

# So you want to be ... part of OPLA Council

## How can I become part of OPLA Council?

Nominations for council positions take place in September of each year and the election takes place in November. Each year, there are 3 regional councillor positions that are up for election as well as the Vice President/President Elect position. You can find your region on the OPLA website: <https://bit.ly/2OUxAWn>.

## What can I expect to do while on Council?

We meet four times a year in person at the OLA office in Toronto. At these meetings we discuss important issues facing public libraries today and how we can best provide support to our members. You will also act as a liaison with one of our committees. These committees run different events and initiatives, such as the Community Led Libraries Think Tank and Children's & Youth Expo.

## Does it cost me anything to participate?

Travel costs are covered by OPLA, including accommodations, meals and transportation where required. You will want to make sure to check with your supervisor about any impacts your absence will have on your library as well.

## How much time do I need to contribute?

We meet four times a year at the OLA office in Toronto. These are full day meetings, and require additional travel time depending on where you are commuting from. In addition, councillors hold subsequent portfolios that require additional time to liaise with our committees. This could be an additional 2-3 hours per month. Councillors can expect a three year term before their position is up for election again.

## What are the benefits of being on OPLA Council?

You get to meet some super awesome people and have so much fun! On top of that, you have the opportunity to voice your concerns and make a difference in our field. There are countless networking opportunities available, you learn new skills, and of course, it is a great professional development opportunity that can help to advance your career.

## Testimonials:

*"I have met so many amazing people being on OPLA Council. It has given me the opportunity to learn how to chair meetings, advocate at the provincial level, and learn about finances and budgets in the most supportive environment. I highly recommend it to anyone looking for a really exciting opportunity to develop leadership skills."* -Cortney LeGros, 2018 President

*"Being a member of OPLA Council allows you to make invaluable networking connections. As a Council member, you will learn about the many new initiatives that libraries are implementing, and the challenges they are facing. You will also have a hand in the development of library services at the provincial level."* - Douglas Davey, Councillor 2018-2020