

Leslie Weir and Shelagh Patterson audio transcript

Leslie Weir, 2017 president of the Ontario Library Association.

The Partnership met in conjunction with SuperConference 2017 and their day began by sharing vision statements and unique key successes of each of the provincial and regional associations, followed by brainstorming on values, successes and possible opportunities and collaborations.

Library and Archives Canada Stakeholders Forum was also held in conjunction with SuperConference. Updates included: briefings on the [Ottawa Public Library partnership](#), the [Canadian Heritage National Digitization Strategy](#), [Canada 150](#), and a myriad of other initiatives.

A highlight were the round table discussions on the National Engagement Strategy, looking at how Library and Archives Canada might wish to engage with the community going forward.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA)/ Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (FCAB) held their first annual general meeting in conjunction with the SuperConference. The first board was elected including our own Shelagh Patterson and reports were received from copyright and Truth and Reconciliation working groups.

Do check out the [CFLA website](#) to be able to access the [Truth and Reconciliation](#) report, which includes a myriad of resources for indigenous libraries and libraries providing services for indigenous peoples.

Hello, I'm Shelagh Patterson. I'm the executive director for the Ontario Library Association. And welcome to Open Shelf 2017. First I'd like to thank Mike Ridley who has recently stepped down as our editor-in-chief and extend a warm welcome to Martha Attridge Bufton who is our new editor-in-chief for *Open Shelf* magazine.

So for 2017 we have a number of exciting things in store. One of the things we are currently working on is developing our next three-year [strategic plan](#). We are finding out a number of things from partners, and members who have already provided input. Things like focusing more on government relations, strategies for stakeholder engagement, looking at research priorities and how can we better tell our stories and how can we better demonstrate our value to those decision makers for all types of libraries out there.

Part of that is looking at a number of other kinds of advocacy issues that are keeping our members up at night, things like: open access, affordable e-journals looking at developing research that can help us in those areas.

Part of that strategy will also be looking at the OLA's fund development fund plan. We are a charitable organization and we do have a number of funds but we are doing a review and we are

looking at how can we best raise funds to support the specific priorities for our members, for people who work in libraries.

One of the other things we will be looking at that we have heard from our members, how to we better support smaller libraries and that can be any kind of library. But smaller libraries, libraries that are in more rural or remote communities. And of course better supports for our First Nation public libraries.

So, those are some of the things we are looking at. Education continues to remain a priority. We will continue to look at innovative ways to extend education, whether it be in person conferences or looking at online educational opportunities. So we look forward to 2017 and we look forward to more ideas from our members.