



## **2022 LETTER FROM THE BOARD**

We continue to experience various levels of disruption two years into the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the pandemic started HPL has been focused on keeping staff and Library members safe while ensuring we play a positive role in helping Hamiltonians get through the public health crisis. We are proud of the support, leadership, and innovation that HPL has demonstrated during the pandemic and extend our deep appreciation to Library staff.

Although the pandemic is not over yet, with 2022 being the final full year of this Library Board, we will continue working with staff to complete the Strategic Plan. That process should build on the past work that has been done but also be forward looking to ensure HPL adjusts its priorities to meet new opportunities and challenges facing the community. The Board looks forward to the implementation of the new service hours model this year. Expanding access and providing residents with less complicated service hours will be a key part of HPL growing members as we remain vital to those that already use us.

HPL has a long history of successful partnerships which we should continue to utilize and build on as we work to address the challenges and opportunities of residents. We encourage staff to build on the work that has been done to enhance the Hamilton Red Book. HPL has an important role to play in ensuring our community has up-to-date information about services and supports available to residents of Hamilton. Connecting people with resources and supports is a core role of a public library. Actively embracing that role will be important as residents experience challenges during the post pandemic recovery period. We are excited about the HSR/Presto pass collaboration and hope it will create new opportunities for children to discover their City. We look forward to working with staff to continue to build important partnerships advancing reconciliation with Indigenous communities and bringing access to cultural and learning experiences.

We congratulate staff for two years of outstanding growth in digital content and service under numerous and challenging restrictions. We encourage you to explore ways we can utilize resources, technology, and partnerships with other allied groups and organizations to create a more inclusive and sustainable prosperity that will support the recovery of Hamilton. As HPL strives toward increasing its positive impact we encourage staff to work with each other and management on applying past successful strategies to new opportunities and challenges.

We encourage ongoing efforts towards measuring the value of work and basing service decisions on research and collective impact. It means meeting new priorities by shifting current resources and using technology and process changes to improve how the work is done. It also includes working with academic partners committed to helping us better understand what factors lead to meaningful impacts. We look forward to learning more about the research that HPL is involved with in advancing youth literacy, digital literacy and helping seniors stay socially engaged and healthy. We encourage HPL to continue to support innovative programs like City Labs, City School by Mohawk and the Experience Annex. When public health regulations allow it, we look forward to HPL hosting in person events again. We encourage staff to restart in person programs in an intentional and gradual way that includes more HPL community partner co-lead programs.

2022 promises to be another exciting year for facility renewal. We look forward to the opening of the Valley Park and Carlisle branches this year. We ask staff to continue to work on the Mount

Hope feasibility study and find a path forward for that location. Staff should continue to work with our municipal partners on the long-term health of our facilities. We are proud of the work that has gone into making Valley Park the most environmentally sustainable branch to date and we encourage staff to look for new opportunities to improve the energy efficiency and reduce the environmental impacts of our facilities and operations.

The Board is proud that HPL is an internationally recognized innovative leader in public library service. We are proud of the work staff have done during these challenging times and we encourage you to continue to work together and to support each other. For as long as is needed, please continue to follow public health guidance to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread. Stay well as you continue to focus on providing as much assistance and service to community members as you safely can.

Hamilton Public Library Board  
January 2022