

## The Blue Mountains Public Library

**Report:** *Recommendation for 2018-2022 Library Board Complement*  
**Date:** May 1, 2018  
**Prepared by:** Dr. Sabrina ER Saunders

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### Recommendation Resolution

#### BMPL-Resolution 2018-86

Moved by: Laurey Gillies      Seconded by: Willi Wildman

**THAT The Blue Mountains Public Library Board recommend to Council that the size of the Blue Mountains Public Library Board shall be no less than five (5) and no more than seven (7) members, one (1) of whom is a member of Council. CARRIED.**

### Introduction

The CEO of the Blue Mountains Public Library received a request by Town staff to better inform Council as to preferences and best practices of public library boards. At the April 19, 2018 Library Board meeting, the Board passed the recommendation resolution which lays out the preferred and deemed best practice for a Town and Council of our current size. Below we further describe how this recommendation was arrived at.

### Requirements by the Act

The Public Libraries Act, RSO 1990, c.P44 clearly outlines a board must have no less than five (5) members from the community. *“A public library board shall be composed of at least five members appointed by the municipal council. 9(1)”*. This is interpreted by practice that this includes both open and council member seats, as both are from the community.

Further, the Act states *“The appointing council shall not appoint more of its own members to a board than the number that is, (a) in the case of a public library board or union board, one less than a majority of the board R.S.O. 1990, c. P.44, s. 10 (2)”*. Although there is no minimum requirement of sitting members of Council per the Act, the interpretation and practice of library Boards is that the Act restricts size of Council members, but in stating the restriction assumes an appointment of at least one counsellors to the board. To better support this question, single tier municipality public library boards regularly have between one (1) and three (3) counsellors, depending on the size of the board. In the case of the larger, most boards with three members of Council have a board of nine (9).

A municipality with seven elected members is more regularly represented by a Board with the same or less members, as is the recommendation of this Board. Boards of this size have regularly between one and two seated members of Council. The Library Board also acknowledges the importance of having a member of Council on the Board, both to have an individual who can speak to the good work of the Library Board and to have a heightened understanding of library boards and library service in a modern era.

### **Moving Forward**

The Board will be providing a package to Council in the coming months. This package will be developed in part by the Board with supporting documents developed by the Southern Ontario Library Services and the Ontario Library Association. The Library Board will be including information about meeting schedule, policies, and requirements of the Board in order to better inform those who are considering applying for positions. The Library CEO will be providing at least one information session on what it means to be a library board member prior to the close of Council's call for applicants. The CEO will also be working with the Town staff to support the planning of the recruitment program as an opportunity to meet best practice, the Act, and Board by-laws. This latter support will be discussed in future meetings with the Clerk so Council has ample opportunity to determine needs.

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Respectfully Submitted on Behalf of the Library Board,

Dr. Sabrina ER Saunders, MLIS  
CEO of The Blue Mountains Public Library  
[LibraryCEO@TheBlueMountains.ca](mailto:LibraryCEO@TheBlueMountains.ca)  
519-599-3681 extension 148