

## **Major Public Library Organizations and Associations in the Province of Ontario**

### **Consortium of Ontario Libraries (COOL)**

- Created in 1998 as a cross library sector consortium to maximize leverage and purchasing power for negotiating licenses for the joint acquisition of electronic products

### **Ontario Ministry of Culture**

- Responsible for the administration of the Public Libraries Act
- Advances the public library system in order to maximize its contribution to the provincial economic and social vitality
- Heritage and Libraries Branch
- Develops provincial policies for the public library system
- Administers operating and special grants and special province wide grants such as the Urban and Rural CAP programs, Gates Foundation funding etc
- Compiles and publishes annual provincial library statistics

### **Ontario Library Association (OLA)**

- Professional associations for all library types in Ontario
- Includes seven types of professional organization e.g. Ontario Library Boards Association (OLBA), Ontario Public Library Association (OPLA)
- Provides education and professional information, lobbying and political action, services and products to support library programs

### **Ontario Library Service (OLS)**

- Southern Ontario Library Service (SOLS) and Ontario Library Service North (OLS-N) are non scheduled agencies funded by the Ministry of Culture
- Governed by boards nominated by public library boards and the Minister
- On behalf of the Ministry, provide a wide range of support service and programs to public libraries across the province (excluding Toronto) E.g. Consulting, staff training, delivery service, Help Desk, etc.)
- Mandated to increase cooperation and coordination among the library boards in their areas
- TPL is not covered by any of the Trustee Councils that are organized across the province

### **Ontario Library Boards Association (OLBA)**

- Advocates for public library boards across Ontario defending the value of citizen-based governance and the need for adequate funding of library services

- Fosters, encourages and improves public library service for people on the Province of Ontario
- Promotes the welfare of libraries by stimulating public interest in the establishment and support of libraries; securing needed legislation and improved government grants; furthering cooperation between trustees, members of OLA and municipal and national governments to raise library standards , improve services and reduce costs; be providing opportunities to discuss problems and exchange ideas and by working to ward improvement and extension of library services where needed in the province
- 150 Boards are current members
- TPLB has a block membership and all Board Members are therefore OLBA members

### **PLO's**

- Association of Medium Public Libraries in Ontario (AMPLO)
- Administrators of Rural/Urban Public Libraries in Ontario (ARUPLO)
- Association of Small Public Libraries (ASPLO)
- Chief Executives of Large Public Libraries in Ontario CELPLO)
- All provide a mechanism for discussion and resolution of issues and problems common to the specific group of libraries represented
- All represent the interests of the specific group to the provincial government

### **Strategic Directions Council**

- Provides coordinated, province-wide leadership and direction for public libraries
- Encourages participation in province-wide initiatives as identified in strategic planning
- Coordinates the public library community's response to issues of concern
- Membership from all public library organizations in Ontario

There are many other coordinating bodies, with various mandates that serve as vehicles for discussion of common issues or resource sharing, but none has comprehensive responsibility or authority.