2015-present (Physical & Digital)





Woodstock Public Library Policy

Policy Name: Collection Development

Category: Operations

Version: 20 January 2020

POLICY STATEMENT AND RATIONALE:

The purpose of this policy is to provide a statement of philosophy and identify key objectives respecting the selection and de-selection of library material that will reflect the objectives of the Library's mission statement and that will allow the development and maintenance of a top-quality, balanced, and active collection of materials to support the Library's role in the community.

SCOPE:

This policy shall apply to the Woodstock Public Library.

DEFINITIONS:

In reading and interpreting this policy, the following definitions shall apply;

"CEO" means the Chief Executive Officer of the Woodstock Public Library.

"City" means the Corporation of the City of Woodstock.

"Library" means the Woodstock Public Library.

"Library Board" means the Woodstock Public Library Board.

POLICY, PROCEDURE AND IMPLEMENTATION:

1.0 Responsibility

1.1 The ultimate responsibility for the collection development will lie with the CEO, acting in accordance with the principles established by the Library Board. In

practice, selection and de-selection of materials may be made by appropriate trained staff as designated by the CEO.

2.0 Underlying Principles

2.1 The selection of materials for the Library is driven by principles defined in the Library's Mission Statement. Ongoing material selection activities are founded on staff familiarity with existing collections, their awareness of the needs of Library users, and their knowledge of retrospective, current and future trends in informational, educational and recreational materials suitable for public library use. The Library selects:

- a) Contemporary materials representing varying points of view, which are of current interest and possible future significance, including materials which reflects current conditions, trends and controversies;
- b) Source materials and thoughtful interpretations which document or shed light on the past;
- c) Materials that inform and increase an individual's ability to function effectively as a member of society;
- d) Materials that provide an aesthetic experience, stimulate the imagination and increase an individual's potential creativity;
- e) Materials that expand an individual's understanding of the world in which we live;
- f) Materials that entertain and may enhance an individual's enjoyment of life.
- g) The Library endeavors to provide equitable access to its extensive collections through a multi-tiered service delivery model which rationalizes the location, scope and focus of collections.
- h) Special considerations is given to materials with Canadian content, that record the Canadian experience, or that relates to life in Canada, or the lives and works of Canadians.
- i) Materials that include works written about or created by Indigenous peoples in Canada, concerning Indigenous knowledge, information about cultures, histories, Indigenous-settler relations and related issues.

2.2 The Library is also guided in its selection of materials by the principles embodied in the following statements:

- a) Ontario Library Association's Statement on the Intellectual Rights of the Individual
- b) Canadian Library Association Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries
- c) Ontario Library Association's Position on Children's Rights in the Public Library

- d) Ontario Library Association's Position on Teens' Rights in the Public Library
- e) Canadian Federation of Library Association's Statement on Diversity and Inclusion.

3.0 Collection Development

- 3.1 The responsibility for selection and withdrawal of materials rests with professional librarians under the supervision of their Manager and CEO. Staff members select and deselect materials based on their expertise, experience, and the needs of the local community.

4.0 Selection

- 4.1 The CEO or his/her designate(s) shall consider the following general criteria for selection:
- a) suitability of physical form for library use;
 - b) relationship to existing collections and other material on the subject;
 - c) accessibility of material in other libraries;
 - d) interests and composition of the community and region;
 - e) popular demand and current trends;
 - f) attention of critics, reviewers, and public;
 - g) quality of writing and/or visual art;
 - h) reputation, skill, competence and purpose of the originator of the work;
 - i) special value as a contribution to social questions and problems of continuing or topical interests;
 - j) timeliness or permanence of the work;
 - k) availability of funds and space;
 - l) comprehensiveness and depth of treatment;
 - m) clarity, accuracy and logic of presentation;
 - n) balance of viewpoints in the collection (challenging thought, extreme or minority points of view are often represented though quantity may be limited).
- 4.2 An item need not meet all of the criteria set out above in order to be acceptable. Materials that do not meet these criteria may be purchased to satisfy patron demand.

