

February 24, 2011

**TO: Mayor and Members of Council**

**FROM: Councillor Sarah Doucette**

**RE: EX 3.4 Toronto Public Library Operating Budget (Rec. # 68)**

As a member of the Toronto Public Library Board, I am writing to seek your support for two amendments to the 2011 Operating Budget:

1. City Council request the Toronto Library Board to defer closure of the Metro Hall branch and relocation of the Urban Affairs collections until the Fort York branch is opened, and staff be authorized to make the necessary budget adjustments (\$0.100 million in 2011) from the 2011 Non-Program Expenditure budget to the Library budget in order to implement this recommendation.
2. City Council authorize an additional draw from the development charge reserves in the amount of \$0.400 million to fund library collections as recommended by the City Librarian as a sustainable funding strategy, for a net \$0 impact on the operating budget.

### **Background**

**At its Nov. 22, 2010, Jan. 6 and Feb. 2, 2011 meetings, the Toronto Public Library Board adopted all but one of the cost reductions recommended by the City Librarian for total reductions of \$1,668,000. The TPL will:**

- Introduce new bulk processing for materials management, eliminating 6 positions for a reduction of \$325,000
- Close the stand-alone Periodicals and Newspapers Department at the Toronto Reference Library, eliminating 8 positions for a reduction of \$594,000
- Absorb the economic adjustment factor of 1.7% for books, for a reduction of \$313,000 (equivalent of 18,400 books)
- Reduce spending in printing, IT and equipment maintenance etc. for savings of \$744,000
- Draw an additional \$400,000 of funding from DC reserves to offset further cuts to the collections budget (to protect purchase of 65,000 books)

The TPL Board **did not agree to close the Metro Hall Urban Affairs branch**, and is seeking a deferral until the Fort York Branch is built.

**The Budget and Executive Committees did not accept the Library Board or Library staff recommended budgets but instead approved a 2011 budget that will:**

- Close the Metro Hall branch in Sept. 2011
- Cut an additional \$400,000 from the collections budget, despite confirmation by Library staff that drawing from DC reserve is a sustainable funding strategy, and has \$0 net impact on operating budget

**Why keep the Metro Hall Urban Affairs Branch open?**

- It serves City staff members who work at Metro Hall. If it's moved to Toronto Reference Library (TRL) they lose easy access to the non-circulating Toronto and Urban Affairs collections
- The TPL will "save" \$400,000 by not paying rent to the City. Facilities Management and Real Estate will have to find another rent-paying user for the space. The costs are simply shifted to another City department.
- The branch also acts as a community branch for hold pick-up and drop off, access to computers, study areas and meeting rooms and research support. Over the past few years, circulation has grown steadily:

|                          | <b>2010</b> | <b>2009</b> | <b>% change</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <b>Total Circulation</b> | 73,121      | 45,517      | 60.6%           |
| <b>Holds Filled</b>      | 34,717      | 28,036      | 23.8%           |

- A new branch will be built in 4 years to serve this growing new neighbourhood

**Why Use \$400,000 from Development Charges to Fund Collections Budget?**

- DC's can be used as a source of revenue to renew Library capital assets (including books) and has been recommended by City Finance staff (and accepted by the Library) for a decade to relieve pressure on the Operating Budget
- Library finance staff have reviewed projections for DC reserves and concluded that there will be "sufficient funds in the DC Reserve account to sustain the \$1.4 annual draw from library collections for the next 10 years"
- DC's will be increased by 25% in each of the next four years

**Conclusion:**

I urge members to support the TPL's proposed budget. It will preserve 60,000 new books and keep open the Metro Hall Urban Affairs branch until new a neighbourhood library is built. The financial off-sets I have proposed are realistic and achievable.