

YOUR LOCAL LIBRARIES: 2018 ELECTIONS BRIEF

Libraries Play a Critical Role in Your Communities and Schools

- Libraries are Ontario's **farthest-reaching, most cost-effective community resource** – supporting education and lifelong learning, fostering community economic development and reducing the impacts of poverty.
- Ontario's libraries and library staff are **helping millions of Ontarians** in thousands of schools and communities across the province.
- Libraries **are local** and can adapt to the unique needs of their community.

Sustainable, Predictable Funding for all Public and First Nations Libraries requires support from both provincial and local governments

Public libraries reach over 98% of Ontario residents, and 3 out of 4 Ontarians access their local public library.¹ Libraries are consistently among Ontario's most trusted institutions², where all Ontarians are able to benefit and see the positive impact of their tax dollars at work.

Public Libraries support Communities

Predictable and flexible funding will let libraries make sustainable decisions that best respond to the needs of their local communities and users, while delivering positive impacts:

- **Reducing the impacts of poverty**, through access to community resources and supports, as well as giving all children and youth the chance to participate in rich and accessible programming delivered by passionate librarians and library staff;
- **Supporting equitable connectivity**, through reliable access to the internet (25% of Ontarians do not have access at home). Libraries provide
 - o e-learning resources that support digital literacy, business learning and personal development, and
 - o research resources that support student homework, study and adult lifelong learning.
- **Welcoming community spaces**, with dynamic programming and events, community resources and beautiful public spaces, libraries are important cultural institutions and essential community hubs.

DID YOU KNOW?

Public Libraries rely on funding they receive from **both provincial and local governments**

- **Local governments** are responsible for the largest share of public library base funding – typically comprising about **96% of public library budgets**.
- The Ontario government provides smaller but important support for public libraries through the **Public Library Operating Grant (PLOG)** and the **First Nation Salary Supplement Grant (FNSS)**.

- **Nurturing literacy**, through programming for children, families and adults, libraries support literacy, and a lifelong love of reading.
- **Fostering community economic development**, by providing business development and job skills programming for adults and youth, as well as providing space and resources to help entrepreneurs, newcomers and rural Ontarians.

Every dollar invested in public libraries generates significant direct economic benefits back to the community.

Some examples:

- ✓ Milton: \$1 = \$5.67
- ✓ Pickering: \$1 = \$5.85
- ✓ Stratford: \$1 = \$7.48
- ✓ Burlington: \$1 = \$5.64
- ✓ Ottawa: \$1 = \$5.17

Equitable access to a properly staffed school library is an essential component of student success.

Teacher-librarians have specialized skills to support the implementation of new curriculum and teaching strategies by co-planning, co-teaching and, co-assessing with teaching partners.

Properly staffed and resourced school libraries have a big impact on student outcomes, including:

- Promoting **critical information literacy** and **research skills**;
- Fostering **students' love of reading**, which research has shown has a positive impact on:
 - o **literacy scores**,
 - o success in **science and math**, and
 - o students **social and civic engagement**; ³
- Promoting **digital literacy and digital citizenship** by acting as a technology mentor and coach for all staff and students;
- Creating a **welcoming** and **safe space** within schools; and
- Curating balanced library collections in diverse formats to serve all learners.

DID YOU KNOW?

Schools with trained library staff are more likely to see **better reading outcomes** on the Grade 3 and 6 EQAO assessments. ⁴

[1] Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Sport. Ontario Public Library Statistics. Toronto: Government of Ontario, 1999-2015. Ontario's Data Catalogue. Accessed 30 Oct. 2017.

[2] Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Sport. Sector Profile: Public Libraries. Toronto: Government of Ontario, 24 Mar. 2016. Accessed 30 Oct. 2017.

[3] People for Education, Reading for Joy, 2011. Toronto: People for Education, 2011.

[4] People for Education & Queen's University Faculty of Education. School Libraries and Student Achievement in Ontario. Toronto: Ontario Library Association, 2006.