

# **Development Charges Act & Public Libraries**

**Update from Ontario Library Association – October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Our Voice Was Heard!**

**OLA and the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL) have been working on this very important government relations initiative: Development Charges**

## **Ontario Public Libraries and Development Charges:**

The COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020, amended the Development Charges Act, to make services including public libraries recoverable through development charges.

Community benefits charges (CBCs) work with development charges to ensure that municipalities have the revenue tools and resources they need to build complete communities while making the costs of building housing more predictable.

Public libraries depend on development charge revenue to fund new and renovated buildings, digital infrastructure, and library collection growth in order to keep up with the increases in demand for library space and resources in growing communities across Ontario.

OLA and FOPL work with Counsel Public Affairs to ensure that the library sector voice is heard regarding government decisions that may impact our sector. The inclusion of public libraries in the changes to this regulation is a result of a year-long effort. This new regulation will have a multi-million dollar positive impact for libraries and the communities they serve. We would like to thank Devan Sommerville, Associate Vice President, Counsel Public Affairs Inc., Stephen Abram and FOPL for taking the lead on this important portfolio.

[Details on the process and regulation:](https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-1406)  
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