

Toronto Public Library

E-Content Campaign - Draft Municipal Motion

WHEREAS, the City of Toronto recognizes the important role that libraries play in our community. Libraries and the early literacy programs that they run are integral to developing proficient readers and ensuring that children succeed in school. More and more, digital literacy programs run by libraries also help ensure that citizens can contribute to our digital world. Additionally, vulnerable demographic groups, including seniors, low income families, youth, and new Canadians rely on access to libraries as an important tool for their participation in the community – from education to searching for jobs to consuming Canadian cultural materials, and

WHEREAS, libraries in our community recognize that our users increasingly seek to access e-books and other e-content offered by multinational publishers, and that access to those publications is too often curtailed by prohibitively high licensing fees or else entirely denied to Canadian libraries, and

WHEREAS, libraries must be in a position to offer e-books and other e-content to their users as part of their service offering to our community, particularly given the contemporary rapid pace of digitization of educational and cultural materials.

Now, therefore be it resolved that the City of Toronto does hereby:

1. Indicate our support for the Canadian Urban Libraries Council in its efforts to increase access to ebooks and other econtent for library users in Toronto and across Canada;
2. Call on the Federal government to investigate the barriers faced by libraries in acquiring ebooks and other econtent and the problems that poses for vulnerable demographic groups in Canada; and
3. Further ask the Federal government to develop a solution that increases access to ebooks and other econtent across Canada and assists libraries in meeting the cost requirements to acquire e-books and other e-content.