



STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

Annual Board Education Topics

Date: March 23, 2026
To: Toronto Public Library Board
From: City Librarian

SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the 'Board education' standing item at Toronto Public Library (TPL) Board meetings and outlines a proposed process for identifying topics on an annual basis to support the Board's ongoing governance and strategic oversight responsibilities.

To promote transparency and further enhance the value and relevance of Board education presentations, staff will prepare an annual report outlining proposed topics for the year ahead. This list will remain flexible and may be adjusted to reflect emerging priorities, time-sensitive initiatives, or other matters requiring Board attention throughout the year.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact arising from the information in this report.

The Director, Finance & Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this financial impact statement and agrees with it.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on February 23, 2026, the Board approved the report titled [Toronto Public Library Board – Self-Evaluation: 2025 Results](#) which included feedback and suggestions for future Board education topics.

At its meeting on November 25, 2019, the Board approved the report titled [Toronto Public Library Board Procedural By-law – Revisions](#) which formally added 'Board education' to the list of standing items on Board agendas.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

In accordance with Section 14 of the [Toronto Public Library Board Procedural By-law](#), 'Board education' is included as a standing item on all meeting agendas.

The practice of library staff delivering presentations on topics of interest to Board members has been in place since 2005. In 2016, these presentations were formally identified as 'Board education' and incorporated as a recurring agenda item to support the Board's ongoing development and informed governance.

Board education presentations are separate from the orientation and training provided to new Board members at the start of their term. New Board member orientation and training materials focus on governance responsibilities, legislative requirements, fiduciary oversight, and the Board's role within the organization. In contrast, Board education presentations are ongoing learning opportunities delivered during regular meetings and are intended to deepen Board members' understanding of programs, services, operations and strategic initiatives over the course of their tenure.

COMMENTS

Each year, Board members complete a self-evaluation survey that provides an opportunity to identify areas of interest for future education presentations. Staff review this feedback alongside the organization's strategic priorities, operational updates, and emerging issues to determine appropriate topics to be included on upcoming agendas.

To promote greater transparency and equitable contributions among Board members, staff will prepare an annual report of education topics. Moving forward,

each January the Board will receive a staff report outlining proposed education topics for the year ahead. This list will remain flexible and may be adjusted to reflect emerging priorities, time-sensitive initiatives, or other matters requiring Board attention throughout the year. The following is a list of topics already presented, and proposed as Board education items in 2026. This list was compiled from feedback provided through the Board self-evaluation survey along with other timely topics.

- Cities for Digital Rights (presented in January)
- Annual Friends of Toronto Public Library Update (presented in February)
- Your Health Matters (presented in March)
- TPL Literary & Cultural Programming
- Annual Biblio Bash Update
- Storytelling for Public Impact
- School Outreach
- Library Materials Collection Development Strategies

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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City Librarian

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Board Education Topics from the current term (2023-present)

Board Education Topics from the current term (2023-present)

2023

- Seniors Digital Literacy Program
- Friends of TPL – Annual Update
- Review of Key Sections of the Municipal Conflicts of Interests Act
- Collection Development at TPL
- Youth Programming
- Supporting Strategic Priority Number 3: Workforce Development Services
- Policy Development Framework
- What's at Stake: Intellectual Freedom Fall Campaign & Programming
- Impact of Technology Services in Ontario Public Libraries: Bridge 2021/2022 Report

2024

- Research & Reference and Special Collections Vision and Action Plan
- Library Operations Centre
- Social Service Team at TPL
- Branch Experience
- TPL Brand Implementation Program
- Digital Literacy Programming Expansion
- Library Volunteers
- Dawes Road Project Overview
- TPL Foundation Update

2025

- Maintaining Our Facilities
- Friends of TPL – Annual Update
- Literary & Cultural Programming at TPL
- Biblio Bash 2025 – Update
- Customer Experience Update
- Centre for Democracy Update
- 2SLGBTQ+ Services
- Young Voices
- City Librarian Innovation Challenge