5.0 Recommendations for Purchase and Donations of Gifts

- 5.1 Suggestions from the public for the purchase of books and other materials not in the Library's collection are referred to the appropriate collection specialists and are considered according to the Library's selection policies.
- 5.2 The same principles of selection that are applied to purchases are applied to gifts and donations. No conditions may be imposed by the donor relating to any book or other item after its acceptance. Furthermore, not all items offered to the Library as donations will be accepted, nor will all items accepted as donations be added to the library collection. Donations that are accepted but not added to the collection will be discarded or sold at book sales. All donations may be weeded from the collection, without the consent of the donor, in accordance with the Deselection / Weeding criteria outlined in 10.0 below.

6.0 New Formats

- 6.1 Careful consideration is given to the introduction of new formats to the Library collection. Budget considerations, community needs, and the probable impact on existing resources are all reviewed before items are selected and introduced to collections in a new format. The selection of materials in any new format may result in the Library's decision to retire specific items or materials formats from its collections, in order to responsibly accommodate trends in user demands and/or changes in technology.

7.0 Controversial Issues

- 7.1 The Library is a resource where many points of view and modes of expression can be examined without hindrance. No ideas and opinions have universal acceptance or condemnation in a pluralistic society. The use of language, either descriptive or expressive, can in itself stimulate controversy. The Library, therefore, recognizes the right of individuals to express opposition to author's ideas or to their creative exercise of language or images in materials selected for the Library. However, the Library will not engage to satisfy patrons by removing items purchased in compliance with the principles of this policy. Selection of materials cannot be influenced by any anticipated approval or disapproval of its intellectual content by sectors within the community.
- 7.2 The Library complies with all laws enacted at the federal, provincial or municipal level, and therefore does not collect or maintain material which has been adjudged obscene, pornographic, hate propaganda, seditious or has been banned by the courts. The presence of an item in the collection does not indicate an endorsement of its contents by the Library, but rather is an

affirmation of the principle of intellectual freedom as embodied in the Ontario Library Association's *Statement on the Intellectual Rights of the Individual*. The Library will neither undertake to mark items to show approval or disapproval nor expurgate any materials. Physical access to materials will not be restricted except for the express purpose of protecting an item from damage or theft.

8.0 Handling Challenged Material

8.1 In the event of objection or complaint by a library patron to any material contained in the Library, the steps for resolution are as follows:

- (a) The patron is provided with a copy of the Collection Development Policy and requested to put his or her objections in writing using the Request for Reconsideration form.
- (b) The completed Request for Reconsideration form is then forwarded to the Manager of Public Services. The Manager and the professional librarian responsible for that portion of the collection, will read, review or listen to the material, and discuss the complaint. When the review is completed, a written recommendation will be made to the CEO. The CEO will then provide the patron with a written explanation for the decision. The decision will be rendered within 30 days of the date of receipt of the complaint, and will reflect the principles outlined in the Library's Collection Development Policy.
- (c) If the patron wishes to pursue the matter further, the CEO will bring the matter forward to the next meeting of the Library Board. The Board will rule on the complaint and report the decision, in writing, to the patron and all concerned parties within 30 days of the Board meeting.

9.0 Parental Responsibility

9.1 The Library and Library Staff cannot assume parental responsibility. Parents or legal guardians have the sole right and responsibility of supervising their own children's choices and uses of library materials.

10.0 De-Selection / Weeding

10.1 De-selection should reflect the goals and objectives of the library. Criteria for de-selection should be similar to those used initially for selection on the understanding that selection and withdrawal are different facets of the same continuous process.

10.2 The Library maintains a policy of on-going discarding based upon the elimination of unnecessary items, outdated materials, materials no longer of interest or in demand, duplicates, worn or mutilated copies. Frequency of circulation, local or regional interest, and availability of newer and more up-to-date materials are of prime consideration.

