



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Toronto Public Library – Location of St. Lawrence Branch at the First Parliament Site

Date:	November 19, 2012
To:	City of Toronto Budget Committee
From:	City Librarian

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek City Council approval for the First Parliament site at 271 Front Street East to be the future location for the St. Lawrence branch, which is slated for relocation with construction beginning in 2016.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Toronto Public Library Board recommends that City Council:

1. approves the First Parliament site for the relocation of the St. Lawrence Branch currently slated to begin in 2016, to the First Parliament site at 271 Front Street East, subject to successful negotiation of the exchange of lands at 271 Front Street East and 25 Berkeley Street for 281 Front Street and 43A Parliament Street.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

As the First Parliament site is under City ownership, Council approval is required to locate the St. Lawrence branch on the site.

The budget to relocate and expand the St. Lawrence branch is part of the Library's 10-year capital plan, currently slated to begin in 2016.

The Director, Finance and Treasurer has reviewed this financial impact statement and is in agreement with it.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on July 11, 12 and 13, 2012, Council considered the *Acquisition of the First Parliament Site, 271 Front Street East and 25 Berkeley Street* report and adopted a number of recommendations that allowed the City to gain ownership of the First Parliament Site through an exchange of lands at 48A Parliament Street and 281 Front Street East. The current location at 281 Front Street East is the Library's Processing Centre and Facilities operations for the south region, and the Council approval included funding for the relocation of the Library Processing Centre to 1076 Ellesmere Road. The Financial Impact section of the Council report states:

In addition, the St. Lawrence Market Library, included in the 2012 Approved Budget and 2013 to 2020 Capital plan, originally to be located at 281 Front Street will be located at 271 Front Street as a result of this land transaction.

The full report and Council decisions can be found at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.MM25.54>

COMMENTS

The Library's 2012 Approved Capital Budget and 2013 to 2020 Capital Plan includes funding for the expansion and relocation of the St. Lawrence Branch to the 281 Front Street East site to better serve the expanding population in the East Bayfront/West Donlands area as well as its current catchment area. The option to relocate the St. Lawrence Branch to 281 Front Street is no longer available due to the land transaction. As noted in the Council report, the Library's preference is to relocate the St. Lawrence Branch to the first Parliament site.

The current location of the St. Lawrence Branch is in space leased from the Toronto Community Housing Corporation and is not a viable facility for the long-term to serve the expanding population. There are ongoing maintenance issues at the site resulting in leaks and floods in the branch. Further, at 4,833 sq. ft., the branch is significantly undersized and does not have the capacity to meet the service needs of the local community.

At its meeting on September 24, 2012, the Library Board considered the *Relocation of Front Street Operations to Secure the First Parliament Site* report and adopted the following motions:

12-154 *That the Toronto Public Library Board:*

5. *approves the site for the relocation of the St. Lawrence Branch currently slated to begin in 2016, to the First Parliament site at 271 Front Street East, subject to successful negotiation of the exchange of lands at 271 Front Street East and 25 Berkeley Street for 281 Front Street and 43A Parliament Street; and*
6. *requests Council approve this site for the relocated St. Lawrence Branch.*

This reports seeks Council approval for the First Parliament site to be the future location for the St. Lawrence branch.

CONTACT

Anne Bailey; Director, Branch Libraries; Tel: 416-397-5944; Fax: 416-393-7083;
Email: abailey@torontopubliclibrary.ca

SIGNATURE

Jane Pyper
City Librarian