

REPORT

Oakville Public Library Board

Meeting Date: February 15, 2024

FROM: Oakville Public Library

DATE: February 6, 2024

SUBJECT: CEO Update – February 15, 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

That CEO Update report be received for information.

KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- The OLA Superconference was held January 24-27, 2024, at the Metro Toronto Conference Center. This is Canada's largest library conference and this year's theme was "Get Loud."
- OPL CEO met with Oakville MPP Stephen Crawford about the upcoming provincial budget and the proposed Ontario Digital Public Library.

BACKGROUND:

N/A

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

Ontario Library Association Superconference

The 2024 OLA Superconference was held January 25-27 in downtown Toronto.

This year's theme is "Get Loud" which OLA describes below:

Get Loud symbolizes our commitment to civic engagement, recognizing the significance of libraries in promoting equity, diversity, and truth. As champions of education and democracy, libraries play a pivotal role in empowering individuals and building community. We acknowledge the challenges ahead, unsure of the exact demands our services will face or how our libraries will adapt and transform.

OPL sent over 38 staff over 3 days with staff participating in the following panels/session:

- Child & Youth Expo
- Working with Pride: 2SLGBTBQ+ Services, Employment Groups, and experiences.
- Colour Connects: How To Turn Your Library Into a "Happy Place"

OPL Board member Avis Maher attended the OLA Trustee Bootcamp on Saturday which included sessions such as:

- What keeps you up at night? – A library board member's perspective
- Defend your Library – Why Library Boards need to get loud
- Working with your municipality

Ontario Digital Public library

On January 26, CEO Tara Wong met with MMP Crawford to discuss the funding of an Ontario Digital Public Library, one the key priorities of the Ontario Library Association and Federation of Ontario Public Libraries for the upcoming provincial budget.

Creating an Ontario Digital Public Library through a dedicated provincial investment would leverage the province's significant purchasing power to give all Ontarians – no matter where they live – access to a common set of high-quality digital resources through their public library.

Other items discussed included the planning for a new Central branch as well as Overdue: The case for Canada's Public Libraries report from the Canadian Urban Library Council and the Canadian Urban Institute.

Prepared and Submitted by:
Tara Wong, CEO