

**Report to / Rapport au:**

**Ottawa Public Library Board  
Conseil d'administration de la bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa**

**October 13, 2020 / 13 octobre 2020**

**Submitted by / Soumis par:  
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**File Number: OPLB-2020-1003**

**SUBJECT: Order of Friendship Nomination – The United Muslim Organizations  
of Ottawa-Gatineau (UMOOG)**

**OBJET: Nomination de l'Ordre de l'amitié – Organisations musulmanes unies  
d'Ottawa-Gatineau (UMOOG)**

#### **REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Ottawa Public Library Board approve The United Muslim Organizations of Ottawa-Gatineau (UMOOG) for the Order of Friendship, in recognition of their impact in the community via their partnership with the Ottawa Public Library to deliver Summer Reading Club Make-It-Kits to vulnerable children aged 6 to 12.**

#### **RECOMMANDATION DU RAPPORT**

**Que le Conseil d'administration de la Bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa approuve la nomination des United Muslim Organizations of Ottawa-Gatineau (UMOOG) pour le prix de l'Ordre de l'amitié, en reconnaissance de leur implication au sein de la communauté par le biais de leur partenariat avec la Bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa pour la distribution de sacs brico biblio dans le cadre du Club de lecture d'été aux enfants vulnérables âgés de 6 à 12 ans.**

## BACKGROUND

As per Board Policy 019 OPLB – Order of Friendship, the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) Board recognizes exceptional volunteer contributions made to the OPL by individuals, groups, and / or institutions. Eligible contributions are those that help to improve the OPL's ability to deliver services to the community, furthering the OPL's mission.

The OPL Board Order of Friendship is awarded in the second and fourth years of the term, upon nomination by Trustees. The purpose of this report is to put forth a nomination for consideration.

## DISCUSSION

The United Muslim Organizations of Ottawa-Gatineau (UMOOG), led by Jalil Marnhouj, is a group of ten mosques and community centres in the national capital region. UMOOG and Ms. Marnhouj are nominated for the OPL Board Order of Friendship for their contributions to the community through:

- a) Their role in supporting Ottawa residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, engaging 250+ volunteers for a variety of projects; and,
- b) Their role in supporting the OPL's pandemic response, by helping deliver Summer Reading Club Make-It-Kits to vulnerable children aged 6 to 12.

The United Muslim Organizations of Ottawa-Gatineau have supported many residents at risk of social isolation during the pandemic. UMOOG volunteers have delivered groceries, medicine, and supplies for elderly, at-risk, and / or immunocompromised residents, as well as single-parent families with children. UMOOG has also provided financial support, such as assistance with purchasing food kits, medicine, and supplies, to those who have lost their primary source of income. They have also provided 1,000 families with 80,000 meals.

During the summer, UMOOG partnered with OPL to deliver Make-It Kits to families. Make-It Kits were created by OPL to bring Summer Reading Club activities to vulnerable Ottawa families: the kits include supplies and instructions for ten Summer Reading Club-themed activities (also available on OPL's YouTube channel). UMOOG helped connect Library staff with families who might benefit from a kit, Library staff assembled and delivered the kits to UMOOG volunteers, and these volunteers delivered 200 Make-It-Kits to families. UMOOG has been a key part of connecting OPL to the

community, ensuring many more children were able to participate in Summer Reading Club activities this year.

### **CONSULTATION**

An Ad hoc Committee was established in September 2020 composed of Trustees Meehan and Slack to review nominations and provide recommendations to the Board.

Trustees were asked to provide nominations by September 2020. Three nominations were received. The Order of Friendship Ad hoc Committee of the Board discussed the nominations and supports the recommendation outlined in this report.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no risk management implications associated with this report.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Financial expenditures associated with this Order of Friendship nomination (award, presentation) are provided through the OPL Board budget at approximately \$250.00.

### **ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS**

There are no accessibility impacts associated with this report.

### **TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no technology implications associated with this report.

### **BOARD PRIORITIES**

This aligns with the OPL Board Strategic Directions and Priorities, specifically: SUCCESS through learning, literacy, and innovation: Strengthen the Library's reach and value.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

Document 1 – Nomination form (*Held on file with the Chief Executive Officer*).

**DISPOSITION**

Pending Board approval of the nomination, family and friends of the UMOOG will be notified of the Board's decision. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a presentation will be made to the group at a future meeting of the OPL Board meeting (likely via videoconference). A webpage under the Board heading on OPL's website will be established, acknowledging UMOOG as an Order of Friendship recipient.