10.3 Weeding / de-selection is the process of determining if an item still deserves a place on the library shelves. Assessment of the collection should be based on the following criteria:

- a) Usage / Age
 - i) Frequency of use / potential use
 - ii) In-house use
 - iii) Interlibrary loan circulation
 - iv) Age: publication, imprint, or copyright; purchase or shelving date

- b) Quality / Value
 - i) Subject matter
 - ii) Historical importance
 - iii) Cost
 - iv) Availability of other materials in the field
 - v) Physical appearance / condition relative to other factors of importance
 - vi) Individual monograph titles are judged or value/quality by their appearance on standard lists, or by the opinion of a specialist or group of specialists

- c) Deterioration
 - i) Worn, damaged
 - ii) Aged, dirty
 - iii) Superseded
 - iv) Duplicated

10.4 Items that are weeded or de-selected from the Library's collection and have no marketable value will be disposed of through book sales or recycling depending upon their condition. Monies received from the sale of used library books are deposited into the general revenues of the library, and as such are used to offset the library's operating expenses, which include the materials acquisition budget. The exception to monies being deposited in the general revenues of the library will occur where books sales are operated by the Friends of the Woodstock Public Library. Revenues donated back to the Library can be negotiated with the Friends, and may be received in the form of equipment and / or materials.

10.5 Any weeded or de-selected library materials that are deemed in the opinion of the CEO to have a marketable value will be disposed of in accordance with the policies governing the Disposal of Surplus Goods and/or Equipment as outlined in the Library’s Purchasing Policy.

RELATED DOCUMENTS AND POLICIES

- Ontario Library Association’s Statement on the Intellectual Rights of the Individual
- Canadian Library Association’s Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries
- Ontario Library Association’s Position Teen’s Rights in the Public Library
- Ontario Library Association’s Position on Children’s Rights in the Public Library
- Canadian Federation of Library Associations’ Position on Diversity and Inclusion

DOCUMENT REVISION RECORD

Developed By:	D. Harvie, CEO	Date:	January 20, 2020
		Adoption Date:	
Resolution #:	20 – ###	Effective:	
Review Cycle:	Once per Term	Last Reviewed Date:	

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A - Woodstock Public Library - Request for Reconsideration Form
- Attachment B – Ontario Library Association *Statement on the Intellectual Rights of the Individual*
- Attachment C – Canadian Library Association *Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries*
- Attachment D – Ontario Library Association’s *Position on Children’s Rights in the Public Library*
- Attachment E – Ontario Library Association’s *Position on Teen Rights*
- Attachment F – Canadian Federation of Library Associations’ *Position on Diversity and Inclusion*

Attachment A



Request for Reconsideration Form

Date: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
City/Postal Code: _____
Telephone #: _____
Email: _____

1. Do you represent an organization or group? Yes No

If Yes, please identify: _____

2. The item(s) on which you are you commenting:

- Book Magazine Digital Resource Newspaper
Movie Game Audio Recording Other

Title: _____
Author/Artist: _____
Date of Publication
(if known): _____
Publisher
(if known): _____

3. Did you read, listen to, or view the entire book or material?

Yes No

4. To what do you object?

(Please be specific and cite page numbers, scenes, lyrics, etc.)

5. Please comment on the material as a whole. What do you believe to be the theme?

6. Have you seen/heard any promotions or read any reviews about this work? If so, please identify.

7. What alternative work would you recommend that would convey a valuable picture and perspective on the subject treated?

8. What steps would you like the Library to take?

Please use the reverse side for additional comments.

Please complete and return to staff.

Information on this form is collected under the authority of the *Ontario Public Libraries Act 1990* and is used for the purposes of Library services and planning.

Please direct any inquiries about this form to the Library CEO 519-539-4801 ext. 3000.

