

For Immediate Release
October 21, 2005

OTTAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAM A FINALIST FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE AWARDS

Culture Minister Celebrates Ontario Public Library Week At Vanier Branch

OTTAWA — Ottawa Public Library's innovative *More Than Meets The Eye* enhanced membership program is a finalist for the Ontario Public Library Service Awards and already a great success in the community, Minister of Culture Madeleine Meilleur said today during a special celebration at the library's Vanier branch.

Meilleur visited the library to mark the end of Ontario Public Library Week and participated in an event that included a special reading for children from École élémentaire publique Le Trillium. The theme for Ontario Public Library Week this year is *Destination Imagination*. "We should all be very proud of our public libraries," said Meilleur. "Our libraries give us so much more than just books. During this week, we also recognize the educational, cultural and economic contributions they make to our communities."

Ottawa was one of 12 Ontario communities nominated on October 17 as a finalist for the Public Library Service Awards. Winners will be announced at the Ontario Library Association's annual Super Conference in February. The Ottawa Public Library is nominated for a program that offers library card holders discounts and improved access to many of Ottawa's recreation, cultural and educational institutions.

"We are very excited about being chosen as a finalist for this award," said Barbara Clubb, City Librarian and CEO of the Ottawa Public Library. "*More Than Meets The Eye* is a community-centred philosophy designed to give Ottawa residents the best possible experience at their public libraries."

The Ontario government invests more than \$28.4 million in public libraries annually, in recognition of their efforts to promote literacy for children and adults, attract more lifelong learners and advance success in the classroom.

Those efforts can be seen in the provincewide test results announced by Education Minister Gerard Kennedy, this past Wednesday. For the 2004-05 school year, Francophone students improved in many areas. In some subjects, such as writing, they are already very close to meeting the provincial targets.

“By helping our children excel in the classroom and nurturing their imagination, our libraries ensure a brighter future for all Ontarians,” said Meilleur. “They are great community resources. I encourage everyone to make their local libraries a ‘must-see’ on their destination list.”

-30-

Contacts:

Carole Drouin
Minister’s Office
416-325-1676

Lisa Robart
Communications Branch
416-314-3497

Disponible en français

www.culture.gov.on.ca