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Library Board Report

To: Newmarket Public Library Board

From: Tracy Munusami, CEO

Date: September 15, 2021

RE: **Canadian Library Workers Day and Ontario Public Library Week**

Background:

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA) celebrates Canadian Library Month every year in October as a way to establish new relationships between the libraries and local communities. Throughout the month several related events are observed that include Canadian Library Workers Day on the third Friday of October and Ontario Public Library Week in collaboration with the Ontario Library Association (OLA).

Discussion:

National Library Workers Day will be held on October 15th 2021. This annual celebration is an opportunity for the Library to recognize the work and dedication staff have shown throughout the pandemic and to publicly share some of our achievements. This celebration also acts as a logical kick off for the larger Ontario Public Library Week (OPLW). OPLW runs from October 17th through October 23rd 2021 and will continue the theme of "One Card, One Million Possibilities." OPLW is an opportunity for the Library to engage with stakeholders at all levels as well as to encourage residents to think of the library as a place of discovery, learning and growth.

In order to promote OPLW to a wider audience and to show our appreciation to staff, administration would like to request that the Town of Newmarket proclaims October 17th-23rd as Ontario Public Library Week. These proclamations are advertised in the Town's section in the Newmarket Era, listed on the towns website (<https://www.newmarket.ca/TownGovernment/Pages/Proclamations,-Lighting-Requests-and-Community-Flags.aspx>) and communicated to the public through social media. These communication tools will provide an opportunity to share interesting facts that include:

Did you know? Newmarket Public Library has:

- over 225,000 books, audio books, movies, CDs and videogames available to borrow
- over 144,000 ebooks, eaudio books, streaming movies and music available 24 hours a day
- 61 pieces of public art on display in the Library
- over 80 tools, gadgets, games and equipment available to borrow
- makerhub with 3D printers, vinyl cutter, and digital die cutter

- a laptop and Wi-Fi hotspot lending program
- study and meeting spaces available to the community
- and more available with your Library Card!

Although the global pandemic has altered various services, Newmarket Public Library is fully operational while adhering to health and safety protocols. Since the start of the pandemic, the Library has:

- Hosted over 684 programs for children, teens and adults reaching over 5,872 people
- Loaned over 421,613 books, audio books, movies, music and videogames to our community
- Answered over 21,309 questions in person, over the phone or online
- Increased digital checkouts by nearly 100%
- Helped people access virtual school help, job search, research and recreation over 111,141 times
- Provided over 165,064 loans through curbside or contactless pickup
- and more!

Conclusion:

The following motion is recommended:

That the Library Board receive the report on the Canada Library Workers Day and Ontario Public Library Week;

And That the Library Board directs staff to request the Town of Newmarket proclaim October 17-23 as Ontario Public Library Week.