



Report to: Stratford Public Library Board
Meeting Date: January 7, 2020
From: Julia Merritt, CEO
Subject: Changes to the *Public Libraries Act*

There have been two amendments to the *Public Libraries Act* (PLA) that came into effect in December as part of the government's *Better for People, Smarter for Business Act, 2019*.

The first amendment, to section 10(1) of the PLA, will permit Canadian permanent residents to serve as public library board members. Prior to this amendment, only Canadian citizens were permitted to serve on public library boards. This amendment provides boards with a larger and more diverse pool of potential board members.

The second amendment, to section 16(1) of the PLA, reduces the minimum number of annual public library board meetings from ten per year to seven per year. This amendment provides more flexibility for public library boards to determine the appropriate number of meetings needed for their local circumstances.

Staff Assessment

At this time, staff recommend the Board keep its current schedule of ten meetings per year, as this will enable business to be conducted in a timely manner. However, the change to the legislation would mean that if there were to be a meeting without quorum, there would be no need to schedule an additional meeting.