

## 1. Libraries will be equipped to deliver equitable access.

### 1.1 There will be a network for equitable access to worldwide library collections.

#### SOLS:

- Provides a resource sharing network to public libraries and facilitates interlibrary loan with other publicly-funded libraries worldwide.
- Provides delivery of interlibrary loan materials through courier and subsidizing mail service.

### 1.2 Libraries will provide services according to minimum standards.

#### SOLS:

- Assists libraries with the development and implementation of work plans for achieving accreditation under the Ontario Public Library Guidelines.
- Delivers programs to develop basic library skills and to support the continuing education needs of library staff.
- Provides information, advice and assistance on sound library, management and governance practices.
- Assists libraries to position themselves more effectively within the municipal context.

#### 1.2.1. Libraries will have a mechanism for collaboration on the development and achievement of common standards.

- SOLS supports the work of the Guidelines Council which revises the Guidelines, audits libraries, and recommends libraries for accreditation.

### 1.3 Libraries will have a mechanism for collaboration on the cost-effective acquisition and use of resources.

#### SOLS:

- Supports the development of shared electronic, print and non-print collections.
- Organizes economies of scale in purchasing.
- Fosters the exchange of information among libraries.
- Facilitates collaborative projects among libraries.
- Facilitates linkages for libraries to participate in initiatives within the broader library community.

## 2. The Minister will be equipped to deliver equitable access.

### 2.1 The Minister will have expert, credible information and advice about the sector.

#### SOLS:

- Maintains a database of library information.
- Conducts surveys as needed by the Minister.

### 2.2 The Minister will have a mechanism for delivery of core information and services that need to reach all libraries.

#### SOLS manages projects on behalf of the Minister. Currently:

- A program to improve highspeed Internet Connectivity in public libraries.
- A service to provide consulting support to First Nations libraries.

**Stronger Libraries Stronger Communities**

### From our libraries:

*"Whatever standard you use to judge the performance of the OLS - cost effectiveness, dedication, professionalism, or impact on the greatest number of Ontarians - the Ontario Library Service must surely be one of the most important folders in the Ministry's portfolio."*

Wainfleet Twp Public Library

*"SOLS provides us with van delivery service for Interlibrary Loans, with continuing education for Library staff. SOLS facilitates cooperation and sharing between libraries, supports the accreditation program and overall plays an important part in our meeting Provincial objectives for public library service: access to information, continuing education/lifelong learning, literacy."*

Middlesex County Library

*"The library service that we deliver to our thousands of clients improves their lives and contributes to the overall educational, social, cultural and economic health of the province. The services provided by SOLS play a vital role in helping us to deliver that service."*

Orillia Public Library



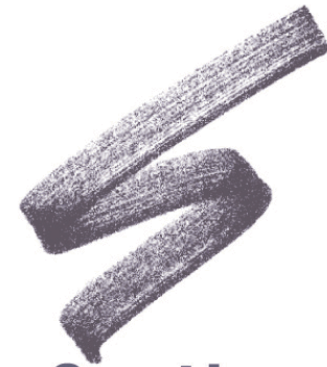
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**Southern  
Ontario  
Library  
Service**

### BRIEF LISTING OF SERVICES

### Mandate

Southern Ontario Library Service (SOLS) was established in 1989 and is mandated to deliver programs and services on behalf of the Ontario Minister of Culture by:

- Increasing cooperation and coordination among public library boards and other information providers in order to promote the provision of library service to the public; and
- Assisting public library boards by providing them with services and programs that reflect their needs, including consultation, training and development.

### 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.

