

What are the ideal qualities of a Library Board member?

The ideal Library Board member should:

- believe that the library is integral to the quality of life in the community;
- understand that the library is more than just books. It is a hub for the community – a gathering place with many tools, resources, and programs;
- demonstrate concern and pride for the community;
- have a passion for reading and literacy;
- have the ability to approach challenges and people with an open mind; and
- work well in a team environment – respecting a variety of opinions and committed to working together for the good of the community



What is a library board?

All Public Libraries in Ontario are governed by the Public Libraries Act.

The act spells out the responsibilities and requirements of both the Library and its Board. The Board is responsible for determining the purpose via strategic planning for the Library and ensuring that it achieves these goals.

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Learn more about the

Township of Russell Public Library Board





We would love to have you !

What is the Term of a Library Board member?

Four years – Library Board terms coincide with the terms of the municipal council.

Is the Board Volunteer-Based?

Library Board positions are volunteer positions, and therefore, members are not paid for their time.

When Does the Board Meet?

Currently, the Township of Russell Public Library Board meets on the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm. These meetings may be held in person or via Zoom, and typically last 1-2 hours.

What are the main tasks of the Library Board?

The Board is responsible for determining the purpose and direction of our community library services. It must continuously monitor and adapt its services to changing user and environmental needs. Tasks include:

- Provide strategic **direction and governance** of the Township of Russell Public Library
- Act as an **advocate** for the Library in the community and with Municipal Council
- Provide support in **policy development**
- Support **fundraising efforts**
- Attend **Library events** & provide **volunteer support**
- Evaluate the **strategic direction** of the Library & adjust as necessary
- Evaluate its own **effectiveness** and adjust as necessary

What Time Commitments are required as a Board Member?

Board members attend a regular meeting each month and participate on one or more sub-committees. Board members should expect to commit up to 5 hours per month. Time commitments can vary monthly depending on the workloads of various committees and upcoming projects.

What are the qualifications required to be a Library Board member?

The candidate is:

- 18 years or older;
- a Canadian Citizen;
- a resident of the Township of Russell;
- comfortable being in a bilingual environment;
- not employed by the Board of the Library or by the Township;
- participating as an individual and not representing any organization or special interest group; and
- available to attend meetings and other activities of the board.

What kind of committees do Board members sit on?

Library Board members serve on either standing or ad-hoc committees and the Board may strike any new committee as needed for upcoming projects. The Board has a standing Policy Review committee, with ad-hoc committees that can include, but are not limited to, Human Resources (for CEO hiring and evaluations), strategic planning, legacy development, communications, etc. Board members may also be asked to join other committees on behalf of the Library Board such as the Ontario Library Services Trustees, etc.

