



Councillor Paul W. Ainslie
City of Toronto Councillor
Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood
Chair, General Government Committee
Chair, Scarborough Community Council
Chair, Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo
Chair, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
Chair, Federation of Ontario Public Libraries
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Councillor Paul Ainslie Awarded the OPLA James Bain Medallion Public Library Board Member of the Year

Toronto – on Thursday January 25, at the Public Library Awards Gala on-site at the Ontario Library Association (OLA) Super Conference, Councillor Paul Ainslie was honored with the OPLA James Bain Medallion: Public Library Board Member of the Year Award. Councillor Ainslie has been dedicated to public libraries for almost two decades, serving on the Toronto Public Library Board (TPL) and Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL). The award applauds Councillor Paul Ainslie's outstanding leadership in the governance of public libraries.

Councillor Ainslie's consistent governance contribution is highlighted in the Toronto City Librarian's Report for January 2024, "Over the past 18 years, Councillor Paul Ainslie has been a champion of TPL's services at City Council and has provided invaluable guidance to the Board and TPL's leadership team. In addition, Councillor Ainslie has provided leadership for public libraries in Ontario...[in] receiving this well-deserved award." Councillor Ainslie combines his leadership and experience to realize the potential of public libraries in education, cultural enrichment, and community development.

Public libraries play a vital role in reducing the knowledge gap and subsequently promoting lifelong learning, social inclusion, and economic development. Public libraries are more than just book repositories; they are a testament to economic and social equality and inclusivity.

James Bain was the first President of the Ontario Library Association in 1901, playing a pivotal and influential role in shaping the early development of libraries in Ontario. Following the path James Bain started, Councillor Ainslie said, "I accept this award with a deep sense of responsibility and a commitment to continue advocating for the values that make public libraries indispensable." Councillor Ainslie will maintain his steadfast commitment entailed in the award.

For More Information:

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