

**Ontario Library Service Informal Library Chat
Summary Notes
January 6, 2022 2pm ET (1pm CT)**

OLS Updates

- **Update re: Ontario's return to a Modified Stage Two of the provincial framework and its impact on public libraries**
 - The OLS sent out an update message on January 4 regarding the province's return to Modified Stage Two and its impact on public libraries, including capacity limits, work from home, and space rentals
 - Link to message from the OLS: <https://mailchi.mp/olSERVICE/update-january-4-2022?e=22cde0f973>
 - Link to updated provincial regulations: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r22002>
 - Link to COVID-19 public health measures: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/public-health-measures>
 - Link to OLS' COVID-19: Resources for Public Libraries guide: <https://resources.olservice.ca/covid-19>

- **Recent topics of conversation in the CEO listserv (summary)**
 - Modified Stage 2 and public libraries
 - Working alone
 - Work refusals
 - Proof of vaccination
 - EV charging stations
 - Wage wages
 - Return to work protocols
 - Interview questions

COVID-19 Snapshot of Library Services

- Those in attendance were polled on current service levels for their libraries
- This week's poll included a new question about staffing shortages related to COVID-19
- 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

Budgets

- CEOs discussed potential budget issues for the coming budget year
- CEOs discussed timeframes for completing/submitting budget estimates to council

Board member fatigue

- CEOs discussed board member fatigue/disengagement
- CEOs are foreseeing that many board members will decide not to come back for another term due to fatigue/disengagement

Accessing grants and fundraising during the pandemic

- CEOs discussed grants they've been successful in obtaining in the past
 - Kimberley Foundation's [Communities Matter Initiative](#) grant
 - [Sarah Badgley Literacy Fund for Rural Ontario Children](#)
 - One library encouraged approaching community organizations (Lions Club, etc.) and requesting funding for specific amounts/projects
- CEOs discussed potential fundraising ideas
 - Online auctions
 - Tim Hortons Smile Cookie Campaign
 - Fundraising with help of Friends of the Library group (plant sales, book sales, Christmas pop-up shop, etc.)
 - One library organized a "Gold Rush" event (with a local organization) where people traded their gold for money and library received 20% of the proceeds

Board Transition

- CEOs discussed best practices to facilitate transition to a new board, including legacy documents, recruitment, and board member job descriptions
- OLS will be updated Governance Hub Year 4 resources, which focus on [Legacy & Transition Readiness](#)

The next Informal Library Chat is scheduled for **Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 10am ET (9am CT)**.
Connection details will be provided via the CEO distribution group.