

# President's Report

“ Not failure, but low aim, is crime.

—James Russell Lowell

As this is my last President's Report, I wanted to use this opportunity to share some highlights from the past year, where the Ontario School Library Association aimed to accomplish a lot and did very well.

**1.** The launch of the Together for Learning website ([www.togetherforlearning.ca](http://www.togetherforlearning.ca)) at Super Conference 2013 was a huge success. The digital form of our vision document offers an ever growing source of resources, ideas and support for the staff in all school libraries in the province.

**2.** We have had an opportunity to contribute to the Canadian Library Association's new standards document. A team from OSLA Council, under the leadership of past president Elizabeth Gordon, formed a committee of stakeholders (library technicians, teacher librarians, library consultants, teachers, administrators and parents) that provided Ontario's submission to this national document. The new National Standards document will be launched at Treasure Mountain during the CLA Conference in June 2014.

**3.** Members of OSLA Council and our advocacy group had an opportunity to meet with senior staff in the Ministry of Education. This gave us an opportunity to discuss the important role that school libraries play in the education of students in Ontario.

**4.** OLA Council gave unanimous approval in supporting OSLA's advocacy efforts. This will include the creation of an Advocacy Toolkit, continued assistance with government relations, assistance with connecting with Faculties of Education and teacher training programs and help with raising awareness of OSLA issues with other OLA divisions.

**5.** We asked all members of OLA to help us by responding to the Ministry of Education's Public Consultations that occurred in October and November. We wanted to ensure that, as the Ministry consulted with the public regarding the creation of a new education policy document, they would receive feedback from a variety of sources highlighting the importance of school libraries. OSLA's own written response can be found on the OSLA webpage at [www.accessola.com/osl](http://www.accessola.com/osl). Special thanks go to Anita Brooks-Kirkland, incoming OLA president, for her assistance in the creation of this response.

**6.** This fall, a letter was sent to all library staff in school libraries in Ontario. Included in the letter was information regarding Together for Learning, the benefits of membership in OSLA and a link to a survey. We hope that the survey results will provide us with a more accurate picture of how school libraries in all of Ontario are staffed and funded, as well as providing us with contact information. All school administrators in Ontario also received a letter, providing them with an overview of Together for Learning and what OSLA can offer the library staff in their school.

**7.** OSLA Council has committed to the creation of short videos which will provide some professional development around the use of Together for Learning. The first provides an overview of the document and can be found at [www.accessola.com/osl](http://www.accessola.com/osl). Future videos will focus on specific aspects of T4L and will provide ideas for implementation. As well, you may have received emails through the OSLA Listserv. Council has begun sending out T4L Tips, sharing great ideas and resources that can be found on the Together for Learning website.