

# REPORT OF TODD KYLE

## 2016 PRESIDENT, ONTARIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



2016 was a year of success and challenge for the Ontario Library Association.

### Super Conference

This year's theme was "All in / Le tout pour le tout" and it was truly a celebration of our diversity, commitment, and willingness to take

risks. I was struck by the diversity of voices, the energy and idealism of our members, and the broad representation from all library sectors. There were over 4,000 delegates and I think many of them would agree it was the best conference ever! Congratulations to our conference planning chairs Richard Reid and Emily Burns for an excellent job.

### Advocacy

Government advocacy continued to be one of OLA's top priorities. Several meetings with key provincial officials were held, and OLA participated in a number of government consultations, speaking to important issues such as:

- Ontario's Culture Plan and public library funding review
- E-resource funding
- Libraries as community and learning hubs

We are especially proud of OLA's submission to the provincial Budget Talks program where Ontarians had the opportunity to vote on funding initiatives. OLA and the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries' (FOPL) idea, expanding connectivity in rural, northern and Indigenous communities, was one of three submissions chosen to receive funding,

which will result in a \$1 million investment in improving digital services in libraries.

### Strategic Plan

In 2016, we began consultations for our next Strategic Plan for 2017-2020. We conducted member surveys, Town Halls, and targeted interviews. We heard a lot about how OLA needs to change in order to meet new challenges such as the need for research and evaluation, broader engagement, and career support. The plan will continue to be developed with the goal of implementation in fall 2017.

### CFLA-FCAB

OLA played a key role in the formation of the new Canadian Federation of Library Associations/ Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques. Our Executive Director, Shelagh Paterson, became one of the founding members and Treasurer of the new board. As the sole multi-sector association representing Ontario, OLA will continue to nominate one of its members as representative to the CLFA-FCAB board, giving us an important voice in national advocacy on behalf of all libraries.

### Revenue

OLA continued to diversify its revenue base in order to continue funding its activities. For the first time in over 20 years, OLA raised its membership fees by adding upper tiers to the income ranges so that those who can most afford it contribute a little more. In addition, the OLA Store became The Library Marketplace, reflecting its national role as a seller of professional and library-themed merchandise through The Partnership. I invite you to check out the new Library Lust series of offerings (especially the socks!) and to take a look

at the Partnership Perks, a series of special deals on swag items you can brand for your library.

### Governance

OLA completed the tasks set out in 2015's governance review by formally adopting an evaluation process for the Board and Executive Director, as well as ensuring that all committees have formal Terms of Reference to make their aims clear.

I'm particularly excited by the work to come by the Indigenous Task Force as well as the new Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Finally, in order to align our Annual General Meeting with both our Board terms and Super Conference, we adopted a plan to change our fiscal period from calendar year to September-August, which will take effect in 2017. Our next AGM will be at Super Conference 2018.

As President, it has been my pleasure to work with the Board, staff, volunteers, and members who make our association strong. Thank you for all your support this year, and keep up the fight!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Kyle". The signature is stylized with loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.