

For Immediate Release



Friends of the Ottawa  
Public Library Association

L'Association des amis de la  
Bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa

## Friends group raises \$410,000 for the Ottawa Public Library with an eye to city's exciting library future

OTTAWA, ON — The Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association (FOPLA) is pleased to announce that in 2019 they donated \$410,000 to the Ottawa Public Library (OPL), which is their largest donation for the third year running. These funds enhance OPL's offerings to the community and are used to purchase furniture, equipment, materials, and support innovative OPL's programming.

FOPLA supports the Ottawa Public Library through fundraising and advocacy and is proud to be one of the leading library friends' groups in Canada. The organization runs over 25 used bookstores and sales in library branches across Ottawa with the help of 300 volunteers and has donated more than \$4 million to OPL since 2003.

"We've worked hard as an organization to increase awareness of both our mission and the impact of our fundraising for OPL, so it's very gratifying for all our volunteers that we can continue to support the Ottawa Public Library in such a meaningful way," said FOPLA President, Vladimir Uher.

Some of the items purchased by OPL with FOPLA funds in 2019 include:

- FOPLA funds were used to purchase furniture such as lounge chairs for several OPL branches, and supported programming including the popular Tales and Tunes Family Fun Day and special performances during the TD Summer Reading Club.
- FOPLA sponsored OPL's Awesome Authors youth writing contest and published winning entries in the thirteenth edition of the *pot-pourri* anthology.
- FOPLA was proud to sponsor programming designed in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission: Calls to Action, including OPL's popular Indigenous film series and the visit of Indigenous author and chef, Shane Chartrand.

"I cannot overstate OPL's appreciation and gratitude for the support of FOPLA volunteers and the generous donations that so enhance Library programming and add to the customer experience OPL offers to the public," said Tim Tierney, Chair of the OPL Board and City Councillor for Beacon Hill-Cyrville.

FOPLA has also provided community input and support to the reveal of designs for the upcoming Ottawa Public Library-Library Archives Canada joint facility and looks forward to continuing to support OPL as they work towards the completion of this landmark city-building project.

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## About the Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association

The Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association is a registered charity that advocates for literacy and community-building in Ottawa by raising funds for the Ottawa Public Library. Through the sale of used books, vinyl records, and more, FOPLA has donated over \$4 million since 2003 to OPL to

enhance their programs and services. More than 300 dedicated volunteers support FOPLA in a variety of roles, including on FOPLA's volunteer Board of Directors. To learn more, please visit [www.fopla-aabpo.ca](http://www.fopla-aabpo.ca)

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