

# Federation of Ontario Public Libraries

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## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Telling Our Stories A Province-wide Contest about the Magic of Libraries**

**Toronto, ON. October 12, 2006:** There are millions of stories to be told about public libraries in Ontario. The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL), TVO and TFO want to hear yours.

Today, Telling Our Stories officially launches a province-wide contest that invites Ontario residents who are 18 years of age and older to share their personal stories of how public libraries have made a difference to them or their families.

The contest launch will take place on Monday October 16, 10-11 a.m., at the Hamilton Public Library Central Branch, located at 55 York Boulevard in Hamilton, Ontario. The Minister of Culture, Caroline Di Cocco will also be in attendance, to proclaim the start of Ontario Public Library Week.

"There is such a strong connection between people and their local public library," said Paula Todd, host of TVO's Person 2 Person, and spokesperson for Telling Our Stories. "The library had a great influence on me and my career choice. We want Ontarians to tell us their own magical library moments."

The bilingual contest runs from October 16 to November 30 2006. The top three winning stories in English and French will be awarded cash prizes of \$1,500 (first prize), \$1,000 (second prize) and \$500 (third prize). In addition, donations of \$250 will be made in the name of the six winners and top 10 runners-up to the Ontario public library of their choice.

Stories will be voted on by the public online, and a short list will be presented to a panel of distinguished judges for their final decision.

Sharing in the enthusiasm for this initiative is the Honourable James K. Bartleman, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Honorary Patron of Telling Our Stories. Mr. Bartleman has made literacy one of the priorities of his office, and has been instrumental in creating new opportunities for aboriginal youth by launching programs that promote literacy.

To ensure high participation by Ontario residents, both for story submissions and public voting for their favourite stories, the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries has partnered with Ontario's educational media organizations, TVO, and its Franco-Ontarian counterpart,

TFO. TVO and TFO will promote the contest on air and encourage Ontarians to participate at [tvo.org/tellingourstories](http://tvo.org/tellingourstories) and at [tfo.org/racontonsnoshistoires](http://tfo.org/racontonsnoshistoires).

"TVO is all about engaging people in learning and in their communities, and libraries can play a powerful role in making that happen," says Nancy Chapelle, Managing Director of TVO. "We're very excited about Paula's role in Telling Our Stories and the part that TVO will play. We look forward to sharing our story of a successful partnership with the Federation."

For more information, contact:

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The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries was established in 2005 to provide a single voice for Ontario's public libraries with province-wide advocacy, research, marketing and consortia purchasing initiatives. The Federation is owned and directed by its membership of over 160 libraries that serve a population of more than 8,000,000 in large, small, urban and rural communities throughout Ontario.

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