

October 11, 2016

Executive Committee
City of Toronto
Toronto City Hall
10th Floor, West Tower
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Executive Committee Members:

In 1997, Bill and Melinda Gates established a foundation for libraries in North America. Since that time, the Toronto Public Library has received \$1.9 million in funding from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to install 588 Internet accessible workstations throughout the library system, including 100 workstations at Toronto Reference Library, along with applicable software and network upgrades, two learning centres at the Cedarbrae and Richview branches and a public Internet training program.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation established itself as the 21st Century Andrew Carnegie for public libraries and the people and communities they serve. The Gates Foundation was a pioneer in understanding the risks of the digital divide and the importance of digital inclusion. The work of the Gates Foundation has enhanced the capacity, value, and power of public libraries as vital community assets; and the Toronto Public Library and the residents of Toronto have benefited from the vision, commitment, and support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

In recognition of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's extraordinary contribution to libraries in North America, the Urban Libraries Council in Washington, D.C. has requested Library CEOs to ask their jurisdiction's top elected official and legislative body to pass a resolution recognizing the Foundation's contributions.

At the September 26, 2016 meeting of the Toronto Public Library Board, the following motion was adopted:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

- 1. expresses recognition and profound appreciation to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for its ground-breaking work in support of public libraries, its contribution to building the capacity of public libraries and, in particular, its funding to the Toronto Public Library in the amount of \$1.9 million; and*
- 2. requests City of Toronto Council to pass a resolution recognizing the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's support for the Toronto Public Library.*

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I ask for your assistance in obtaining a Toronto City Council resolution of appreciation for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for their support of public libraries.

Your consideration of this request is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Vickery Bowles
City Librarian

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