



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

Moe Hosseini-Ara
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



annual board education topics overview

Shawn Mitchell

Director, Planning, Policy & Performance Measurement

March 23, 2026



1. overview of Board Education process
2. context and background
3. updated process for 2026
4. review current list of Board Education items

- learning opportunities to deepen Board members' understanding of programs, services, operations and strategic initiatives
- Board education presentations are separate from Board member orientation (e.g., Board governance, legislative requirements, fiduciary oversight)
- practice in place since 2005
- formally identified as 'Board education' in 2016
- TPLB Procedural by-law (s.14) update in 2019 added to standing agenda

process to identify Board Education items

- Annual Board self-evaluation survey identifies areas of interest for future Board Education topics
- Strategic priorities, operational updates and emerging issues
- List is flexible to reflect emerging priorities and time-sensitive initiatives

Update:

- Annual report on Board Education topics to promote greater transparency and equitable contributions among Board members

2023

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Past Board Education Items



Library Impact Ontario

Your library makes an impact. We help you demonstrate it.



Two and Pride rainbow-wrapped pillars outside Toronto's Branch, home to TPL's Pride Collection.

2SLGBTQ+ initiatives

Toronto is home to the largest Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer or questioning (2SLGBTQ+) population in Canada and is one of the largest 2SLGBTQ+ communities in North America. TPL has developed an extensive service plan focused on the goal that all members of this community feel welcome and represented in our spaces and feel welcome and represented in our programs, services, collections and staff.

Pride Alliance

Established in 2015, TPL's Pride Alliance is an employee resource group that helps to build an inclusive environment for 2SLGBTQ+ employees and allies. Members of this group serve as advocates and resources for TPL staff and services for 2SLGBTQ+-related issues.

I'm all for free
speech, but [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

What's at stake when we lose
access to information and ideas?

2026 Board Education items

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thank you

tpl: