

REPORT

Oakville Public Library Board

Meeting Date: April 16, 2026

FROM: Oakville Public Library

DATE: April 7, 2026

SUBJECT: CEO Update

RECOMMENDATION:

That the CEO Update be received for information.

KEY FACTS:

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

- Sixteen Mile Branch opened on March 31st.
- OPL will host an engaging session on the topic of misinformation and disinformation on April 15 at QEPCCC.
- The Ontario Library Service's Spring 2026 [Board Assembly](#) Meetings will take place in May via Zoom.
- The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries is leading the advocacy campaign for the upcoming provincial budget.
- On April 2, 2026, the Government of Alberta introduced Bill 28, the Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act, which includes significant amendments to the *Libraries Act* affecting all public libraries in the province.

BACKGROUND:

N/A

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

Opening of Sixteen Mile

OPL was very excited for the soft opening of Sixteen Mile on March 31st. The doors opened at 9:30am and within minutes residents were exploring the space with over 2300 visitors touring the space throughout the day. Initial feedback was very positive with visitors commenting about the natural light and many different areas to study, sit, and/or engage.

Reporters from both [Cogeco](#) and [Oakville News](#) were on-site for the opening and spent over an hour talking with staff and customers about the new space.

Kudos to the project and branch teams on the work to get the branch open for the community.



Sixteen Mile Branch staff

How Did We Get Here: Misinformation and Disinformation in the Canadian Landscape.

OPL will be hosting a session on April 15 @ QEPCCC to look at the rise of misinformation and disinformation in Canada.

From viral hoaxes to algorithm-driven falsehoods, misinformation has rapidly become one of the greatest challenges facing our democracy.

This conversation unpacks what misinformation and disinformation mean, how they spread, and why they're so effective. With a focus on Canadian history and media, including trust in institutions and regional divides, this session sets the foundation for informed discussion and action.

Panelist Bios:

Elamin Abdelmahmoud is the host of CBC's daily arts, entertainment, and pop

culture show Commotion and an award-winning culture writer whose work has appeared in The New York Times, BuzzFeed News, and The Globe and Mail. He is the author of the No. 1 bestselling memoir *Son of Elsewhere*, a New York Times Notable Book and a Globe and Mail Top 100 Book. Please don't ask him about his second book yet.

Ron Kronstein is a veteran broadcast journalist with 35 years of experience in radio and television news, reporting locally, regionally, and nationally for CBC, CTV, and Global affiliates. He has held nearly every newsroom role, including anchor and news director, and also served for 11 years as an Army Public Affairs Officer with the Canadian Armed Forces. Now retired, Ron is pursuing his lifelong passion for painting.

Ontario Library Service (OLS) – Spring Library Board Assembly Meetings

The Spring 2026 [Board Assembly](#) Meetings will take place in May via Zoom with the applicable meeting for OPL being held on Thursday, May 21 from 6-8 pm.

Board Assemblies are an important part of the OLS governance structure. This spring, four OLS Board seats are up for election: two for libraries serving populations under 2,500, one for libraries serving populations 2,500 to 4,999, and one for libraries serving populations 75,000 to 149,999.

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If you are interested in running for election please check out the OLS Board section: <https://www.olservice.ca/about> or to register for a Board Assembly meeting, please click here: [Meetings - Ontario Library Service](#).

Ontario Budget

The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL) is launching an Advocacy Campaign focused on raising government and public awareness about the added pressure facing public libraries across the province.

Beginning in early April, FOPL will launch a public facing campaign that will include media engagement with key spokespeople from FOPL, in addition to published op-eds and a social media push.

Additionally, over the next couple of months, FOPL will be engaging in government meetings with local MPPs and key ministers to highlight the challenges libraries and

library staff are experiencing, particularly due to the mental health, housing, and addictions crisis.

Alberta Libraries Act Amendments (Bill 28)

On April 2, 2026, the Government of Alberta introduced Bill 28, the Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act, which includes significant amendments to the *Libraries Act* affecting all public libraries in the province. The stated intent of the legislation is to restrict children aged 15 and under from accessing explicit visual depictions of sexual acts in public library materials. While the province has emphasized that this is “not a book ban” and that materials will remain in library collections, the bill enables provincial oversight through minister-initiated reviews and complaints processes, and anticipates operational measures such as physical separation of materials, staff-controlled access, and parental consent requirements for minors. The detailed scope and definitions will be finalized through future regulations and ministerial guidance.

From a public library perspective, the amendments introduce meaningful governance and operational concerns, particularly related to intellectual freedom and local decision-making authority. The legislation marks a departure from long-standing practice whereby professionally developed collection policies, overseen by autonomous local boards, guide access to materials. Library sector organizations, including the Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries and the Canadian Urban Libraries Council, have described the changes as an unprecedented level of provincial intervention in public library governance, raising concerns about censorship, political interference, and the undermining of professional expertise.

Beyond compliance implications, the legislation has broader community and trust implications for public libraries as inclusive institutions. While framed as a child-protection measure, critics note that access restrictions based on content; rather than individualized parental guidance; risk creating a negative effect on lawful materials and disproportionately affecting equity-seeking communities. Public libraries may experience increased public scrutiny, polarized community response, and pressure on boards to clearly articulate the distinction between safeguarding practices and censorship.

Prepared and submitted by:
Tara Wong, CEO