

President's Report – AGM 2018

It has been a wonderful privilege to work with OSLA Council in 2017 and to continue to be a part of our journey in 2018. We have had many successes this year continuing to advocate and support Ontario School Libraries.

The collaboration between OSLA and TeachOntario continues to develop through opportunities to innovate and grow. The projects led by OSLA members included online book clubs, online courses and outreach opportunities for educators to connect with stakeholders. We are thrilled by the continued relationship and support for student achievement and library programming provided by TVO and TeachOntario.

Since January, OSLA has participated in the Ontario Ministry of Education Joint Implementation Working Group. This group was formed in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action 62 and 63. OSLA members were honoured to be part of the discussion and collaboration that played an integral part of the curriculum revision of the Ontario Social Studies and History Curriculum, Grades 4 - 10.

In partnership with TALCO, the Association of Library Consultants and Coordinators of Ontario, in May we demonstrated the role of school libraries as partners and leaders at the Ministry of Education Faculties of Education Forum, building capacity and knowledge through Indigenous education curriculum connections in the Learning Commons.

In July of this year, Melissa Jensen, the President of OSLA for the first half of 2017, left Ontario to pursue an opportunity to teach and learn in Vietnam. We appreciate her work for OSLA and wish her all the best in her lifelong learning journey.

OSLA teacher-librarians taught summer courses through the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO) and the Ontario Teachers Federation (OTF). The ETFO course focused on examining and applying innovative practices, inquiry, developing makerspaces and technology. The OTF Summer Institute was a partnership with TALCO, and focused on Authentic Inquiry and Fake News. OSLA appreciates the ongoing support of ETFO and OTF in providing the opportunity to demonstrate the immense value of school libraries in learning and teaching.

OSLA council rep Johanna Lawler played an integral role in the recent resolution passed by the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO) calling on the Ontario Government to amend the education funding formula to specify proportional staffing of teacher-librarians based on student population, with a minimum allocation of a 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) Teacher-Librarian in each work site. We continue to share the message: properly staffed school Library Learning Commons are vital parts of Ontario schools and fundamental to student learning and developing a love of reading.

In October, OSLA council members Alanna King and presented in Manitoba at the Canadian School Libraries *Treasure Mountain Canada* Research Symposium and Think Tank. The focus was on Culturally Relevant and Responsive School Library Learning Commons. The Manitoba School Library Association also partnered with CSL to provide opportunities to learn and share about Truth in our Stories: Seeking a Path to Reconciliation.

In November, OSLA partnered with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation to host Indigenous elders and guest speakers in school libraries and public libraries during Treaties Recognition week. Five school libraries and two public libraries educated students and citizens about the importance of the role of Treaties in the history and the future of Ontario.

On November 23, 2017 the Ontario Library Association Board partnered with representatives from the Federation of Public Libraries to attend Library Day at Queen's Park. We gained significant momentum and progress meeting with Members of Parliament and notably Hon. Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education, where we advocated and expressed our concerns about the inequity in our Library Learning Commons across the province. Through OLA advocacy, the conversation about the importance of school libraries continues.

A special thank you to OSLA council and OSLA Super Conference planners Jessica Longthorne and Alanna King for their dedication, hard work and enthusiasm. I am honoured to have served as your President of OSLA for 2017 and look forward to our continued journey together in 2018.