



June 18, 2019

RE: Provincial Funding of Public Libraries in Ontario

The Blue Mountains Public Library, like many of the municipal services, are seeing an off-loading of previous provincial capacity to the municipalities. The first evidence of this was seen in the 2019-2020 budget when the cut to the two ministerial service agencies, Southern Ontario Library Service (SOLS) and the Ontario Library Service North (OLS-N), each received more than a 50% cut to their operating budgets. While the Minister released several statements that this cut would not impact the libraries or end users, we have seen a hobbling of the Inter-Library Loan Ontario (ILLO) program, and several other service provisions which these agencies provided on behalf of the provincial government.

Throughout April, May and June BMPL met with members of the public; supported their letter writing campaign; participated in a legislative petition presented by MPP Mantha of Algoma-Manitoulin; and participated in library initiatives provincially to support the need for reinstatement of the ILLO program and the SOLS/OLSN budgets.

Members of the public have requested BMPL present to Council for the funding of the provincial off-loaded programs. While we acknowledge the 2019 unbudgeted amount is only \$3,000, we are respectful of the situation Council is in with other programs also off-loaded to Council in recent months, and therefore, are not providing any ask for this program. Instead we are working internally to restrict aspects of the program, restructure our uses and policies, and fund the balance of 2019 through our current budgets. Additionally, we will build into the 2020 budget any projected costs for this program, while still being respectful of the TBM budgetary constraints anticipated next year. We understand the program may be different than what the Town is used to, we also realize the previously provincially supported program will take on a new normal as libraries across municipalities work together to find a balance to maintaining this integral part of library services without the supports we have come to expect over the past decades.

We look forward to making a deputation to further share the provincial landscape of library services, and consider the future of continued off-loaded services.

On behalf of the Blue Mountains Public Library Board,

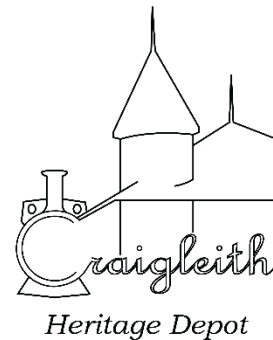
Dr. Sabrina Saunders, CEO

The Blue Mountains Public Library

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Provincial Landscape of Library Services

June 24, 2019



Public Libraries Act

Public Libraries Act (PLA), RSO 1990, c. P44

42 Regulations including:

- Composition of the Board
- Qualifications & Disqualifications of Members
- Roles of Board Members
- Role & Appointment of CEO
- Meetings
- **Limits to fees, “Open Libraries”**
- **Budgets, Estimates, and Grants (PLOG)**

Ministerial Supports

- Ontario Library Services (SOLS & OLSN)
 - Provide Cost efficiencies for public libraries
 - Provide expertise, resources, & training for libraries, staff, and boards
 - Manage Inter-Library Loans Ontario (ILLO)
 - Manages a provincial online catalogue
 - Provided delivery service for south
 - Manages e-resource and electronic consortia
- Public Library Operating Grant (PLOG)
- Connectivity Grant
- Capacity building grants (collections, IT, project focused)
- Book Rate partial reimbursement fund

Provincial Off-Loading

- Budget described as a success for libraries because no cut to PLOG
- 2019-2020 50%+ reduction to OLSs
 - Cancellation of the SOLS delivery service
 - New costs to libraries for ILLO participation
 - *BMPL direct impact: \$5,000 in postage and additional \$1,000 in delivery expenses*
 - Cut to the IT Help Desk for the online catalogue
 - *BMPL direct impact: system is unsupported evening and weekends. Potential increases in 2020 to achieve the former service model*
- Anticipate further off-loading to municipality in 2020

Provincial System for Municipal Libraries

- Total provincial revenue to BMPL \$25,688
 - Capital 2.3% of BMPL budget
 - Operational 2.6% of BMPL budget
- OLSs provide quantifiable in-kind which exceeds their \$2.2 million combined budgets-
 - *these exist to support the province public libraries*

Other Impacts: Bill 108

- Loss of Capital Expenses for Materials Purchases
 - *BMPL does not utilize this option on annual purchases.*
- Libraries removed from the Development Charge Act qualification lists in place for hard services only
- Libraries and other's moved to the Community Benefit Charge-yet undefined

GLAM

The Blue Mountains Public Library, the Craigleith Heritage Depot, and The Gallery, with our collective archival holdings, make our system a GLAM—Gallery, Library, Archive and Museum. GLAMs are becoming more popular across municipalities as Libraries, their CEOs and Boards become collectively responsible for the culture portfolio in their communities. We believe this pairing of the museum with our library and gallery makes us a more valuable public asset.



Regional Partnerships

- Discussion of moving towards Regional Partnerships
- *BMPL current Partners:*
 - Reciprocal Borrowing with Meaford & Grey Highlands
 - Saugeen Regional Working Group
- Discussion of delivery for Grey, Bruce, Dufferin Counties

Moving Forward

- Advocate for the continuation of the PLA
 - Ensures open library service
 - Each province & territory have an act protecting library services
- Be aware of potential future cuts when planning 2020 and beyond
- Partnerships-not County Libraries

BLUE MOUNTAINS PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

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