



**Toronto Public Library  
Workers Union**  
Local 4948

Affiliated with  
CUPE and the  
Toronto & York Region  
Labour Council

**Maureen O'Reilly**  
President

**Brendan Haley**  
Vice-President

**Viveca Gretton**  
Recording Secretary

**Carmela Corrado**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Brian Raymer**  
Toronto Reference Library

**Brandon Haynes**  
North York Central Library

**Jenna Liu**  
North Region

**Karen Smith**  
South Region

**John Puusa**  
East Region

**Karen DeSimone**  
West Region

**Fitzgerald Steele**  
Facilities

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BV 15.1.2

January 10, 2017

Via E-Mail

City of Toronto Budget Committee  
City Hall  
100 Queen St. W.  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Crawford, Chair, and Members of the Budget Committee

**RE: TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY 2017 OPERATING BUDGET**

Our submission today is simple. The City Librarian is recommending a budget increase of .9% which includes a reduction of 8.7 FTEs. But let's call that what it is: a reduction of workers at the library. Again.

Toronto Public Library remains underfunded. A so called .9% increase is a cut to the library budget once again. The Poverty Reduction Strategy as it applies to the library remains unfunded too. Last year you made us fund that too without any additional monies. My guess is that you'll do that again this year. There is a crisis in our capital funding.

During this last round of collective bargaining, and several rounds before it, the library workers preeminent issue has been and will continue to be "precarious work". The issue was not addressed in any substantive way in 2016; in fact, a motion approved last year by this Budget Committee and City Council that would have gone a long way in addressing this issue, has not been acted on at all.

TPLWU Local 4948 maintains that our workforce is 50% part-time and that most of those workers do not have access to adequate sick time, benefits or pension coverage. In addition, our workforce is subject to a very high level of gapping. It really isn't a very good place to work.

It is our youngest workers who are paying the price. The next generation of Torontonians.

**IT'S ALL BUSINESS**

If only it was.



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Our Mayor prides himself in being a businessman and bringing that kind of rational, analytical thinking to city governance.

At the Smarter City Summit, the Toronto Board of Trade, cited the Toronto Public Library as being a key player in bridging the digital divide and contributing to the future success of our great city. The report states "It's all about building on the city's existing assets rather than starting from scratch." It is just as important to invest in the intellectual infrastructure of the city as well as the physical. The Martin Prosperity Institute at the University of Toronto in their seminal report: So Much More: the Economic Impact of the Toronto Public Library concurred.

But nothing changes.

### **WHAT DOES A 2.6% CUT MEAN?**

A 2.6% cut means:

- 7,000 fewer open hours
- 500,000 less visitors
- 550 fewer children's programmes
- 15,000 less children attending those programmes
- 4,000 less library cards issued
- 174,000 fewer computer opportunities
- ¼ million fewer items in our collections

And that is not even mentioning the pleasure and enjoyment Torontonians derive from their public library making it the most popular arts and entertainment venue in the city.

### **REVENUE TOOLS**

I applaud this city council on taking on the tough discussion about revenue tools and the support that will go to public transit and the transportation infrastructure. But Toronto is so much more than its subways and its roads.

### **TORONTO'S YOUNGEST CITIZENS ARE THE COLLATERAL DAMAGE IN AN UNDERFUNDED CITY**

And I fear it will be Toronto's youngest citizens who will pay the greatest price in the 2017 budget whether it be because there are no daycare spaces, recreation programmes that are too expensive, precarious



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housing, student nutrition programmes that no longer exist or libraries whose doors are shuttered.

I don't think Toronto's youngest citizens will much care that we have the lowest property tax in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Maureen O'Reilly'.

Maureen O'Reilly  
President  
TPLWU Local 4948

cc. TPLWU Executive Board