



Press release from the Pickering Public Library, July 20, 2026

The Pickering Public Library Board is pleased to announce the appointment of ***Kristine D'Souza*** as Chief Executive Officer and Director of Public Libraries, effective July 20, 2026.

D'Souza brings more than 22 years of public library experience and a strong record of strategic leadership, organizational transformation, community engagement, and service innovation. Throughout her career, she has worked to ensure public libraries remain accessible, inclusive, and responsive community spaces where people can learn, connect, and thrive.

Most recently, D'Souza served as Director of Public Services with Kingston Frontenac Public Library, overseeing branch operations, programming, and collections across its 16-branch system. She previously served as Chief Librarian and Library Services Manager for Lennox and Addington Libraries and held several leadership positions with Ottawa Public Library.

Her experience includes modernizing library services, strengthening community partnerships, securing funding, and leading organizational, technological, and service improvements designed around evolving community needs.

“Following an extensive national recruitment process, we are delighted to welcome Kristine D'Souza to Pickering,” said Akeem Maginley, Chair of the Pickering Public Library Board. “Ms. D'Souza's proven leadership, strategic vision, commitment to public service, and passion for community engagement make her exceptionally well-positioned to lead the Pickering Public Library into its next chapter. We are confident she will build upon the Library's strong foundation and continue to enhance services for our patrons.”

“I am incredibly honoured to join Pickering Public Library and excited to work alongside its talented and award-winning team, dedicated Board, and the broader community,” said D'Souza. “Libraries create opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to discover, learn and connect. I look forward to listening to the community, building on the Library's many existing strengths, and helping shape innovative and inclusive services for Pickering's future.”

D'Souza holds a Master of Library and Information Science and a degree in Community and Ethnic Studies.

Pickering Public Library serves approximately 46,000 active members and is recognized as one of Ontario's most highly used, well-supported and award-winning library systems. Guided by its mission to inspire a thriving community, the Library brings people together to discover, learn, play and connect.



Up close and personal

Kristine D'Souza

CEO – Director Pickering Public Library

Kristine D'Souza

*Director, Public Services — Kingston Frontenac
Public Library*

Professional Background

Kristine D'Souza serves as Director, Public Services for the Kingston Frontenac Public Library (KFPL),

the system that operates the Central Branch and community locations across Kingston and Frontenac County, Ontario. In this role, she helps guide the library's public-facing programs and services, working to keep KFPL's branches accessible, welcoming, and responsive to the communities they serve.

D'Souza brings more than ten years of library and information-services experience to her work, including leading large-scale projects at the Ottawa Public Library before moving into management roles closer to home. Before joining KFPL, she served as Library Service Manager and Chief Librarian for the County of Lennox and Addington (L&A) Libraries, leading the system's branches in Amherstview, Napanee, Bath, Tamworth, and Yarker. During her tenure there, she was the driving force behind the library's popular “Beyond Books Collection,” a lending program that expanded well past traditional titles to include musical instruments, sewing machines, board games, a telescope, and themed experience kits for birding, stargazing, nature walks, and local history exploration. She also helped grow the system's Ontario Parks Pass program, which the library launched in 2021 to give area families free access to provincial parks.

Speaking about that work in 2025, D'Souza said: “We are incredibly proud of our commitment to supporting our community with free, enriching experiences.” It's a line that captures the throughline of her career: libraries as places that offer far more than books, and a conviction that access to those experiences shouldn't come with a price tag.

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Beyond the Job Title

D'Souza's career has moved from Ottawa's large public library system into the smaller, closer-knit communities of Eastern Ontario, a shift she's spoken about as a deliberate choice rather than a detour. When she took the reins at L&A Libraries in 2024, she was introduced to the Rotary Club of Napanee as someone who chose to make the county her home for its small-town charm and welcoming spirit, bringing big-system experience to a community that prizes personal connection. She is also a proud mom of young kids, a fact her new neighbours in Napanee heard about within her first few months on the job, alongside her plans for new library partnerships and programs.

That same instinct — to know a community and build things it actually wants — has carried through her work: less about circulation numbers and more about the parent who can borrow a telescope for a weekend, the teenager who picks up a board game kit, or the family stretching a summer budget with a free museum pass. Colleagues describe her leadership style as patron-first and hands-on, the kind of approach that shows up in the details of a program rather than in a mission statement.