

**Ontario Library Service Informal Library Chat  
Summary Notes  
September 16, 2021 10am ET (9am CT)**

**OLS Updates**

- **OLS Virtual Conference**
  - o [Registration is open](#) for the 2021 Ontario Library Service Virtual Conference. This year's theme is Now What?! Re-thinking Your Library. The conference will be taking place on Tuesday, September 21 from 10am-4pm ET and is open to all levels of library staff.
- **Public Library Operating Grant, Pay Equity Grant, and First Nation Salary Supplement application**
  - o The application deadline for the Public Library Operating Grant, Pay Equity Grant and First Nation Salary Supplement is **Thursday, September 23 at 5pm**.
  - o Every library CEO should have received an e-mail from Ministry staff, with the background information. The application is completed in [Transfer Payment Ontario](#) (TPON).
  - o Visit the '[Funding and Grants](#)' section of the OLS website for more information, including who to contact for help, and a list of FAQs about the application process.
- **First Nation Community Reads**
  - o The First Nation Community Reads shortlist of titles is pending announcement. The titles can be sourced through GoodMinds (with a portion of sales going towards the Supporting Aboriginal Libraries Fund) and the awards will be announced and given out September 26 during Word on the Street in Toronto.

**COVID-19 Snapshot of Library Services**

- Those in attendance were polled on current service levels for their libraries
- See the [COVID-19 Snapshot of Library Services](#) document for the poll results, as well as results from previous Informal Library Chat polls.
- Participants provided suggestions on revisions to upcoming poll questions to reflect the shifts occurring in connection with regulatory and provincial updates.

**Discussion Topics**

**Public Health Unit Communications**

- CEOs discussed recent experiences in communicating with their local public health units to determine how best to conduct and plan for library services and programming
- CEOs noted the shift in scope and tone of updates recently that place stronger emphasis on the recommendations from public health units
- CEOs discussed recent experiences with official and unofficial visits to the library from health unit staff

**Land Acknowledgements**

- CEOs discussed practices around incorporating land acknowledgements into Board meetings

## **Hiring**

- CEOs discussed approaches to hiring practices and communicating with unionized staff who apply for a non-unionized position and do not meet the eligibility requirements

## **OLS CEO Listserv**

- CEOs provided feedback and suggestions to the OLS related to the CEO listserv

## **Point of Sale Systems**

- CEOs discussed point of sale system options in use or under consideration at their libraries

## **Meeting Rooms**

- CEOs discussed approaches to requests from the public to use library meeting rooms and spaces; including matters related to food being brought in

## **Vaccine Policies**

- CEOs discussed the implementation of vaccine policies and rapid testing for staff
- Some libraries have implemented or are developing policies, while other are awaiting municipal policies prior to introducing a library policy

## **Membership Renewals**

- CEOs shared perspectives and consideration points for renewing library memberships
- Some libraries are continuing with the option to renew by phone or email, others are returning to in-person renewals
- CEOs discussed the pros and cons of different approaches, along with privacy concerns or barriers to access posed

The next Informal Library Chat is scheduled for **Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 2pm ET (1pm CT)**.

\*updated from original schedule

Connection details will be provided via the "All Ontario CEO listserv".