



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Vaughan Public Library Board Awarded Joyce Cunningham Award for Board of the Year

VAUGHAN, ONTARIO – The Vaughan Public Library (VPL) Board and other Ontario Library Boards have received the Joyce Cunningham Award for Library Board of the Year. This award is given to a Public Library Board that participated in a collaborative effort that has demonstrated a high level of collaboration and innovation to produce outstanding results. The high-performance Public Library Board awarded this prestigious award is a team of goal-oriented, highly-skilled individuals who value diversity and demonstrate their commitment to the team and support team success.

VPL's Library Board's devotion to building a world-class library system for everyone, cultivating relationships and formal partnerships, and championing a healthy and dynamic workplace for all staff is a small fraction of why they received this award.

Key Accomplishments:

- VPL was the first library in Ontario to introduce curbside pickup on May 20, 2020. Almost 700,000 items were borrowed through this service, while VPL's Resource Libraries were open
- VPL was required to pivot to a digital model for programming, and under their direction, an average of 5,000 customers attended virtual programs every month
- In the Summer of 2020, the VPL Board removed a significant barrier to library access by adopting a Fine Free policy allowing 3,000 customers to borrow from the collection once again
- The Reflection of Racism & Discrimination series was led by Vice Chair of the Board and attended by over 700 customers
- The VPL Board has overseen significant growth, which will see the number of branches grow from 10 to 13 during their term. As a result of an ingenious partnership with Mackenzie Health, Mackenzie Health Vaughan Library opened in September 2021 and is supplying medical research support

“I am proud to share that The Vaughan Public Library Board, along with other Ontario Library Boards, has received the Joyce Cunningham Award for Library Board of the Year. This award recognizes the dedication of Boards to adapt and respond to customer needs – something that has been especially critical during the pandemic – and is yet another example of how everyone at VPL is committed to excellence and service.”

- **Rose Savage, Chair, Vaughan Public Library Board**

“Each trustee brings a personal commitment to the belief in the exceptional value of public libraries and their essential role enhancing, building and improving the community. Philosophical support of the purpose of public libraries is consistent among all VPL trustees”

- **Margie Singleton, CEO, Vaughan Public Libraries**



“The City of Vaughan supports learning as a lifelong pursuit, which is reflected in our efforts to foster and enhance the library experience for citizens and visitors. The VPL board works to ensure that Vaughan libraries continue to provide the highest level of service and are in pace with our rapidly growing municipality”

- **Hon. Maurizio Bevilacqua, Mayor of Vaughan**

“The VPL Board’s partnership with Mackenzie Health, led by Board Chair, Rose Savage, demonstrates their commitment to innovation and leadership in the sector. The partnership is an exemplary model of high performance, and collaboration, with the goal of serving the needs of our communities, and leveraging the diversity and strengths of both organizations”

- **Altat Stationwala, President and CEO, Mackenzie Health**

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