

***SOLS Board Summary
December 2004***

Assurance of Funding - MPP Visits

One of the four jobs of the Board is assurance of funding through advocating the provincial government for optimal funding and pursuing a variety of funding and resource development activities that support SOLS' Ends priorities.

The Board has launched a program to visit all MPPs whose ridings overlap SOLS' service area as well as most Cabinet Ministers. A total of 77 visits are planned and thirty-four visits have been completed to date. MPP visits have been a priority for this Board term. With the Board term ending next June, completing the remaining forty-three visits will be a focus of Board activity over the next several months.

As part of raising awareness of SOLS with MPPs, SOLS new service plan, *Stronger Libraries Stronger Communities* was sent to the seventy-seven MPPs in SOLS' service area as well as Cabinet Ministers. Six MPPs, including the Premier, responded to this mailing with thanks and comments on the invaluable work of libraries and SOLS.

Assurance of Funding – Fundraising

SOLS' Board launched a campaign to solicit individual donations to support the work SOLS does to assist public libraries. The campaign goals are to:

1. Develop organizational capacity to raise funds through individual donations.
2. Develop donors willing to give to SOLS.
3. Raise \$30,000 for SOLS' 05/06 budget.

A pilot stage of the campaign was initiated this fall with a target of completing twenty visits raising \$5,000. While the campaign only closes in December, as of November 23, twelve asks had been completed and \$6,210 raised. The next phase of the project is for the canvassers to meet and evaluate the pilot campaign prior to launching the main campaign in the spring.

Board Recruitment

SOLS' Board operates on a three year term and the current term ends in June 2005. Elections to the Board will be held at the spring Trustee Council meetings. To help prospective Board members consider whether they wish to run for election, an information package and presentation was provided at the fall Trustee Council meetings and is available on SOLS' website.

In addition, the Board began work on recruiting candidates for the five positions that are filled through nomination by the Minister of Culture. For these positions, a resume must be submitted to SOLS by Friday January 21, 2005. Resumes of qualified applicants will be forwarded to the Minister. Details on the work of the Board and the process for application are also included on SOLS' website as "Recruiting for Ministerial Nominees".

Open House

SOLS is holding an official Open House on Wednesday February 2, 2005 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the new office at 111 Peter Street, Suite 902. Remarks are scheduled for 5:30 and light refreshments will be served. Invitations for the Open House will be sent to client libraries, MPPs, donor prospects and selected vendors and partners early in January.

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, March 5, 2005 at SOLS' office in Toronto.