

Muskoka Lakes Township Public Library  
LIBRARY BOARD POLICY

Policy Type: Governance	Policy Number: GOV-07
Policy Title: Board Advocacy	Policy Approval Date: 09/12/22
Chairperson: V. Duke	Policy Review Date: 09/26

**Intent:**

The Muskoka Lakes Public Library Board (herein after referred to as the Board) shall be an effective advocate for the provision of excellent library service by ensuring that the community is aware of the importance of the Muskoka Lakes Public Library (herein after referred to as the Library) and that government decision-makers at all levels understand the pivotal role that libraries play in the community.

**Regulations:**

Section 5 of Ontario Public Library Guidelines outlines that the Board shall ensure that the community is aware of the importance of the Library and that funding bodies fully understand the important role which the Library plays in the community.

**Procedures:**

Either the Board Chair (or designate) shall be the official spokesperson for the Library on advocacy issues approved by the Board and will convey the Board’s concerns, either in writing or in person to the appropriate person, organization, government agency and/or the media.

In pursuing its advocacy activities, the Board shall ensure that:

1. issues, concerns and government policies that may directly or indirectly affect the Library are identified and responded to
2. government decision-makers at all levels are aware of the value of the Library and its benefit to individuals and to the community
3. advocacy issues are identified on the Board’s annual plan and are in harmony with the Library’s current Vision, Mission and Values Statements
4. there is regular communication with Township Council and senior administration. The Board or its designate(s) shall meet at least annually with Council to review the Library’s resources, services, plans and achievements
5. the Library regularly participates in activities:
  - to increase community awareness of the variety and importance of Library services
  - to build relationships with individuals and organizations that share interests with the Library

**Related Documents:**

- Ontario Public Library Guidelines
- MLPL GF-01- Mission Statement
- MLPL GF-02 – Vision Statement
- MLPL GF-03 – Statement of Values