Attachment B

ONTARIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION STATEMENT ON THE INTELLECTUAL RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL

In affirming its commitment to the fundamental rights of intellectual freedom, the freedom to read and freedom of the press, as embodied in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Ontario Library Association declares its acceptance of the following propositions:

1. That the provision of library service to the public is based upon the right of the citizen, under the protection of the law, to judge individually on questions of politics, religion and morality.
2. That intellectual freedom requires freedom to examine other ideas and other interpretations of life than those currently approved by the local community or by society in general, and including those ideas and interpretations which may be unconventional or unpopular.
3. That freedom of expression includes freedom for a creator to depict what is ugly, shocking and unedifying in life.
4. That free traffic in ideas and opinions is essential to the health and growth of a free society and that the freedom to read, listen and view is fundamental to such free traffic.
5. That it is the responsibility of libraries to maintain the right of intellectual freedom and to implement it consistently in the selection of books, periodicals, films, recordings, other materials, and in the provision of access to electronic sources of information, including access to the internet.
6. That it is therefore part of the library's service to its public to resist any attempt by any individual or group within the community it serves to abrogate or curtail access to information, the freedom to read, view and listen by demanding the removal of, or restrictions to library information sources in any format.
7. That it is equally part of the library's responsibility to its public to ensure that its selection of material is not unduly influenced by the personal opinions of the selectors, but determined by the application of generally accepted standards of accuracy, style and presentation.

Approved, OLA Board of Directors, December 2003

Reaffirmed, OLA Board of Directors, December 2005

Attachment C

CLA Statement on Intellectual Freedom

All persons in Canada have the fundamental right, as embodied in the nation's Bill of Rights and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, to have access to all expressions of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity, and to express their thoughts publicly. This right to intellectual freedom, under the law, is essential to the health and development of Canadian society.

Libraries have a basic responsibility for the development and maintenance of intellectual freedom.

It is the responsibility of libraries to guarantee and facilitate access to all expressions of knowledge and intellectual activity, including those which some elements of society may consider to be unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable. To this end, libraries shall acquire and make available the widest variety of materials.

It is the responsibility of libraries to guarantee the right of free expression by making available all the library's public facilities and services to all individuals and groups which need them.

Libraries should resist all efforts to limit the exercise of these responsibilities while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups.

Both employees and employers in libraries have a duty, in addition to their institutional responsibilities, to uphold these principles.

Adopted 1974, amended 1983 and 1985.

— Canadian Library Association

Attachment D

OLA Position on Children's Rights in the Public Library

Children in Public Libraries have the right to:

1. Intellectual freedom
2. Equal access to the full range of services and materials available to other users.
3. A full range of materials, services and programs specifically designed and developed to meet their needs.
4. Adequate funding for collections and services related to population, use and local community needs.
5. A library environment that complements their physical and developmental stages.
6. Trained and knowledgeable staff specializing in children's services.
7. Welcoming, respectful, supportive service from birth through the transition to adult user.
8. An advocate who will speak on their behalf to the library administration, library board, municipal council and community to make people aware of the goals of children's services.
9. Library policies written to include the needs of the child.

Approved November 1998

Attachment E

Ontario Library Association's Position on Teen's Rights in the Public Library

Teens in Ontario Public Libraries have the right to:

1. Intellectual freedom:

The Library establishes clear policy statements concerning the right to free access by young adults to library resources and information sources; and respect for the rights of young adults to select materials appropriate to their needs without censorship, The Library's teen collection, policies, and services should be consistent with the concepts of intellectual freedom defined by the CLA, OLA and Ontario Human Rights code.

2. Equal access to the full range of materials, services, and programs specifically designed and developed to meet their unique needs:

The Library integrates library service to teens into the overall plan, budget and service program for the library. Library service to teens is integrated with those offered to other user groups.

3. Adequate funding for collections and services related to population, use, and local community needs:

The Library incorporates funding for materials and services for teens in the library operating budget and ensures there is equitable distribution of resources to support programs and services for young adults.

