



Board Advocacy Policy

For: The Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry
County Library Board

Policy No.: GOV-01

Policy Type: Governance

Effective Date: November 23, 2023
First Approved October 20, 2016

Purpose:

To fulfill its commitment to govern the SDG Library as an essential community service and to build community pride in the Library system, the Library Board must ensure that the community is aware of the importance of the SDG Library and that funding bodies fully understand the important role which the Library plays in the lives of residents of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.

Through its advocacy work, the Library Board seeks to promote the profile of the Library and enhance its importance to the community. This policy sets out the advocacy responsibilities of the Board.

Responsibilities:

- 1) The Board Chair, or delegate, shall be the official spokesperson for the SDG Library on issues approved by the Board.
- 2) The CEO, or delegate, shall be the official spokesperson for the SDG Library on operational issues.
- 3) In pursuing its advocacy activities, the Board shall work collaboratively with staff to:
 - a. Inform Council of the needs of the community, the development of Library services, plans and achievements by means of reports;
 - b. Meet with Council on a regular basis to review progress and/or discuss funding needs;
 - c. Participate regularly in activities that build relationships with individuals and organizations that share interests with those of the SDG Library; and
 - d. Identify and respond to issues, concerns and government policies that may directly or indirectly affect the SDG Library and ensure that government decision makers at all levels are aware of the value of the Library and its benefit to individuals and to the community.
- 4) Individual trustees shall not initiate advocacy activities without the support and consent of the Board, but all trustees are encouraged to:
 - a. Inform family, friends, and acquaintances that they are a member of the Board;
 - b. Encourage people to use the Library;
 - c. Promote the vision and mission statements as set forward within the Strategic Plan; and
 - d. Welcome feedback and suggestions from Library patrons and share this feedback with the CEO and the Library Board.

Source(s): Southern Ontario Library Service (SOLS) – Board Advocacy, revised June 2014