



Member-At-Large Report
OCLA Meeting
Zoom Meeting, The Internet
25 May 2020

Since our fall meeting so much has happened, and obviously a lot of what's happened isn't anything we could have planned for! There is little to report on that will not have been mentioned by others, and I don't want to report on all the disappointments and challenges everyone has been facing – I think we know them well enough.

I would still like to congratulate our OCLA Bursary recipients, even though things didn't turn out as we'd planned, applications had been sent and individuals had been contacted. So, congratulations to Michelle Landriault, at Prescott-Russell Law Association, this was to be her very first time receiving an OCLA bursary. And congratulations also to Michelle Gerrits, at the Lambton County Law Association, whose tireless efforts on the OCLA Executive help make everything run smoothly.

Once again, the Bursary Committee received only four applications, I will restate something I said in my report in 2019: *As many of you know, part of the bursary money comes from Irwin Law. It would be a shame to lose this sponsorship in the future because of low application numbers.* Next year, I hope all of you will please consider applying for one of these bursaries.

I still believe that engaging in as many professional development opportunities as you can is an important part of being a both an information professional, and a court house law librarian. Gathering different perspectives at conferences and courses can have a benefit to your development as a professional, and also to your library as a whole. We should always be striving to increase our knowledge base and develop new skills that we can share with each other.

In closing, just a reminder not to be afraid to reach out – to myself, an executive member, or any of our OCLA colleagues. We are all doing the best that we can, and should you need support, we should all be supporting each other – no one else does quite what we do, so who best to understand your professional struggles? We need to stick together, support each other, and raise each other up. I hope you and your families are all keeping safe during this unprecedented time.

Respectfully submitted,

Ciara