4. Collections that specifically meet the needs of teens:

The Library provides a wide spectrum of current materials of interest to young adults to encourage lifelong learning, literacy, reading motivation, and reader development;

The library endeavours to develop collections that encourage leisure reading, support homework and school success, and responds to gender and cultural diversity. The library provides unfettered access to technology including social networking, licensed databases, and other online library resources for teens.

5. A library environment that complements their physical and developmental stages:

The Library provides identifiable spaces for teens that are separate from children's spaces where possible, reflects their lifestyle, and allows for teens to use this library space for leisure or study, either independently or in groups.

6. Welcoming, respectful, supportive service at every service point:

The Library promotes friendly, positive, non-biased customer interactions with teens, providing staff development and training, and ensures that services for teens embrace cultural and gender diversity and economic differences. Library staff will endeavour to respect the teen's need for privacy and nonjudgmental service, and assist young adults in acquiring the skills to effectively access all library resources and become information literate.

7. Library Programs and Services appropriate for Teens:

The Library fosters youth development by providing programs for teens that contribute to literacy, life-long learning and healthy youth development. The library endeavours to provide volunteer opportunities for helping others through community service hours including participating on Library Advisory Boards, and other projects that help develop a sense of responsibility and community involvement. The library's teen services initiatives are effectively managed according to best practices in the field of Youth Services.

8. Trained and knowledgeable staff specializing in teen services:

Library staff is knowledgeable about adolescent development and age appropriate resources for young adults inclusive of those with special needs. The library provides services by teen specialists as well as by others who are trained to serve teens.)

9. An advocate who will speak on their behalf to the library administration, library board, municipal council and community to make people aware of the goals of teen services:

The Library works in partnership with other community agencies and organizations to support all aspects of healthy, successful youth development.

10. Library policies are written to include the needs of the youth.

Approved June 2010

Attachment F

Canadian Federation of Library Associations' Position on Diversity and Inclusion

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA-FCAB) believes that a diverse and pluralistic society is central to our country's identity. Libraries have a responsibility to contribute to a culture that recognizes diversity and fosters social inclusion.

Libraries strive to deliver inclusive service. Canada's libraries recognize and energetically affirm the dignity of those they serve, regardless of heritage, education, beliefs, race, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental capabilities, or income.

Libraries understand that an acceptance of differences can place individual and collective values in conflict. Libraries are committed to tolerance and understanding.

Libraries act to ensure that people can enjoy services free from any attempt by others to impose values, customs or beliefs.

Approved May 25, 2008

Economic study details impact of Woodstock library



Greg Colgan

[More from Greg Colgan](#)

Published on: February 20, 2020 | Last Updated: February 20, 2020 6:13 PM EST



Susan Earle, a librarian with the Woodstock Public Library, checks out a book in Woodstock, Ont. The library completed an economic impact study to show its benefits to the community. Greg Colgan/Woodstock Sentinel-Review/Postmedia Network

The roughly 32 per cent of Woodstonians who hold library cards might be getting more value than they realize, according to a new economic impact study.

The library-conducted study indicates the Woodstock community reaps \$7.20 in benefits for every \$1 invested into the branch. The total economic benefit to Woodstock is estimated at \$19.3 million through direct and indirect means, the study said.

Library CAO David Harvie said the intent of the study is to show the library's worth to the broader community while breaking down the numbers for residents looking to see where their tax dollars are going.

"It's interesting to show the value of the library in dollars and cents. ... We intrinsically know the library is a good thing. There's early literacy, digital literacy, promoting thought and intellectual freedom, as well as programming, but it is good to show our worth," he said.

"All public institutions have to show their value to the taxpayer as part of transparency, and that can be a challenge for libraries."

The statistics in the study were from 2018 since they're more reliable than the past year, which saw services slowed for months due to the September cyber attack in September that crippled city computer systems.

The template of the study was created by the Martin Prosperity Institute of the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto in 2013 for the Toronto Public Library.

Examples of direct impacts are the cost savings offered through the library such as books and movie loans, programming and study space. The money staff spend in the community is an example of indirect benefits, Harvie said, as well as the library buying local products.

