

Ministry of Culture

Deputy Minister

5th Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 1L2
Tel.: 416 212-0644
Fax: 416 212-0641

Ministère de la Culture

Sous-ministre

5^e étage, édifice Mowat
900, rue Bay
Toronto ON M7A 1L2
Tél. : 416 212-0644
Télééc. : 416 212-0641

**MEMORANDUM TO:**

Public library Chief Executive Officers
Public library association executives

FROM:

Drew Fagan
Deputy Minister (A)

SUBJECT:

Good Government Act, 2009

On December 15, 2009, Ontario's legislature passed the Good Government Act, 2009 in an effort to improve clarity, increase transparency, and enhance accountability in the province's laws, regulations and systems. The nearly 600 items included in the Good Government Act, 2009 are technical changes that would simplify government processes, update language and clarify administrative processes.

The Ministry of Culture's contribution to the Act includes a number of legislative amendments to eliminate duplication and inconsistencies. The following changes were made to the Public Libraries Act, and are effective April 1, 2010:

- The requirement for public libraries to submit full audited financial statements to the Ministry of Culture is removed. Accountability and oversight will be maintained. The Ministry will develop financial reporting requirements to meet Ministry needs and established government directives such as the Transfer Payment Accountability Directive. Requirements for audited financial statements that pertain to municipal public library boards under the Municipal Act, 2001 and City of Toronto Act, 2006 remain.
- The requirement for public library boards to hold regular meetings at a set time each year is removed. The PLA will now enable public library boards to hold regular meetings each year during months that are locally convenient, rather than during prescribed months.

- Part II of the Act, providing the Minister with the power to create new special library services boards, is removed. Part II referred to predecessor organizations to the existing Ontario Library Service agencies. The existing Ontario Library Service agencies are established under Part III of the Act.

The PLA amendments will not have any negative impact on the operations of public libraries or the amount of funding the Ministry of Culture provides to public libraries, the Ontario Library Service – North or the Southern Ontario Library Service.

If you have questions on these amendments, please contact the Ministry's Culture Services Unit. Lead contacts are Rod Sawyer (416) 314-7627, email: rod.sawyer@ontario.ca and Adam Haviaras (416) 314-7158, email: adam.haviaras@ontario.ca.

Public libraries are key community hubs and provide access to information Ontarians need in a restructuring economy. I believe the Good Government amendments to the PLA will assist Ontario public libraries and their boards to deliver even more effective operations and services. It is a privilege to work with Ontario's public libraries. I look forward to meeting with many of you at the upcoming Ontario Library Association Super Conference in February 2010.

Yours sincerely,

Original Signed by

Drew Fagan
Deputy Minister (A)
Ontario Ministry of Culture

c: Steven Davidson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Culture Division
Suzanne Rowe Knight, Manager, Agencies Unit, Agencies Branch
Dawn Landry, A/Manager, Culture Policy Unit, Policy Branch