LiRN
Legal Information and Resource Network

LiRN Board Meeting

Tue Jun 2, 2026 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT

Attendance

Members

Present: Theresa Leitch, Augustine Krawchenko, Fernando Garcia, Brenda Albuquerque-Boutilier, Anthony Gonsalves, Vicki Whitmell, Edward Chadderton, Susan Virtue, Heather Ritchie, Hor Druma, Mofola Lyon

Absent: Annette Demers, Connie Crosby

Guests: Jennifer Walker

1. Introduction (V. Whitmell)

1.1. Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the work of LIRN and Ontario's county courthouse libraries takes place on traditional Indigenous territories across the province. We acknowledge that there are 46 treaties and other agreements that cover this territory. We are thankful to be able to work and live in these territories and are grateful to the First Nations, Metis and Inuit people who have cared for these territories since time immemorial. We also wish to acknowledge the Ancestral Traditional Territories of the Ojibway, the Anishinaabe and, in particular, the Mississaugas of the New Credit upon whose territory our central office is located. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties.

1.2. Call to Order

1.3. Roll Call / Confirmation of Quorum

1.4. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

1.5. MOTION: Approval of Agenda

> Motion to approve agenda with amendment to have the Governance Committee Report first:
> Moved by A. Krawchenko
> Seconded by H. Ritchie
> All in favour

Carried

2. Consent Agenda (V. Whitmell)

2.1. Chair's Remarks

Chair's Remarks: V. Whitmell will be stepping down as Chair and as a board member as of the Annual General Meeting, June 19, 2026.

2.2. MOTION: Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of the March 26, 2026 Board Meeting:
Moved by A. Krawchenko
Seconded by T. Chadderton
All in favour
Carried

3. Governance Committee Report (F. Garcia)

The Governance Committee presented a series of policies, including the Training Policy, Travel Policy, Workplace AI Policy, and Policy Oversight Policy. These were approved without amendment.

Motion to approve the Training and Development Policy, Travel and Business Expenses Policy, Workplace AI Policy, and Policy Oversight Policy.
Moved by M. Lyon
Seconded by H. Druma
All in Favour
Carried

3.1. Discussion on Chair Succession Planning

Discussion focused on succession planning for the Chair role. The Governance Committee will lead the process of identifying candidates and developing a formal framework, with final approval to occur at the Annual General Meeting in June. Members discussed potential interest in the role and the need to review term limits and current Board composition. The chair is selected by the board from its members and requires shareholder approval at the AGM; a nominating committee is required for new board member recruitment.

4. Audit and Finance Committee Report (T. Chadderton)

4.1. LiRN Inc. First Quarter Financial Statements

4.1.1. LIRN Inc. 2026 First Quarter Financial Statements Narrative

4.1.2. LiRN Financial Statements Q1 2026

A. Gonsalves noted a modest surplus and overall stable financial position. It was observed that while revenues exceeded expenses, ongoing financial pressures remain, particularly due to discrepancies between inflation-level funding increases and higher publisher cost increases.

4.2. Core Assumptions for LiRN's 2027 Budget

Associations have been asked to limit grant requests to a 3% increase, with a business case required for exceptions.

4.3. Individual Association Updates

The Board reviewed the Nipissing Law Association's financial situation following a financial review conducted by Welch LLP. The review found no evidence of fraud but identified issues related to commingling of funds and recommended improved accounting practices. Based on these findings, the Board approved the release of Nipissing's funding for Q4 2025 as well as Q1 and Q2 2026, while deciding to withhold Q3 2026 funding pending completion of the review.

4.3.1. Nipissing

Decision Required

That grant payment funds be released for the Nipissing Law Association for 2025 Q4, 2026 Q1 and 2026 Q2. The grant payment for 2026 Q3 will not be released until the financial review has been concluded.
Moved by T. Chadderton
Seconded by H. Druma
All in favour
Carried

4.4. Revised 2026 Budget and Explanation

4.4.1. Revised Budget Versions A and B

The revised budget 2B was approved for submission to the Law Society of Ontario.

Motion to approve the Version 2B of the Revised 2026 Budget for presentation to the Law Society of Ontario's Audit and Finance Committee, with LiRN management authorized to spend any surplus funds as needed.
Moved by T. Chadderton
Seconded by H. Ritchie
All in favour
Carried

5. Network Policy Committee Report

The Network Policy Committee has not met since the last Board meeting and anticipates bringing a report including the revised Library Operations Policy to the next meeting of the Board.

6. Managing Director's Report (T. Leitch)

Jen Walker was introduced as a new contract law librarian supporting the LiRN LiNK project. The Board expressed enthusiasm about this addition.

Updates were also provided about certain associations where concerns are being monitored. Planning for the upcoming Ottawa Board retreat is well underway, including logistical arrangements and finalization of the agenda. Work continues on implementing a grant management system, with timing dependent on operational capacity.

7. Any Other Business

None

8. In Camera Session

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:55 PM when the Board went in-camera.