

President's Report



Kelly Maggrias

Hello, my name is Kelly Maggrias and I am delighted to be appointed the President of the Ontario School Library Association. I look forward to representing school libraries throughout Ontario. I would like to thank our past President, Melissa Jensen, for all her hard work and support throughout the last year and wish her all the best on her new adventures in Vietnam.

The Ontario School Library Association has been very busy! We continue to advocate for school libraries and our students through our supporting literacy and promoting a love of reading.

We are excited to share and applaud the recent resolution passed by the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO) to amend the 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 thank OSLA council member, Johanna Lawler, for all her hard work and commitment to playing such an integral role with her advocacy and passing of this resolution. Parents are often unaware that in many parts of the province, students no longer have access to a comprehensive school library program. We must continue to advocate that a resourced and staffed school library is provided to increase reading comprehension, EQAO test scores, and digital information literacy skills. We must return to properly resourced school libraries!

Our OSLA council members have been very busy advocating, presenting and supporting school libraries. Alanna King and Diana Maliszewski represented OSLA in October at Treasure Mountain 5 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. School librarians met

from all over Canada to discuss and share at this research symposium and think tank. The theme was, "Culturally Relevant and Responsive School Library Learning Commons." TMC5 was a partner with the Manitoba School Library Association Conference, whose theme was "Truth in our Stories: Seeking a Path to Reconciliation." The OSLA and Ontario School Libraries have been supporting indigenous education through different initiatives and advocacy, such as Orange Shirt Day, Treaty recognition week as well as working with the Ministry of Education Joint Implementation Working Group to revise social studies and history curriculum for Grades 4-10 to reflect the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

On November 23, 2017, the Ontario Library Association participated in Library Day at Queen's Park, where OLA board members and FOPL (Friends of Public Libraries) representatives met with MPPs and various government officials to advocate and discuss the importance of libraries to Ontarians and the future of school libraries in Ontario.

I am happy to share that over the last several months, OSLA council has continued our partnership with TVO and Teach Ontario to support and run online professional learning book clubs. We are looking forward to our continued partnership with Teach Ontario and to offering meaningful and relevant professional development to our colleagues.

Finally, please remember to renew your membership to help support our school library initiatives and to take part in the wonderful incentives that OLA offers. We look forward to seeing everyone in January at the OLA Super Conference, where we will be fearless! ■



ontario school library association

Interested in Getting Involved?

Visit bit.ly/olavolunteer2017 to see current opportunities at OSLA!