"It's hard to pin down the exact costs, but it gives an idea of the type of value we offer."

Harvie said he's used the economic study at previous libraries he led in Georgina and the Kawartha Lakes region.

He noted the library doesn't plan to conduct a study every year, but will likely complete one every few years as data is collected on library usage.

"It's to make people aware what their taxes are going for," Harvie said. "It puts it in terms people can understand. It helps show the value of the library card. It's important to be able to show that.

"It shows we're a good steward of taxpayer money and we're using it wisely and well. The return on taxpayer money is really quite well."

The library board's [strategic plan outlines its goals from 2018 to 2023](#). While the library will maintain its traditional roles, the board and staff plan to see the branch become a hub for community events and grow its digital resources to reach more people.

The library will also undergo a building expansion feasibility study this year to look at how it should grow as Woodstock's population continues to soar.

"If you're not using the library, you're losing out. It helps us promote the library in the community since we can show why it's important to have a library card."

To read the entire report, visit: <http://bit.ly/LibraryEconomicStudy>.

Key numbers from the study

- 32 per cent of Woodstock residents have a library card
 - \$1 invested in the library can see \$7.20 in benefit for the community
 - The per-year value can help an individual save \$478.17, a household \$1,113.73 and an active library cardholder \$1,508.42
 - There were \$4,427.34 in benefits for each hour the library was open
-

Woodstock Public Library rankings among libraries serving population between 30,000 and 50,000

- 5.41: Ranked first in turnover of print volumes
 - 35.4: Ranked fourth in circulation per active cardholder
 - 11.09: Ranked second in circulation per capita
 - 323,100: Ranked second in library visits made in person
 - 453,766: Ranked first in annual circulation
 - 772,772: Ranked first in electronic visits to library website
 - 74,828: Ranked third in annual circulation of e-books and downloadable items
 - 61,256: Ranked third in number of times electronic databases accessed
 - 1,416: Ranked third in programs annually held
 - 28,014: Ranked fourth in library programming
-

Total library uses

2015: 1,367,180

2016: 1,268,106

2017: 2,091,729

2018: 2,033,204

Annual library circulation

2015: 525,326

2016: 484,991

2017: 476,147

2018: 443,839

Monthly average active user counts

2015: 15,528

2016: 14,218

2017: 13,350

2018: 13,029

EDMONTON

Edmonton writer in residence calls out library CEO for supporting space rental to Meghan Murphy



By **Omar Mosleh** Star Edmonton
Sat., Nov. 2, 2019 | 3 min. read



EDMONTON—Edmonton Public Library’s writer in residence, Matthew Stepanic, was cheerfully responding on Twitter to the organization’s CEO congratulating him on a recent accolade when he scrolled down and saw something that left him not so cheerful.

“Congrats on the transphobia, Pilar,” a Twitter user replied to Pilar Martinez, Edmonton Public Library’s CEO.

Stepanic was confused and concerned. He looked closer and saw a tweet from earlier in the day authored by Martinez, which praised Toronto Public Library’s city librarian Vickery Bowles for her defence of the library hosting a recent controversial speaker.

“Kudos to you @vbowlestpl & so very proud of your courage & commitment to fundamental values: freedom expression & intellect freedom,” Martinez tweeted, alongside a National Post column headlined “Attack on public libraries for letting Meghan Murphy speak is a nauseating spectacle.”

Murphy is a controversial writer and speaker whose recent event in Toronto attracted vehement opposition. Murphy believes trans rights threaten cis women’s rights and that people assigned male at birth remain male for life. She has said trans women should not be allowed in women’s bathrooms or to take part in women’s sports.

Her event went ahead and a large group protested, leading to a heavy police presence at the event. The city of Toronto has since said it will review its policy on the use of community spaces.

Vickery Bowles, the Toronto chief librarian, defended allowing Murphy to speak but said that doesn't necessarily mean the library supports her beliefs.

