

SOLS Board Summary

June 2009

New Board Member

The Board is pleased to welcome David Phillips to the Board. David is from Uxbridge Township library and was elected to SOLS at the spring meeting of Trustee Council 5.

Assurance of Funding - SOLS' Business Plan 2009/10

SOLS submits an annual business plan to the Ministry of Culture. On April 28, 2009, we received approval our 2009/10 plan and confirmation of our flatlined operating grant of \$2,755,905. Our request for additional funding for a French Services Coordinator position was not approved.

In addition to our base grant, a grant of \$11,733 for five positions under the Summer Experience for Youth program was approved. We have also received \$20,000 to update and replace servers and \$660,000 for Connectivity support for public libraries. Still pending are final confirmations of our capital grant for the purchase of delivery vans and the First Nations Consulting grant.

With confirmation of our business plan, we will be posting our Operations Plan for the year on our website under About SOLS – Plans and Annual Reports. Similarly an update on activities to date under this plan is available there.

Assurance of Funding – MPP Contacts

SOLS' most recent contact with MPPs this spring was a letter notifying them of the benefits that their libraries are receiving under the \$15 million investment. The letters listed constituent libraries and the amount of their library credit. It also described opportunities for grants under the application programs and the various projects.

At the June meeting the Board developed a plan for visiting all MPPs in SOLS' service area. The focus of the visits will be the issue of longstanding flatlined operating budgets. Flatlining, coupled with inflation, erodes our budget by 3% each year resulting in cuts to services. We have lost 10 positions over the last five years and are already down to core business. Without a base increase, we will have no option next year but to cut core services.

Linkage Development – OSUM (Ontario Small Urban Municipalities)

For the second year, SOLS participated in the trade show at the OSUM conference in Cornwall on May 6th and 7th, 2009. As with the AMO conference, the purpose of our participation is to raise the profile of SOLS with municipal decision-makers and the MPPs who attend the conference. The exhibits were open over two days and around 30 people, mostly municipal councilors, visited SOLS' booth.

Linkage Development – AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario) Conference

Once again, the Ministry of Culture has agreed to host SOLS in its AMO booth at the annual conference in August. This will be the fourth year that SOLS has participated and it is an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of SOLS with municipal decision makers. We are grateful for the Ministry's assistance which brings the cost of participating in the trade show within SOLS' reach.

Annual Report 2008/09

The Board approved the audited financial statements as well as the Annual Report for 2008/09 at this meeting. They will be available on our website shortly under About SOLS – Plans and Annual Reports. The Annual Report will also be published in hardcopy and distributed to client libraries, MPPs and provided as handouts at the AMO booth.

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 16 and Saturday, October 17, 2009 at SOLS' office in Toronto.