

## **Ontario Public Library Guidelines Monitoring and Accreditation Council**

**Wednesday, November 12, 2025, 2:00–3:30pm – via Zoom**

### **Present:**

Elise C. Cole [Chair] (OLA: OPLA),  
Caroline Goulding [Vice-Chair] (Small Lib–North)  
Beth Rumble (ARUPLO)  
Allison Pilon (OLS)  
Adam Haviaras (MTCG)

Karen Milligan (CELUPL)  
Catherina Moskau (Francophone)  
Eric Guernsey (OLBA)  
Cathy Fairbairn (Small Lib–South)

### **Regrets:**

Feather Maracle (First Nations); Kelly Bernstein (AMPLO)

### **1. Call to Order**

Caroline called the meeting to order at 2:08pm.

### **2. Approval of the Agenda**

**Motion 25-27** – Moved by Catherina, seconded by Adam, that the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED.**

### **3. Approval of the Minutes of September 10, 2025**

**Motion 25-28**– Moved by Cathy, seconded by Allison, that the minutes of the September 10, 2025, meeting be approved. **CARRIED.**

### **4. New Business**

#### **a. Audit Report: Fort Frances Public Library**

Caroline presented the audit report for the Fort Frances and Technology Centre Public Library.

**Motion 25-29** – It was moved by Catherina and seconded by Beth that the accreditation report for the Fort Frances Public Library be approved, and that the library be reaccredited for a period of five years to December 31, 2030. **CARRIED.**

#### **b. Additional meeting to focus on 2026 Guideline development, late November**

Allison will send out a survey in the next few days to poll council members on a next meeting date.

#### **c. 29.3 Universal Washrooms - Discussion about the use of the term “Universal Washroom”**

Audit teams discussed the evolving definition of “universal washroom” and its interpretation under changing standards. For current audits using the 2024 guidelines, the term will continue to be understood as gender-neutral or all-gender, rather than strictly following building code specifications. For the 2026 guidelines, section 29.3 will be updated to reflect inclusive language

and improve clarity for libraries. The revision will include a link to the building code and replace “bathrooms” with the singular “bathroom(s)” for consistency across guidelines.

#### **d. Council Meeting Schedule and Guidelines Review Process**

Caroline proposed moving to a quarterly meeting schedule, with each meeting being slightly longer. This suggestion will be included in the scheduling survey Allison will distribute. Caroline also introduced a rotating working group model, where Council members would be divided into smaller groups (2–3 members) to review specific Areas. Caroline volunteered to serve as the standing chair for all working group meetings to maintain continuity across discussions. Each group would present its proposed changes to the full Committee for feedback. Caroline will circulate the Area sign-up early in the new year.

### **5. Business Arising from the Minutes**

#### **a. Standing item: Update from Guidelines and Indigenous Matters sub-committee: Feather, Caroline and Kelly**

The subcommittee met and were able to review all sections of the guidelines. Caroline presented the work and recommended that examples such as (ie, ex.) in the guidelines be moved to another column to make it easier to read. Examples column would be right beside the guidelines – Caroline will move this for the 2026 edition.

Caroline proposed changes to 26.5 and 26.7 and Council decided to eliminate both guidelines for the 2026 edition due to age and redundancy.

Area 5 was also reviewed with proposed changes to the guidelines. This work will continue at the next November meeting.

### **6. Motion to Adjourn**

**Motion 25-30–** Moved by Elise that the meeting be adjourned at 3:30pm. **CARRIED.**

**Next Meeting:** December 10, 2025, 2-3:30pm EDT