Martinez's initial Friday tweet attracted about 50 responses, with most questioning or slamming her stance but with some thanking her for defending free speech.

Stepanic, who is gay, noticed many people from Edmonton's literary and LGBTQ communities were angry. He decided he needed to add his voice, because as Edmonton Public Library's writer in residence, an important part of his job is creating a safe and inclusive space for emerging writers from marginalized groups.

"It's sort of my role as a voice in the community and also someone who was hired by the library to work with writers and to make sure their writing isn't offensive or homophobic or transphobic," Stepanic said.

"This is something the library has hired me to do," he added. "So I find it shocking that the CEO would be saying something contrary to something in my own values and contract."

It's also important to him personally, as he remembers when he was a young man coming out at age 21 in Medicine Hat and his own experience reconciling his identity with his career as a writer.

"If there were questions about the validity of my identity, I'd be just as angry. And I think it's really important for queer people, like me as a cis gay man, to also be standing up for trans people who don't have the same support," he said.

On Friday night, Martinez posted a statement about her original tweet. She said EPL is committed to creating a welcoming, supportive and inclusive space but can support the LGBTQ community while also championing freedom of expression.

“As a public library we have an obligation to protect freedom of expression and to make public spaces available regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of those requesting their use, as long as they are not engaging in illegal activity and are not violating library policy,” the statement reads.

The statement says the library recognizes this stance is frustrating for some but that they believe a democratic society is better off engaging with “complex, difficult and even controversial content, rather than suppressing ideas through censorship.”

Martinez ends her statement with the words “I am not anti anyone. I am pro free speech.”

Stepanic says Murphy’s beliefs go beyond controversial and could incite violence against trans people because she encourages other people to be critical of trans peoples’ identity.

“Free speech does not mean you have the right to get a public forum for whatever you want to say,” Stepanic said. “There are things that are dangerous and harmful for people, and Meghan is exactly that.”

He said he recognizes the special role libraries play in preserving knowledge and encouraging discussion but doesn’t believe it’s the library’s role to support speech that can make people feel unsafe.

“Say Meghan Murphy had a book, we don’t need to remove that from the library, there should be a record of all that information,” Stepanic said. “But we don’t need her to come and speak at the library and continue a conversation that’s over. Trans rights are human rights.”



Omar Mosleh is an Edmonton-based reporter covering inner-city issues, affordable housing and reconciliation. Follow him on Twitter: [@OmarMosleh](https://twitter.com/OmarMosleh)

EDMONTON

The Toronto library hosted Meghan Murphy. Now an Edmonton library trustee says she's paying a price for speaking out



By [Omar Mosleh](#) Edmonton Bureau
Tues., Feb. 11, 2020 | 5 min. read



EDMONTON—A trustee with the Edmonton library says she's been forced to resign after she waded into a controversy over free speech, trans rights and speaker Meghan Murphy that began at the Toronto Public Library.

EDMONTON – A trustee with the Edmonton library says she's been forced to resign after she waded into a controversy over free speech, trans rights and speaker Meghan Murphy that began at the Toronto Public Library.

Jill Scheyk says she's being punished for speaking her mind by a library whose CEO described herself publicly as "pro free speech" during the Murphy debate.

It all started back in October, when the Toronto Public Library was intensely criticized for hosting Murphy, who argues that people assigned as male at birth remain male for life. Critics say she is transphobic, while supporters say she's a defender of free speech.

Hundreds showed up to protest her Oct. 29 speech at the Toronto library. The next day, Edmonton library CEO Pilar Martinez tweeted in support of the Toronto library and said that she was "very proud" of their commitment to freedom of expression and intellectual freedom.

Dozens responded, slamming Martinez for her position. Martinez did not back down, releasing a statement that said, "I am not anti anyone. I am pro free speech."

Scheyk, a member of Edmonton library's board of trustees since June 2015, emailed Martinez directly, saying she was disappointed in Martinez's position and that she believed it was harmful to the trans community and didn't align with the organization's commitment to providing a safe space for all. She asked Martinez to apologize to the trans community.

