

SOLS Board Summary

September 2006

Release of Grant Thornton Report

The Ministry of Culture engaged Grant Thornton to conduct a financial review of SOLS and OLS-North last fall. Findings and recommendations were submitted to the Ministry and the final report was released in confidence to the Board in February. The public version of the report was released in July and is available on request. SOLS was very pleased with the results of the review and the Ministry's positive response to the recommendations.

Library Program Review

The Deputy Minister of Culture announced the Library Program Review at the OLA conference in February. The project objective is "To undertake a broad review of the Province's public library sector support, and to develop a framework for delivery of provincial support, with a view to ensuring that the provincial investment brings the greatest benefit to public libraries and their users, and to establishing the most productive role for the Province in meeting the needs of public libraries."

The Ministry hired Avant Strategic Communications to develop the vision and framework for Provincial support of public libraries. Input was sought through a think tank, focus groups and interviews in late August and early September. Written submissions were also encouraged – SOLS' submission is posted on our website. The Deputy Minister has called a meeting of library leaders on October 13 to discuss the results of the consultation stage and provide comments. SOLS Chair and CEO will be participating.

Assurance of Funding – Provincial Government

The Board has been considering a new round of MPP visits and discussed how they might proceed. As a first step, the Board decided to approach candidates following All Candidates Meetings to make them aware of SOLS and our services and give them a copy of our brochure, Brief Listing of SOLS Services.

Assurance of Funding – Fundraising

In April, SOLS' Board launched its 2006 campaign to solicit individual donations for SOLS' Innovation Fund. The intent of this fund is to allow us to take advantage of new products and services that can be offered to our libraries. For the last two years, the Fund has been used to subsidize library participation in the shared ebook collection.

For the first time this year, we included a mail campaign which targeted those who had written in support of SOLS during the budget crisis last year. We also continued with personal requests to existing donors, current and past Board members and others identified by our canvassers. As of the middle of August, over \$7,000 had been raised. SOLS is a registered charity and issues tax receipts for all donations. Donations may be made through Canada Helps by clicking "Support SOLS" on our website.

Linkage Development – Reception during OLA Conference

SOLS plans to host a reception at the OLA conference this year and looks forward to welcoming trustees and staff from our client libraries. Details will be provided once time and location are confirmed.

Annual Report 2005/06

SOLS' Annual Report was distributed to libraries this summer and posted on SOLS website. Copies will also be available at Trustee Council meetings.

Operations Planning Quarterly Update

An update on SOLS' services is available at www.sols.org.

Next Board Meeting

The next meeting of SOLS' Board is scheduled for Saturday, February 10, 2007 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at SOLS' office in Toronto.