

Chatham-Kent Public Library

Board Governance Policy

Board Advocacy

Definitions

“Advocacy” – Advocacy seeks to promote the profile of the Library and an understanding of its importance to the community. It is a continuous activity of the Board and may lay the groundwork for lobbying.

“Lobbying” – Lobbying attempts to influence the decision of a level of government in a manner favourable to the Library.

Why

The Board will be an effective advocate for library needs as well as educating the community on Library matters. The Board will also ensure that government decision makers at all levels fully understand the pivotal role played by the Library in the community.

What

1. Community: The Board will work to build and maintain good relationships with its patrons and with the community in order to ensure their continued support.
2. Municipal Council: the Board will work to represent the community’s need for Public Library service to Municipal Council on a continuous and consistent basis.
3. Other levels of government: the Board will identify and respond to issues, concerns and government policies that may directly or indirectly affect the Chatham-Kent Public Library.

How

1. The Chair, or designate, shall be the official spokesperson for the Library on issues of a political nature, or those activities involving the Board’s position. The CEO, or designate, shall be the official spokesperson for operational issues.
2. The Board will meet annually with Council to review the Library’s resources, services, plans and achievements.
3. The Board can establish an Advocacy Committee to assist with the creation of an advocacy plan.
4. As part of its advocacy role the Chatham-Kent Public Library shall, as funding allows, retain membership in the following organizations:
 - a. Ontario Library Boards Association (OLBA)
 - b. The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL)

Monitoring

Policies shall be reviewed once per Board term.

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Background Documents:

For more information or alternative formats of this document, please email cklibrary@chatham-kent.ca.