

Become a St. Thomas Public Library Board Member and Make a Difference in Your Community!

Are You:

- A passionate individual who cares about library service in your community?
- Enthusiastic about working with other board members, the Library CEO, and library staff?
- Familiar with and interested in learning about libraries and how they are governed?
- Imaginative and creative?
- Willing to learn?
- Involved in the community and aware of community needs and issues?

What does the Library Board Do?

All Public Libraries in Ontario are governed by the Public Libraries Act (PLA). The Act spells out the responsibilities and requirements of the Library and its Board.

The Library Board is legally responsible for the Library and is the employer for library staff.

The Library Board makes informed decisions on matters of governance including:

- Providing strategic direction
- Acting as an advocate for the Library in the community and with Municipal council
- Providing support in policy development
- Supporting fundraising efforts
- Attending Library events and providing volunteer support
- Evaluating the strategic direction of the Library
- Evaluating the Board's own effectiveness and adjusting as necessary

Do Library Board Members have a say in day-to-day operations of the Library?

The Board does not have direct responsibility for Library operations. The Board must, however, ensure that financial resources are available to provide Library service to the community, and ensure that the Library engages the best possible staff. This requires the Board to put in place a CEO who is capable of developing and implementing a comprehensive framework for the Library and managing the Library's daily operations.

Do I Qualify to be a Board Member?

To serve as a Board Member you must be:

- At least 18 years old
- A Canadian Citizen or permanent resident of Canada

- A resident of the City of St. Thomas
- Not employed by the City of St. Thomas or St. Thomas Public Library

Library Board members are unpaid volunteers and serve a term of four years on the Board.

How do I apply?

Fill out the Committees Application available on the City of St. Thomas website and return it to the City Clerk's Department.

How Much Time Is Required?

Board members attend a regular meeting each month (excluding July and August) and participate on one or more sub-committees. Board members can expect to spend 2 hours each month attending meetings, doing committee work, and reviewing board documents.

When Does the Board Meet?

Currently the St. Thomas Public Library Board meets on the second Wednesday of the month (excluding July and August) at 5:00 p.m. These meetings may be held in-person, via Zoom, or in a hybrid format. Board sub-committees meet at various times depending on the availability of members.