

The OLA Annual General Meeting Concern for School Libraries Shared by the Entire Library Community

The participants at the OSLA's November 4th Association Policy Forum session on Advocacy and Political Action drafted the following motion. It was felt that the situation facing Ontario's school libraries is of such grave concern that it warranted this formal request for help from the Ontario Library Association membership-at-large.

The motion was presented at the Ontario Library Association's 100th Anniversary Annual General Meeting on November 4th in Toronto.

WHEREAS, OLA believes that all residents of Ontario have a right to free and equitable access to library programs and services they require for lifelong learning and personal enrichment; and,

WHEREAS, a threat to any one segment of the library community weakens the mission of the entire organization; and,

WHEREAS, it is an important role of the teacher-librarian to teach information literacy within the context of the Ontario curriculum,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OLA develop an action plan to respond now to the staffing, funding and learning crisis confronting school libraries.

The Ontario Library Association represents over 4,000 information professionals from school, college, university, public and special libraries. The OSLA has 1,100 members. By asking all segments of the OLA membership to back our cause, it increases the attention we get, particularly from the politicians.

The debate at the OLA Annual General Meeting brought out the negative impact that the deteriorating school library situation is having on student use of public libraries and explored the implications for student success in the use of community college and university libraries in the months and years ahead. The motion passed unanimously.

The OLA Board of Directors struck a special committee of Presidents to develop a political action plan for all sections of the Association to use in a co-ordinated effort on the school library issue. \$5,000 was set aside by OLA to cost its development. ■ ■ ■