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July 22, 2016

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Here is your monthly newsletter from the Ontario Library Association, giving you the latest in the library world!

TOP STORIES FOR JULY

Ontario Launches First Culture Strategy

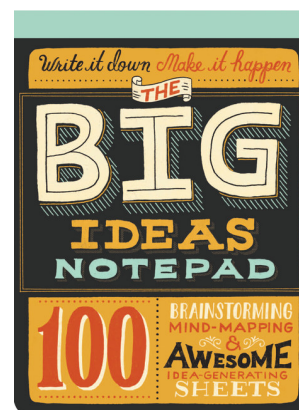
Ontario is launching its first Culture Strategy, which establishes goals and actions to promote participation in arts and culture, build on the sector's economic impact in communities across the province and help Ontarians tell their stories and express themselves.

Eleanor McMahon, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, launched [Ontario's first Culture Strategy](#) on Wednesday, July 20 at the Art Gallery of Ontario.

The strategy reflects the input of nearly 3,000 people who provided feedback last fall during [Culture Talks](#) -- a three-month public engagement process on the value of culture in people's lives. Contributions from OLA can be found [on our website](#). Key points of relevance to libraries include:

- Strengthen community-based culture organizations, conserve and promote Ontario's diverse cultural heritage, and connect people and communities through sharing and celebrating our diverse heritage and cultures.
- Work with government partners and culture stakeholders to maximize the use of public libraries, museums, galleries and other culture facilities as community hubs and explore opportunities to integrate arts and culture activities and spaces into schools and other community facilities.
- Review and update provincial funding programs for public libraries to build the capacity of libraries serving rural and remote communities, improve digital services and support leadership and innovation.
- Work with First Nation public libraries to better understand their unique needs and identify opportunities for responding through improved supports

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