The offer she received, to set up a meeting with the CEO, provided her little comfort, she told the Star.

"It's just confirmed my original reservations that this was not something that would be dealt with openly and through community consultation."

Scheyk said she had seen many people expressing their anger and frustration online, and tweeted about Edmonton library's looming public board meeting on Nov. 12.

"We are a public library board and as such, as an Edmontonian you can ask to speak at our meetings," she tweeted on Nov. 1, along with information about how to register to speak and how to get an item on the meeting agenda. She also referenced the organization's own policy on meeting rooms.

A few days later, she was told some of her recent conduct could have breached the Edmonton library trustee code of conduct. She was sent a more formal letter on Nov. 12, saying her behaviour "warrants assessment" as a breach of policy.

Specifically, it referred to her Nov. 1 tweet, in which she identified herself as a Edmonton library board member "without awareness of, or delegation from the Board or Board Chair."

In further notes that she posted an internal document about how EPL staff should respond to questions about the Murphy controversy and that her email to the CEO was sent without the board's awareness or input.

"Your Twitter activity overall provided a catalyst for anonymous and extremely disrespectful input towards our CEO and EPL in general," the letter states. Scheyk defended her actions in a letter to the board, saying she'd never heard of trustees having to clear their personal stance on issues. She said she did not actually reference the Murphy controversy in the Twitter thread and said she was sharing publicly available information about board meetings.

"I would not say in any way that I fanned the flames of that situation," Scheyk said. "I was very careful to be quite neutral in my commentary."

In her response, Scheyk apologized for posting the internal document and said she retweeted a story about Edmonton library's writer in residence speaking out against the CEO by accident. Scheyk said the internal documents referenced the controversy that unfolded at Toronto Public Library and talking points for how Edmonton library staff should respond to questions about the CEO's tweet and blog post.

On Jan 15, she received a letter from the board asking her to resign. She did so on Feb. 10.

Edmonton library board chair Fern Snart said Tuesday she could not go into great detail on what aspects of the code of conduct Scheyk breached, but said it was an "amalgam".

The letter sent to Scheyk includes a link to EPL's policy on conflict of interest in the code of conduct. Snart was not able to speak to what specific conflict of interest arose.

"Conflict of interest, there was an allusion to that, given the communications and so on. But in truth, the amalgam is more than any of the discrete breaches," she said.

She added that board members have a responsibility to speak to the chair before publicly sharing information that could be perceived "as either in one's own interest or perhaps when ... was speaking on behalf of the board, when in fact that was not sanctioned."

Martinez told that Star Scheyk's resignation was a board matter, so it won't be appropriate for her to comment. She defended the library's commitment to freedom of speech and expanded on how it aligns with allowing controversial speakers to use their meeting spaces.

"Libraries have had a mandate since they were libraries to provide public spaces to everyone in our society, no matter what their beliefs. The key is that the library is not endorsing ... anybody who is using their meeting spaces," she said.

She said people should be allowed to use the meeting spaces as long as they're not doing anything illegal and said Murphy has not been charged with hate speech.

“Just because something's uncomfortable or we don't agree with it doesn't mean that that person shouldn't be allowed to use a space. ... Censorship doesn't work, she added. “That isn't the answer to our social challenges.”

She said she did not have any role in the board's decision to ask Scheyk to resign.

Scheyk said leaving the organization and seeing the CEO defend what Scheyk personally considers to be a transphobic stance is especially painful because, as a child, the library was her safe space.

“It was definitely that place where I always felt welcome as a kid, even when I didn't always feel welcome in all kinds of spaces,” Scheyk said. “And I just desperately want it to be that way for everyone.”

She add she hopes her resignation will lead to more public scrutiny of speakers such as Murphy and organizations that support them, as well as an attitude change at the library.

Omar Mosleh is an Edmonton-based reporter covering inner-city issues, affordable housing and reconciliation for the Star