

A passionate believer in the power of public libraries to stimulate positive change through community engagement, Rebecca Raven is the CEO of Brampton Library. She is co-creator and Program Director of the Public Library Leadership Program (PLLeaders). From puppeteering and storytelling to steering strategic planning and capital building, Rebecca reflects on her past quarter century as a hands-on librarian and top-level administrator and sees a bright future for public libraries here and around the world.

What are you getting out of the PLLeaders program now?

My involvement with the PLLeaders program has been among the most rewarding activities of my professional career. With the fourth cohort now halfway through the program, we have facilitated a network of nearly 100 professionals from across the country who are benefitting from their investment in themselves and the profession. The opportunity to hear and learn from the leaders of Canada's exemplary library systems is a unique aspect of the program that has been invaluable to me in role at Brampton. The 'behind-the-scenes' stories from senior teams about their successes and more importantly, their challenges has given me the courage and the confidence to take more positive risks in my leadership.

How do you see it being transformative in the future?

I have already seen the transformative impacts of the PLLeaders program within the sector. A large percentage of graduates have already moved into CEO and other senior positions across the country and they are launching into their new positions with a much more well informed, more authentic perspective of what the job is all about. I am thrilled to see so many PLLeader grads at the CULC table and to hear how the program has positively impacted their professional lives. The value of a national, professional network of colleagues, for support and consultation cannot be overstated. These connections and the shared vision for public library success that will grow from them will be the lasting value of the program.