

Ontario Library Service Informal Library Chat

Summary Notes

June 16, 2022 – 10 am ET (9 am CT)

OLS Updates

- The Annual Survey of Public Libraries is closed – and hopefully the 2021 statistics will be available sometime over the summer. With the re-design of the Ministry webpage, the only statistical documents available at this time are those found on the Open Data site through this link - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-public-library-statistics>
- The Public Library Operating Grant/Pay Equity/First Nation Salary Supplement application is expected to open around August 24th with a five week window to complete the application. The application is completed in Transfer Payment Ontario (TPON) and each library should receive an e-mail from Ministry staff to announce that the application is open. In the meantime, we suggest that you check to make sure you can get into TPON. For that one you can either start at <https://www.app.grants.gov.on.ca/gr/tpcr/#/externalLogin> or the more generic one - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/available-funding-opportunities-ontario-government>. Once at the page, you need a username and password – and then will see all the grants received by your library. The new PLOG (Public Library Operating Grant) application will not be there yet – but you should be able to see older ones.
- Libraries serving resident populations under 20,000 may apply for grants through the Ontario Trillium Foundation's [Resilient Communities grant](#). Applications open on March 9th and the deadline is December 7th.

COVID Snapshot of library services

Those in attendance were polled on a variety of current service levels for their libraries. See COVID-19 Snapshot of Library Services [document](#) for this week's results (as well as results from the past 5 chats).

Discussion topics

Summer Student grants

- Markstay-Warren asked who received funding for Summer Students. Last year, they had 3 students but this year, no grants. The Board asked her to go to Council to ask for funding.
- Powassan - Received 2 Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ), did not apply for Young Canada Works (YCW), and Summer Experience Program (SEP) was not successful
- Blue Mountains - No CSJ-waitlisted. None for Ontario. 2 YCW Summer given YESTERDAY at 4pm
- Iroquois Falls - Received 2 CSJ
- Cavan-Monaghan-2 CSJ applied, 0 so far; 1 SEP-denied; 2 YCW applied and waitlisted.
- Callander - Applied for CSJ -always got CSJ but now waitlisted. Got SEP funding though
- Grey Highlands – CSJ and YCW – and for YCW will get full funding past September.
- Orillia – just approved for YCW – 5 positions – can back date as funding was announced so late

It was noted that some libraries include a summer student in regular budget – and also apply for funding for a slightly different position, so if they don't get summer student funding, they can still have a student. Markstay-Warren noted - budget for 2 students at 50% so we have enough for 1 in our budget but need 2 students

Hiring

Lack of applicants was noted as well as individuals not showing up for interviews – although not in all communities

- Bonnechere - We did have 13 students apply, and I interviewed 5. Maybe it's our location.
- Markstay-Warren - advertised for 2 positions for a month - only 3 applied & 1 was interested
- Grey Highlands - is that had 5 applicants and one didn't show up for interview.
- Grey Highlands – is sending questions in advance of interviews
- Georgian Bay – sends selective questions, noting that the purpose is to try to get best
- Blue Mountains – sends questions on the types of things you need to know – as realize that interviews are for “us trying to get to know each other”.
- Blue Mountains - Also noted that changed policy so that for summer positions, do not need to hold interviews if the person has worked at the library before.
- Iroquois Falls -Last year I reached out to school councillors to find some students to apply. That worked well. Just a suggestion

OLS - One tactic that I've seen working well in my area (Thunder Bay) is to highlight the fact that the job is with a local organization that directly benefits the immediate community. Many young people are far more invested now in the values and priorities of their workplaces.

Fine-free and cost for replacement of books

Champlain asked where libraries are fine-free, so you charge a processing fee for book replacement.

- SDG - \$5 processing fee – but will allow a patron to actually replace a book
- Orillia – look at the book – would it be replaced or weeded anyway. Circ staff allowed to gauge or set up payments (reducing the barrier)
- Grand Valley – tend to wait until the book comes in to see what the vendor charges them to replace it (rather than using retail price).
- Blue Mountains, Espanola & Muskoka Lakes - \$5 for processing plus cost of book
- Markstay-Warren – no processing

OMERS

Grand Valley noted that OMERS is going to be available to part-time staff next year – and this may have some budget implications.

- There is some confusion over administration and whether the library will have to look after their own OMERS administration – and it was suggested that OLS get info on OMERS to share with all.

The next Informal Library Chat is set for Thursday, July 21, 2022, 2pm ET (1 am CT). Connection details will be the same for all chats but a reminder will be sent via “All Ontario CEO listserv” the Monday before- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81919571225?pwd=cklzdUZPeG9wYW1lT0RycHpwTU5XUT09>

Other 2022 dates are: Aug 18 (10 AM), Oct 20 (2 PM), Nov 17 (10 AM) and Dec 15 (2 PM)