

SOLS Board Summary

June 2007

Policy Development – Ends Policy Review

SOLS' Service Plan, *Stronger Libraries Stronger Communities 2004 – 2007*, expired at the end of March 2007 and SOLS Board has embarked on a new planning process. To initiate this planning, the Board reviewed its Ends policies and approved the statements below subject to consultation with the Minister of Culture.

SOLS EXISTS SO THAT:

The people of Ontario, as represented by the Minister with jurisdiction for public libraries, will have equitable access to library services at a sustainable cost.

1. Libraries will be equipped to deliver equitable access.
 - 1.1. There will be a network for equitable access to worldwide library collections.
 - 1.2. Libraries will provide services according to minimum standards.
 - 1.2.1. Libraries will have a mechanism for collaboration on the development and achievement of common standards.
 - 1.3. Libraries will have a mechanism for collaboration on the cost-effective acquisition and use of resources.
2. The Minister will be equipped to deliver equitable access.
 - 2.1. The Minister will have expert, credible information and advice about the sector.
 - 2.2. The Minister will have a mechanism for delivery of core information and services that need to reach all libraries.

While these policies would normally form the basis of a new service plan, the Ministry of Culture is part way through a library sector review that will also influence SOLS' role over the next few years. While we await the outcomes of the Ministry's review, we have proceeded to write an operational plan to guide services for this fiscal year. The plan is organized by the Board's new Ends policies and includes the budget for 2007/08. It is posted on our website (www.sols.org) under About SOLS – Plans and Annual Reports.

Participation in Ministry of Culture Booth at the AMO Conference

SOLS will be participating in the Ministry of Culture booth at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario annual conference in August. The purpose of our participation is to raise the profile of SOLS with municipal decision-makers and the MPPs who attend the conference. Our portion of the booth will be staffed by SOLS board and staff members and we will have SOLS' Annual Report and Brief Listing of Services available as handouts. We will also make copies available of the Ministry's Frequently Asked Questions regarding legislation that affect public libraries.

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 three years, the Fund has been used to subsidize library participation in the COOL shared ebook collection which is primarily a reference collection. SOLS' subsidy targets small and First Nations libraries and we underwrite 100% of their fee. In 2006/07, 71% of small libraries (61 libraries) and 20% of First Nations libraries (5) participated. The Board has decided to continue to support this project for 2007/08 and has set a fundraising target of \$15,000. To date, just under \$3,000 has been donated.

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.

SOLS Board Recruitment

Elections to SOLS' Board will be held at the Trustee Council meetings next spring. Fifteen members are elected through the eight councils and while several incumbents plan to stand for re-election, there will be at least seven vacancies to fill. Details about the role and responsibilities of SOLS Board members will be provided at the fall Trustee Council meetings. Interested candidates will also be encouraged to attend the SOLS reception at the 2008 OLA Superconference to meet other SOLS Board members and become better acquainted with SOLS. They are also welcome to attend a Board meeting as an observer.

Annual Report 2006/07

The Board approved SOLS' Annual Report for 2006/07. It is now available on our website under About SOLS – Plans and Annual Reports. It will also be published in hardcopy and distributed to client libraries, MPPs and provided as handouts at the AMO booth. A complete copy of the audited statements and *SOLS' Contribution to Libraries 2006/07* are also posted under Plans and Annual Reports.

Operations Plan Update

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

Next Board Meeting

The next meeting of SOLS' Board is scheduled for Friday, October 12 and Saturday, October 13, 2007 at SOLS' office in Toronto.