

EXCITING NEWS

'LEADERSHIP BY DESIGN' is UP AND RUNNING ON OLBA'S WEBSITE

<http://accessola.com/olba/LBD/index.php>

The Place for Public Library Trustees to Go and Take What You Need When You Need It

BACKGROUND

As new or even seasoned trustees and members of Public Library Boards, we've all experienced those moments when we're faced with a task, or a question is raised at the board table requiring us to seek out the pertinent reference material. New trustees ponder about their various responsibilities and in seeking the answers, we scratch around in our mounds of seminar notes, handouts, board orientation manuals and copies of the Public Libraries Act. Wouldn't it be nice to have up to date information and data under one umbrella... in one place to look? Ontario Library Boards' Association heard this plea from its member boards and in response in February of 2006, a Strategic Plan and Vision Statement was created.

VISION STATEMENT

The Ontario Library Boards' Association (OLBA) will be recognized as the primary resource for all library boards in Ontario to receive the support they need to expand their knowledge and understanding of their governance role and responsibilities and to strengthen their capacity as community development leaders.

PRIORITIES

Some of the priorities that were established to bring the vision to a reality were:

- Build a professional development program which is responsive to common issues and priorities that affect library board leadership.
- Source existing best practices, information materials, educational programs and planning forums as learning tools and opportunities for advancing board development.

DEVELOPMENT

In the spring of 2006, OLBA council endorsed the following objectives to initiate the development of **Leadership by Design** using a \$20,000 project grant from the Ministry of Culture.

- *To begin to build a sustainable leadership development program that is responsive to common issues and priorities that affect public library governance and service.*
- *To locate, organize, and integrate existing library trustee orientation and training resources and programs as fundamental components of the leadership development program.*

And so it began... using various surveys and other mechanisms for consulting with OLBA members and associates, **Leadership by Design** unfolded in time for its launch at a day-long forum during Super Conference 2007. With feedback provided by forum participants (library trustees and CEOs) and financed by Ontario Library Association, OLBA re-worked the various elements of **Leadership by Design** in preparation for the re-introduction of the program at a Super Conference 2008 workshop.

I am pleased to announce that the following elements of **Leadership by Design** are now online for access by ALL:

CUT TO THE CHASE

Ontario Public Library Governance-at-a-Glance

A quick reference guide that serves as a starting point on "Your Board's Path to Leadership by Design", presented as a laminated four-page monograph with easy to follow charts featuring the legislative framework for public library governance in Ontario; Board and Chief Executive Officer roles and responsibilities; and the fundamental responsibilities for achieving effective library board leadership.

EFFECTIVE BOARD GOVERNANCE

Dr. Ken Haycock's Audio Conferences

Audio conferences are developed and delivered by Dr. Ken Haycock, Director of the School of Library and Information Science at San José State University, for "The Partnership – Education Institute".

Featuring a core curriculum for your board's leadership development program, this series complements the print materials available through One Place to Look. Audio conferences present library boards and senior staff with the opportunity to go beyond their immediate surroundings and engage in a dynamic exchange of ideas with Ken Haycock. Audio conferences are scheduled regularly in the year-round Education Institute program and recordings of audio conferences on CD are available for purchase through the OLA Store: www.accessola.com

ONE PLACE TO LOOK

Online Reference Library for Boards & CEO's

One Place to Look builds on Cut to the Chase by using the chart, "Your Board's Path to Leadership by Design", as its 'front door'. By exploring the topics listed in each of the seven columns, highlighting the library board's fundamental responsibilities for achieving effective leadership and sound library governance, you will find a wealth of board development resources at your fingertips.

And finally, coming in May/June 2008

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TOOLKIT

Tools for your board to use to identify knowledge gaps in its library leadership and governance areas of responsibility, and to guide the design of an orientation and development program that systematically addresses knowledge gaps.

IN CONCLUSION

These various elements that have been developed thus far are provided to you as a Public Library Trustee in an effort to ensure that you have a *'place to go and take what you need when you need it!* It has been created through the labour of many dedicated former and current members on OLBA council, along with the support of OLA and consultants Randee Loucks and Margaret Andrewes. Their tremendous efforts have brought us to this point in time when we are pleased to announce that **Leadership by Design** is up and running online.

So why don't you visit the **Leadership by Design** page on our website at:

<http://www.accessola.com/olba/bins/index.asp>

One click on the left-side navigation bar, 'leadership by design,' will open up the **Leadership by Design** pages. Once you familiarize yourself with the wealth of information you will discover, I'm betting you will immediately bookmark this site as one of your favourites. And in using the contents, the knowledge you gain will strengthen your capacity as community development leaders.

I invite your comments as you explore OLBA's exciting new resource!

Warm regards,
Lynn

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