

## Ontario Library Service Informal Library Chat

### Summary Notes

November 18, 2021 2pm ET (1pm CT)

#### OLS Updates

- **Welcome and Introduction of Lee Puddephatt, Training & Events Coordinator for OLS**
  - OLS is excited to welcome Lee into this new role
  - [lpuddephatt@olservice.ca](mailto:lpuddephatt@olservice.ca)
- **Networking Meetings**
  - CEO Networking Meetings conducted throughout October 2021
  - Reminder re: the [evaluation survey](#) to provide feedback
  - Board Assembly Meetings conducted throughout November 2021
- **Typical Week Survey**
  - Reminder on completing the Typical Week Survey in preparation for the Annual Survey
- **Upcoming Training**
  - Upcoming training opportunities include sessions on Diversifying Collections, Library Lexique, and the Ontario Public Library Guidelines and Accreditation
  - The full schedule of training can be accessed via the OLS website:  
<https://olservice.ca/consulting-training/training>
- **Recent topics of conversation in the CEO listserv (summary)**
  - Book Challenges and Requests for Reconsideration
  - Land Acknowledgements
  - CEO Succession Planning
  - Tutoring Policies
  - Branding Development
  - Focus Groups and Strategic Planning
  - New Branch Celebrations
  - Performance Appraisals
  - Proof of Vaccination
    - Recent OLS Communications can be accessed via the [Email Campaign Archive](#)

#### **COVID-19 Snapshot of Library Services**

- Those in attendance were polled on current service levels for their libraries
- 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**

### **Proof of Vaccination**

- CEOs discussed the application of proof of vaccination policies to library staff, Board members, volunteers, and job postings for new hires as well as plans for ongoing review of relevant policies
- CEOs discussed the application of proof of vaccination policies for patrons and entry to the library building. Public libraries are not currently included in the list of organizations or businesses permitted to opt-in to requiring proof of vaccination in order to lift capacity limits, as per the O.Reg 364/20
- CEOs discussed ongoing communications and collaboration health units and municipalities to align local approaches and requirements
- CEOs discussed the implications of the above on in-person programming
- CEOs discussed the experience of providing support to the public in printing/laminating their vaccination certificates

### **2022 Programming**

- CEOs discussed upcoming plans for 2022 programming and the sensitive nature of managing the return to in-person programming, often with a gradual and cautious approach
- The decision making around programming is closely tied to communication with local health units and provincial legislation
- Finding appropriate indoor space is also a challenge for many libraries due to the repurposing of space throughout the pandemic

### **Room Rentals**

- CEOs discussed recent rates of inquiry from the public around the use of library space, and the development of policies and procedures to accommodate
- CEOs discussed the types of uses they are seeing of available rental spaces and booking systems

### **Active Member Counts**

- CEOs discussed the recent listserv thread about active member counts and various methods for collecting this data
- A reminder that the Annual Survey differentiates in questions between active card holders, visits to the library, wifi usage, etc to capture the number of people making use of the variety of library services

### **Computer and E-Resource Access**

- CEOs discussed various approaches to providing and monitoring access to library computers and e-resources to balance access, data quality, reducing barriers, lowering behavioural issues, etc
- A reminder that the Overdrive will see an addition to over 3000 magazine titles in 2021 with no limits on usage or simultaneous access

### **Public Library Operating Grants**

- The payment process is still underway with over 250 libraries having already received the payment and notifications
- A letter will be received documenting the amount of money received and supporting documentation that may be required by auditors

The next Informal Library Chat is scheduled for **Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 10am ET (9am CT)**.  
Connection details will be provided via the "All Ontario CEO listserv".