

# REPORT

## Oakville Public Library Board

**Meeting Date: October 17, 2024**

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**FROM:** Oakville Public Library

**DATE:** October 8, 2024

**SUBJECT:** CEO Update – October 17, 2024

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### RECOMMENDATION:

That CEO Update report be received for information.

### KEY FACTS:

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

- October is Public Library Month with Canadian Library Worker Day is October 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Canadian Urban Library Council and Urban Library Council meetings take place the week of October 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Monica Socol, Manager Technology and Projects has been appointed interim Director, Innovation and Integration while OPL undergoes the recruitment process.

### BACKGROUND:

N/A

### COMMENT/OPTIONS:

#### **Public Library Month**

October is **Canadian Library Month!** During the month, libraries and library partners across Canada raise awareness of libraries' valuable role in the lives of people in Canada.

For 2024, Ontario Public Library Week will take place from October 20 to October 26, and the theme is "Libraries For Life." Throughout the week, we will run a digital campaign that highlights stories, services and the hidden gems of OPL.

Canadian Library Workers Day (October 18<sup>th</sup>) is a day for Canadians to recognize the valuable contributions made by all those who work in and for the public, academic, school, government, academic, corporate and private libraries that are integral to our communities.

### **From Oakville to Paris: Special Talk with Olympian Maya Meschkuleit**

OPL kicks off Ontario Public Library Week with a special visit from local Olympian and Canadian silver medalist, Maya Meschkuleit!

Maya will share about her recent Olympic experience in Paris, display her silver medal, and reflect on how her time at OPL helped shape her path to success.

Maya, a native of Oakville, recently represented Canada in rowing at the Paris 2024 Olympics. She spent many of her childhood days at OPL and now she's returning to her roots to share her incredible journey and highlight how libraries are not just places for books - they are lifelong spaces that nurture creativity, learning, and aspirations.

**Date & Time:** Oct 20th - 2pm

**Location:** 3rd floor Central Library (Rotunda)

### **New Central Project – Public Consultation**

Public Consultation for the New Central Project runs through October 18. Information gathered during the events will be used to help inform the design/program of the project:

#### **Public Engagement:**

- September 11 – Launch of Public Survey (950 as of October 7)
- October 2 – Public Open House @ Central 5-8pm (56 attendees)

#### **Targeted Engagement:**

- Community Organization - focus group sessions (October 11/18)
- Teens – focus group with OPL's Youth Library Leader groups (October 16)
- Children/Families – OPL is incorporating consultation into 6 different programs for School Age children in Sept/Oct across the system
- Donors – hosting a private donor/prospective donor event (22 attendees)
- Indigenous consultation – small group sessions
- Sessions with Town of Oakville Council members
- All Staff workshop as part of the upcoming Staff Development Day on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

A report highlighting key learnings from the public consultation is expected to come to the board to the November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Representatives from OPL, Town of Oakville and Perkins&Will be visiting the Calgary Public Library's Central Branch in early November.

**Canadian Urban Library Council (CULC) and Urban Library Council (ULC)**

The Fall CULC meetings are scheduled for October 21-22 in Burlington. Tara Wong, CEO will be attending along with the Urban Library Council Leadership Forum (Philadelphia) running from October 23-25.

The 2024 ULC Annual Leadership Forum will center around the pivotal theme of "**Trust, Transformation and Tomorrow**," addressing the crucial aspects of organizational change and growth for urban public libraries. Key sessions include:

- Building Blocks for a Strong and Diverse Executive Team
- Creating a Culture of Trust from Internal to External
- Transforming Libraries: Embracing Change in a Dynamic World
- Shaping Tomorrow: Advocacy for the Future of Libraries

**Interim Director, Innovation and Integration**

Monica Socol has been appointed interim Director, Innovation and Integration while OPL undergoes the recruitment process for a permanent replacement for Joe Moncada.

Monica has been a valuable part of the OPL team for the past five years, in the role of Manager, Technology and Projects. With her extensive experience in leadership, technology, and project management, Monica is a great fit to support the Innovation and Integration team through this transition period while the search for a permanent Director is completed

Prepared and submitted by:  
Tara Wong, CEO