

SOLS Board Summary

February 2008

Assurance of Funding – MPP Contacts

SOLS' first contact with MPPs following the election this fall was a letter congratulating them on their success and enclosing the Annual Report. The Board also developed a plan for visiting the fifteen newly elected MPPs in SOLS' service area to introduce them to SOLS. The visits are planned for the spring and the key messages will include SOLS' priorities, opportunities and challenges.

Assurance of Funding – Fundraising

In April last year, SOLS' Board launched its 2007 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. By the end of the calendar year over \$14,000 had been donated. About half was designated for the Innovation Fund and half for greatest need. For the last three years, the Innovation Fund has been used to subsidize library participation in the COOL shared ebook and audiobook collection for First Nations libraries and libraries serving populations of less than 15,000.

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 – SOLS Reception at OLA Conference

SOLS hosted a reception at the OLA conference again this year. Invitations were sent to client libraries, MPPs, donors, OLBA councilors, Ministry staff and partners. About 150 people attended including the new Deputy Minister Marg Rappolt who was our main speaker. Reza Moridi (MPP), Parliamentary Assistant for Training, Colleges and Universities and Patricia Else, Director of Grants at Ontario Trillium Foundation also attended.

Linkage Development – Ontario Small Urban Municipalities Conference

SOLS will be participating in the trade show at the OSUM conference in April/May. The purpose of our participation is to raise the profile of SOLS with municipal decision-makers and the MPPs who attend the conference.

Linkage Development – OLBA Council

SOLS was pleased to welcome several members of OLBA Council to the February meeting. The purpose of OLBA's participation was to ensure that OLBA and SOLS programs complement each other and do not duplicate. Discussions focused on the services of particular interest to trustees that SOLS provides and on OLBA's Leadership by Design program.

SOLS Board Recruitment and Orientation

Elections to the Board will be held at the spring Trustee Council meetings. The new Board will take office for a four year term at the June 13/14, 2008 Board meeting. Each Trustee Council elects two representatives (except Trustee Council 7 which, being smaller than the others, elects one). To be eligible to stand for election or cast a vote, individuals must be their library's appointee to the Trustee Council. Interested candidates and those planning to vote in the elections, are asked to double check their status with their own library board or to contact Nancy McPherson at nmcperson@sols.org in advance of the April Trustee Council meetings. Please note that candidates may nominate themselves for election to the SOLS Board, either in person or in absentia. If necessary, we can arrange for a seconder at the meeting.

Following the elections, new Board members will receive a comprehensive orientation including an information binder, an orientation session scheduled as part of the inaugural meeting (June 13/14), as well as a "buddy" – a fellow Board member with experience on SOLS' Board to act as host.

The orientation session will be led by Caroline Oliver of Good to Govern Ltd. The session will begin with an introduction to the theory and practice of Policy Governance which will explore the fundamental principles of Policy Governance. Caroline will then facilitate the second part of the orientation which will include:

- Trustees discussing their work related to their four work areas i.e.:
 - Linkage development,
 - Policy development,
 - Assurance of performance, and
 - funding development.
- Staff discussing their work to accomplish board Ends.
- An open forum to pull all the threads of the learning together and address any remaining questions or concerns.

The outgoing Board also prepares a self-evaluation report to assist the new Board. A Board self-evaluation is conducted annually and the reports for the entire Board term are included in the information binder for new members. For the final year of its term, this report includes advice and recommendations to the new Board to assist it during the transition process and help it set directions for its term.

Next Board Meeting

The next meeting of SOLS' Board is scheduled for Friday, June 13 (6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.) and Saturday, June 14 (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), 2008 at SOLS' office in Toronto. Subsequent meetings this fiscal year are October 17/18, 2008 and February 6/7, 2009.

Operations Plan Update

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