January 2021

Dear Board Chairperson,

As we work toward the Ontario Library Service amalgamation, we would like to take this opportunity to provide you with information regarding the Ontario Library Service Board.

On April 1, 2021, the first meeting of the Ontario Library Service Board will take place. It will be an interim Board made up of representatives from both the Southern Ontario Library Service and Ontario Library Service North Boards. At the June 2021 Annual General Meeting, the first elected Ontario Library Service Board will begin to serve its term from June 2021 to June 2024. We are writing to give you a brief orientation to the election process and to ask your board to make its appointment to the appropriate Board Assembly.

About the Ontario Library Service Board:
- It is composed of 13 people: 9 elected Board Assembly representatives and 4 Ministerial Appointees.
- A full term for the Board is four years, beginning at least one full year after Ontario municipal elections.
- Representatives are elected from their corresponding population-based Board Assembly.

About Board Assemblies:
- There are 9 Board Assemblies based on population served, to represent Ontario public libraries (see chart below).
- All public libraries boards in Ontario are invited to appoint an official representative to their respective Board Assembly.

In addition to their role in the Ontario Library Service governance process, Board Assemblies provide library board members with opportunities to share information and hear how other boards deal with issues, like the ones you face, in governing a public library. They offer suggestions and support for board training and serve as a communication link between the Ontario Library Service and local boards.

Board Assemblies will meet virtually twice a year, once in the Fall and once in the Spring. The first round of meetings is scheduled for April 2021.
Once your library Board appoints its representative, please submit their name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address via <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XRDT3YH> or to Gisèle Montgomery (gmontgomery@olsn.ca), 705-675-6467/1-800-461-6348, extension 217. An introduction letter will follow. All meeting notices will be sent directly to them. We will also add their name to the Board Assembly listserv which is designed to facilitate communications among library board representatives.

Please make your appointment soon. We look forward to welcoming your representative at their respective Board Assembly this spring.

Yours truly,

Mellissa D’Onofrio-Jones
CEO Ontario Library Service – North

Barbara Franchetto
CEO Southern Ontario Library Service