Celebrating Ontario Public Library Week at Milton Public Library

The Hon. Zee Hamid, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming to Celebrate OPLW at the Milton Public Library

PRESS RELEASE

MILTON, ON (October 19, 2026) – **Ontario Public Library Week (OPLW)** is here and taking place from October 18 to 24. This year, the theme is "Loud for Libraries / Haut et fort pour les bibliothèques," creating space for reflection, conversation, and visible, collective support for public libraries and the communities they serve.

The Ontario Library Association (OLA), in partnership with the Milton Public Library (MPL), are excited to welcome the Honourable Zee Hamid, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, to host the celebration of Ontario Public Library Week at the Main Library this Saturday, October 24, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

"Ontario's public libraries are at the heart of its communities," says Zee Hamid, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming. "During Ontario Public Library Week, we celebrate the spaces where people of all ages can discover new ideas, develop skills, access resources and connect with each other. Our government is committed to protecting and supporting public libraries so they can continue to help build strong communities and support families across the province."

Ontario Public Library Week is part of a broader celebration of libraries throughout October. Earlier in the month, **First Nation Public Library Week (FNPLW)** highlighted First Nation public library resources, services, programs, and activities with the theme, "Your library is bigger on the inside." OPLW also takes place during **Canadian Library Month (CLM),** an initiative that raises awareness of the valuable role libraries play in the lives of Canadians. As a member of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA), OLA stands with CFLA and libraries across the country in support of intellectual freedom and equitable access to information for all.

"Great libraries make great communities. They bring people together and make sure everyone has access to the information and resources they need to thrive," says Michelle Arbuckle, Executive Director, Ontario Library Association. "Ontario Public Library Week is a chance to celebrate the incredible work happening in libraries across the province and, just as importantly, the people who make it happen. Being loud for libraries means sharing those stories, recognizing their impact, and making sure our libraries have the support they need to keep doing what they do best."

Throughout October, the OLA encourages members to celebrate how libraries connect, inspire, and strengthen our communities across Ontario. Join the conversation using #OPLW and access OPLW resources here.

"Libraries are essential community hubs that create opportunities for learning, connection, and belonging," says Sarah Douglas-Murray, CEO, Milton Public Library. "In 2025, Milton Public Library welcomed more than 655,000 in-person visits, thousands of new members, and connected our community through programs, technology, and shared experiences. Together, these impacts help us fulfill our vision of empowering Milton residents to read, learn, innovate, and connect."

The Ontario Library Association (OLA) is thankful to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming for their support of Ontario Public Library Week. Ontario Public Library Week is made possible with sponsorship by the Canadian Urban Libraries Council and Library Bound.

Ontario Public Library Week Celebration

Date: Saturday, October 24, 2026

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. EST (Remarks begin at 11:00 a.m., followed by a short reception)

Location: Milton Public Library – Main Library

Address: 1010 Main Street East, Milton, ON L9T 6H7

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About the Ontario Library Association: The Ontario Library Association (OLA) is a centre of excellence for the library and information sector, with 4,000 members who work in public, school, academic and special libraries. OLA members advocate for the right of individuals to have free and equitable access to information. Our members research, develop and participate in educational programs designed to provide exemplary library services. Signature OLA events include the annual Super Conference and the Forest of Reading® program.

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