FIRST NATION

PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN ONTARIO

www.olservice.ca/firstnation

ONTARIO LIBRARY SERVICE

All First Nation Band Councils in Ontario are eligible to apply for provincial library funding.

Section 30(4) of the Ontario Public Libraries Act states that: (4) Where the council of an Indian band or a local service board has established a public library, the Minister shall make a grant to the Indian band or local service board for library purposes as if it were a board under this Part. R.S.O. 1990, c. P.44, s. 30 (4).

The *Public Libraries Act* states that a First Nation Band Council can access library services by completing one of the following:

- Creating their own on-reserve public library.
- Partnering with a nearby municipal public library so community members can access resources and programs.

ESTABLISHING AN ON-RESERVE PUBLIC LIBRARY

A First Nation Band Council can establish a public library by passing a Band Council Resolution and sending a copy to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming (MTCG). When a First Nation Band Council creates a public library on-reserve, the Minister will provide grants for library purposes under the same conditions as other boards.

- Contact the MTCG to notify them of your interest in establishing an on-reserve public library by emailing librarygrants@ontario.ca.
- To establish the public library, the MTCG requires:
  - A Band Council Resolution to operate a public library.
  - A certificate of insurance for the public library.
  - The names and contact information of two people with signing authority for the library.
  - The address of the library's main branch or headquarters and the library web address if applicable.

To remain in the public library funding program, the Band Council submits two mandatory requirements to the MTCG each year including (1) a PDF funding application submitted to the Transfer Payment Ontario system, and (2) a library statistics report called the Annual Survey of Public Libraries.

The First Nation Public Library is eligible to receive three funding grants each year:

1. **Public Library Operating Grant (PLOG)** is based on the First Nation's on-reserve resident population to support library expenses, with the exception of capital expenses.
2. **First Nation Salary Supplement (FNSS)** provides up to $35,000 annually to support wages for staff employed by First Nation public libraries. To be eligible, the library must have one or more paid staff whose combined salaries meet or exceed the value of the supplement. Benefit costs are not covered by the FNSS and must be paid by the First Nation Band.
3. **Fund for Digital Expenses (FDE)** provides $6,000 to First Nation Public Libraries to support digital tools and services that build libraries' digital capacity and strengthen Ontarians' digital skills by improving access to diverse supports, including internet and cellular service, e-books and digital collections, hardware and software, e-learning opportunities and training on digital technologies.

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CONTRACT FOR LIBRARY SERVICE

A First Nation Band Council can choose to provide library services to the community by partnering with an existing public, union, or county library board instead of operating their own library. The partnership is based on an agreement outlining the terms and conditions of service. Band Councils entering into such agreements must submit any reports required by law or requested by the Minister. The Minister provides grants to library boards for library purposes, subject to prescribed conditions.

- Contact the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming (MTCG) to notify them of your interest in contracting for library service from a nearby municipal, union, or county public library.
- To contract for library service, the MTCG requires:
  - A current library service contract. The contract is between the public library board and the First Nation Band Council. This can be a one-year or multi-year contract and can be renewed as desired.
  - A Band Council Resolution. The Ministry requires a BCR indicating that the First Nation has approved a contract for service agreement with the partnering public library board as per section 29 of the Public Libraries Act.
  - The names and contact information of two people with signing authority for the First Nation.

To remain in the public library funding program, the Band Council submits two mandatory requirements to the MTCG each year including (1) a PDF funding application submitted to the Transfer Payment Ontario system, and (2) a library statistics report called the Annual Survey of Public Libraries.

Each year, the First Nation Band Council receives PLOG funding:

- **Public Library Operating Grant (PLOG)** is based on the First Nation's on-reserve resident population.
- The First Nation Band Council transfers the PLOG to the partnering public, union, or county library board in exchange for library services for on-reserve band members.

First Nation Public Libraries

Questions?

Ontario Library Service
consulting@olservice.ca

Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming
librarygrants@ontario.ca

Stronger libraries.
Stronger communities.