

REPORT

Oakville Public Library Board

Meeting Date: April 17, 2025

FROM: Oakville Public Library

DATE: April 8, 2025

SUBJECT: CEO Update – April 17, 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

That CEO Update report be received for information.

KEY FACTS:

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

- The anticipated retaliatory tariffs highlighted in the Potential US Tariff Impact report from the March agenda have not materialized.
- Renovations to Iroquois Ridge Community Center and branch continue through May.
- The Canadian Urban Library Council will hold its Spring Meeting April 26-28 in Kelowna, BC.
- This year's One eRead Canada pick is Valid by Chris Bergeron, available online without a wait list from April 1-30th.

BACKGROUND:

N/A

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

Tariff Implications on Library Operations

As of April 8th, the anticipated widespread tariffs on Canadian goods have not been imposed by the U.S, and Canada has not implemented retaliatory measures. As a result, the potential operational impacts—particularly on the procurement of books—has not materialized. No disruptions to collections or service delivery are expected at this time.

However, existing tariffs on industrial materials such as steel and aluminum remain in place. While these have not yet impacted any current capital projects, they present a potential risk to future infrastructure initiatives if they continue long-term. Staff will continue to monitor developments and assess implications for both operational and capital planning.

OPL will keep the Board informed should the situation evolve in a way that affects the library system.

Canadian Urban Library Council – Spring Meeting

Tara Wong, OPL CEO will be attending the Canadian Urban Library Council (CULC) spring meeting in Kelowna, BC April 26-28. Topics include:

- Learning about Toronto Public Library's work with the Canadian Democracy @ Work initiative (Democracy@Work). This initiative, in collaboration with employers across the country, is working to reinvigorate civic engagement, combat rising disinformation, and equip Canadians with the knowledge and skills they need to navigate a changing digital world, including better understanding the impact of AI and emergent technologies on the state of democracy.
- Political Landscape update from Temple Scott Associates Inc. CULC's government and public relations firm.
- Keynote from Wendy Wong, Professor of Political Science and Principal's Research Chair at UBC Okanagan on the intersection between Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights.

Iroquois Ridge Renovations Update

The Iroquois Ridge Community Centre has been undergoing major renovation and infrastructure work since February 2025. As previously reported, Iroquois Ridge branch has had several heat pumps replaced, with varying impacts on operations. Work is still ongoing for the last heat pump replacement, still undergoing, with the adult fiction stacks and public washrooms being unavailable until the work is finished. OPL expects the heat pump work to be completed by April 13.

In addition, the entirety of the IRCC is being retiled as part of refresh. The entrance to the library, plus the internal book drop, will be unavailable for one day in early May (TBD), when tiles will be laid outside of OPL's sliding doors. Customers will be redirected to enter the branch via the Eastridge room. Advance notice to customers will be provided in the branch and via OPL.ca once a date has been confirmed.

One eRead Canada 2025

Launched in 2019, One eRead Canada is an annual initiative by the [Canadian Urban Libraries Council](#) to promote digital reading through public libraries, while also raising awareness about issues that libraries face in providing access to ebooks and audiobooks.

This year's One eRead Canada pick is Valid by Chris Bergeron, with the English version translated by Natalia Hero. The ebook will be available in French and English and the audiobook in French from April 1st – 30th.

Valid will be available in April without waitlists or holds so that all Canadians can read along at the same time. Download a copy during the month and join the discussion in English or French – or both!

While reading the book, people are encouraged to join the online discussion happening with readers from across the country in the [One eRead Canada Facebook page](#) or on Instagram [@oneereadcanada](#).

Prepared and submitted by:
Tara Wong, CEO