



Governance Committee Report to the FGPL Annual General Meeting June 2025

The Governance Committee is pleased to report that the Friends of the Guelph Public Library has made significant progress in modernizing its governance structure over the past year, in alignment with our newly adopted **three-year Strategic Plan**—the first in the organization's history.

As part of this modernization, we undertook a comprehensive review and update of the FGPL **Bylaws**, with the following key changes:

- A **name change** from the "Executive" to the **Board of Directors**, reflecting current non-profit governance standards and aligning our terminology with our growing organizational needs.
- The **integration of the new membership model**, to ensure the Bylaws reflect and support expanded community engagement and participation.
- Updates to **align the Bylaws with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA)**. While FGPL is not formally regulated under ONCA, these changes ensure our governance framework follows sector best practices and provides clarity and consistency.

These bylaw updates form a strong foundation to support the Strategic Plan's core priorities, including:

- Building a **renewed and collaborative relationship with the Guelph Public Library**;
- Setting clear **fundraising goals and objectives** to support future initiatives;
- **Succession planning** to ensure leadership continuity and organizational sustainability;
- Providing robust **support for the new central library**;
- Developing a new sustainable **Book Sale Model**;
- Strengthening **advocacy on behalf of the Guelph Public Library** in the broader community.

Looking ahead, the Governance Committee will begin work on developing a comprehensive **Policy Manual** over the next one to two years. This document will provide clear operational guidelines and help bring the Strategic Plan to life through transparent and effective governance practices.

We thank the Board for its continued support and look forward to contributing to the next phase of FGPL's growth.

Respectfully submitted,

FGPL Governance – Lynn Allen, Joanne Grodzinski, Ian Findlay