

**Ontario Library Service Informal Library Chat
Summary Notes
February 17, 2022 10am ET (9am CT)**

OLS Updates

- The **Annual Survey of Public Libraries** was launched on January 26. All CEOs should have received an email announcing the launch, along with supporting documents. Deadline for submissions is April 30, 2022. The [Annual Survey page of the OLS website](#) includes an FAQ, and the Section C stats for electronic resources (OLS OverDrive Consortium, OLS Cantook Consortium, and electronic resources purchased through OLS licensing)
- An [OLS Training update](#) has been released and highlights upcoming webinars, including new webinars scheduled for March
- [Call for new members](#) in the **French language digital shared collection**: All public libraries in Ontario that do not already host content on the Cantook Station platform from DeMarque are eligible to join the French-language shared collection managed by OLS
- **International Children's Book Day** is on April 2, 2022 and the OLS will distribute resources (posters, etc.) to help promote the day
- **Ontario Trillium Foundation Resilient Communities Fund** is accepting new intake of applications from March 9 – April 6 for libraries serving populations of under 20,000. Applications are made through the municipality to the [Ontario Trillium Foundation Resilient Communities Fund](#).
- **Ontario Regulations – Effective Thursday, February 17**
 - An [OLS update](#) was sent out on Wednesday, February 16, summarizing the changes to regulations as they impact public libraries

Recent topics of conversation in the CEO email distribution group (summary)

- Makerspaces
- Tech for hybrid board meetings
- Friends of the Library groups
- Book bikes
- Lending devices

COVID-19 Snapshot of Library Services

- Those in attendance were polled on current service levels for their libraries
- This week's poll included a question about staffing shortages related to COVID-19
- See the [COVID-19 Snapshot of Library Services](#) document for the poll results, as well as results from previous Informal Library Chat polls.
- Suggestions for revisions to the questions asked in this poll are welcomed and encouraged.

Discussion Topics

Cleaning Practices

- CEOs discussed current cleaning and sanitization practices for library equipment, furniture, and surfaces
- [O.Reg 364/20](#) outlines general cleaning requirements and the need for cleaning practices to be included in the workplace safety plan

Library-Municipal Relationship

- CEOs discussed approaches to maintaining and building a strong relationship with Council
- Suggestions include a quarterly library highlights report, annual review report, attending Council meetings, participating in Council and community committees, connecting with BIAs or other local groups that interact closely with Council, providing Library board meeting minutes to Council each month, supporting the board's Council member in compiling and presenting a brief summary report to Council during regular meetings, encouraging and fostering 1:1 engagement between Library board members and Councilors

Ontario Regulations – Effective Thursday, February 17

- CEOs discussed the most recent updates to Ontario regulations and their impact on library operations, staff well-being
- CEOs noted a slow increase in programming levels, challenges and approaches to calculating capacity limits, etc

Board Meetings

- CEOs discussed perspectives and experiences with conducting board meetings virtually, in person, and in a hybrid model
- Highlighted points included the impact of meeting format on the Board group dynamic, meeting preparation, travel, productivity, public attendance, and the benefit of various formats when recruiting to fill vacancies

Dyslexia Friendly Collections

- CEOs discussed labelling and cataloging practices for dyslexia friendly collections
- OLS staff highlighted a LearnHQ webinar recording from June 2021 on [Building a Dyslexia Friendly Library](#)

The next Informal Library Chat is scheduled for Thursday, March 3rd at 2pm ET (1pm CT). A calendar reminder and connection details will be shared via email closer to that date.