



The Corporation of the
City of Sault Ste. Marie

COUNCIL REPORT

October 14, 2025

TO: Mayor Matthew Shoemaker and Members of City Council
AUTHOR: Jeffrey King, City Solicitor
DEPARTMENT: Legal Department
RE: Establishment of Public Library

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval of a by-law to establish a Public Library for the City of Sault Ste. Marie.

Background

It has come to the attention of the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Board that no establishing by-law was ever passed by the municipality.

Analysis

The *Public Libraries Act* was first passed in 1895. Minutes of a Town of Sault Ste. Marie Council meeting dated August 31, 1896, indicate that a delegation attended the Council meeting and asked that Council assume the management of the Public Library making it a free library. A motion was passed to that effect.

On September 28, 1896, the Council received correspondence from a Dr. May indicating that “a by-law was not necessary to take over the Public Library, having done so by resolution”.

The current *Public Libraries Act* provides “The Council of a municipality may by by-law establish a public library.”

It is the wish of the Public Library Board that Council pass an establishing by-law. Staff has no objection to passing a by-law.

Financial Implications

There is no financial impact.

Strategic Plan / Policy Impact / Climate Impact

The Public Library is a significant partner in fulfilling the Quality of Life goals under the corporate Strategic Plan.

Recommendation

It is therefore recommended that Council take the following action:

The relevant By-law 2025-149 is listed under item 12 of the Agenda and will be read with all by-laws under that item.

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Respectfully submitted,

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